An exceptional education for local children
Your child’s education

We are a new Primary Academy for local children aged two to eleven. Our belief is that children thrive when they are consistently happy and safe at school. We have two Reception classes and 60 places available in total.

I believe that through expert teaching and support all children can achieve to a high standard. Although we are a new Academy, we are building on the Harris Federation’s proven track record in the borough: the two Harris Secondary Academies here are happy, successful and highly oversubscribed.

Our aim at Harris Primary Academy Merton is to make sure that our pupils leave us thoroughly prepared for Secondary School and feeling that they have succeeded both academically and in the extracurricular aspects of Academy life.

We want all of our children to have a truly happy experience of school. Our pupils’ achievements are celebrated every day in their lessons and we are proud that they are kind, caring, self-assured and eager to learn.

If you are interested in a place for your son or daughter, please do come along to our Open Days and talk to as many children and staff as you can. We are very much looking forward to welcoming you.

Ms Victoria Forbes,
Principal
Happy in the classroom

We have around 500 lively young minds at Harris Primary Academy Merton. Our staff support each child to be the best they can. This section of our prospectus describes what education here is like.

**Every lesson is creative**

The aim of our teachers is always to deliver lessons that children enjoy and feel motivated by. We believe that all lessons should be creative, not just arts subjects.

We want all of our pupils to be confident readers, writers and mathematicians. Our teachers make sure these areas as well as the rest of the National Curriculum are taught in ways that engage the natural sense of curiosity that children have.

The result of this is that children become eager, confident pupils who understand the joy of learning and are well prepared for academic success.
High standards in every classroom

With each week, term and year being so significant in a child’s life, consistency is particularly important in their Primary education.

As part of the Harris Federation, which has its own training school for teachers, our staff receive outstanding professional development to make sure that standards are consistently high in every classroom.

Children treated as individuals

We want children to retain their individuality and be treated and looked after in the right way for them.

Each child is taught in the way that suits them best and we step in quickly if a change is needed. For some children, this might involve one-to-one support if they are finding something difficult and for others it could mean stretching them more to keep them interested. As an Academy parent, you would be welcome to discuss your son or daughter with us at any time. We also send reports home every half term.

We welcome children of all abilities and want them to enjoy school and thrive. For children with special needs, one of our first steps is to work with their parents and other specialists to create a plan for supporting them. Our approach as a whole is reviewed with children’s classroom teachers, relevant specialists and parents every half term.

Our Literacy specialism

We chose Literacy as our specialism because we believe that learning to read, write and communicate effectively underpins all learning. Reading is taught through the teaching of traditional phonics and children are encouraged to read for pleasure and take books home.

An academic head start

We are located just across the road from Harris Academy Merton, a Secondary judged ‘Outstanding’ by Ofsted and with excellent academic results. This means that specialist teachers can often come into our Primary Academy and, as they get older, children can be taken to use facilities such as science laboratories.

As well as engaging them in the excitement of the subject at hand, these experiences help prepare children for a successful transition to Secondary School.
There is always time at the Academy for children to think, to play, to discover and wonder. This section of our prospectus describes our approach to helping our pupils to become well-rounded, resilient and confident.

Hobbies, skills and experiences

Our teachers and other staff seek to discover and nurture at least one special talent within each child. There is something for everyone in our extracurricular programme which is packed full of music, dance, and drama and sport.

Typical outings and trips include learning about World War II at the Imperial War Museum, exploring the solar system at the Science Museum and experiencing ancient civilisations at the Horniman Museum. To help bring their lessons on the Tudors alive, pupils also visit Ightham Mote in Sevenoaks for an interactive, theatrical day of learning.

Every pupil has a friend

We want the Academy to feel friendly and welcoming and we always make sure that every pupil has at least one friend. Our children are taught to respect each other and their teachers.

There is a zero tolerance approach to any type of bullying.

Traditional standards of behaviour

Our Academy is relaxed and comfortable but pupils know that good behaviour is expected of them. They are frequently praised and rewarded for trying their best and for being kind, hard-working and well-behaved.

Healthy and tasty meals

Our school lunches and other snacks and meals are healthy as well as tasty. Pupils may bring in packed lunches if they prefer.

Wrap-around care

We provide a Breakfast Club and After School Club for all children whose parents require these. The clubs are well organised and fun.
A Federation of Academies

Our school is part of the Harris Federation. This is a not-for-profit charity with almost twenty five years of experience of education in London.

The charity was created by Lord Harris of Peckham. He and his family take an active interest in our achievements and the progress of our pupils.

Every Harris Academy is different, serving its own pupils and community, but we share an ethos that ensures children are happy, enjoy learning and want to go to school.

Being part of the Harris Federation means that our teachers and support staff have access to excellent training and resources from a team of experts in primary education.

All Harris Academies are located in and around London and we work very closely together. Our teachers get together to share their best ideas and develop successful ways of teaching pupils. Our children also come together for events such as the annual Battle of the Brains contest and, each summer, the Harris Federation Sports Day.

You can find out more about the Harris Federation at www.harrisfederation.org.uk or by following @HarrisFed on Twitter.

Admissions

We have 60 places available in Reception. Please do come along to meet us if you are interested in a place. Our Open Day dates are listed on our website and available by telephone.

If we are oversubscribed, children with a statement of Special Educational Need that names the Academy will be given places first, followed by Looked After and Former Looked After Children.