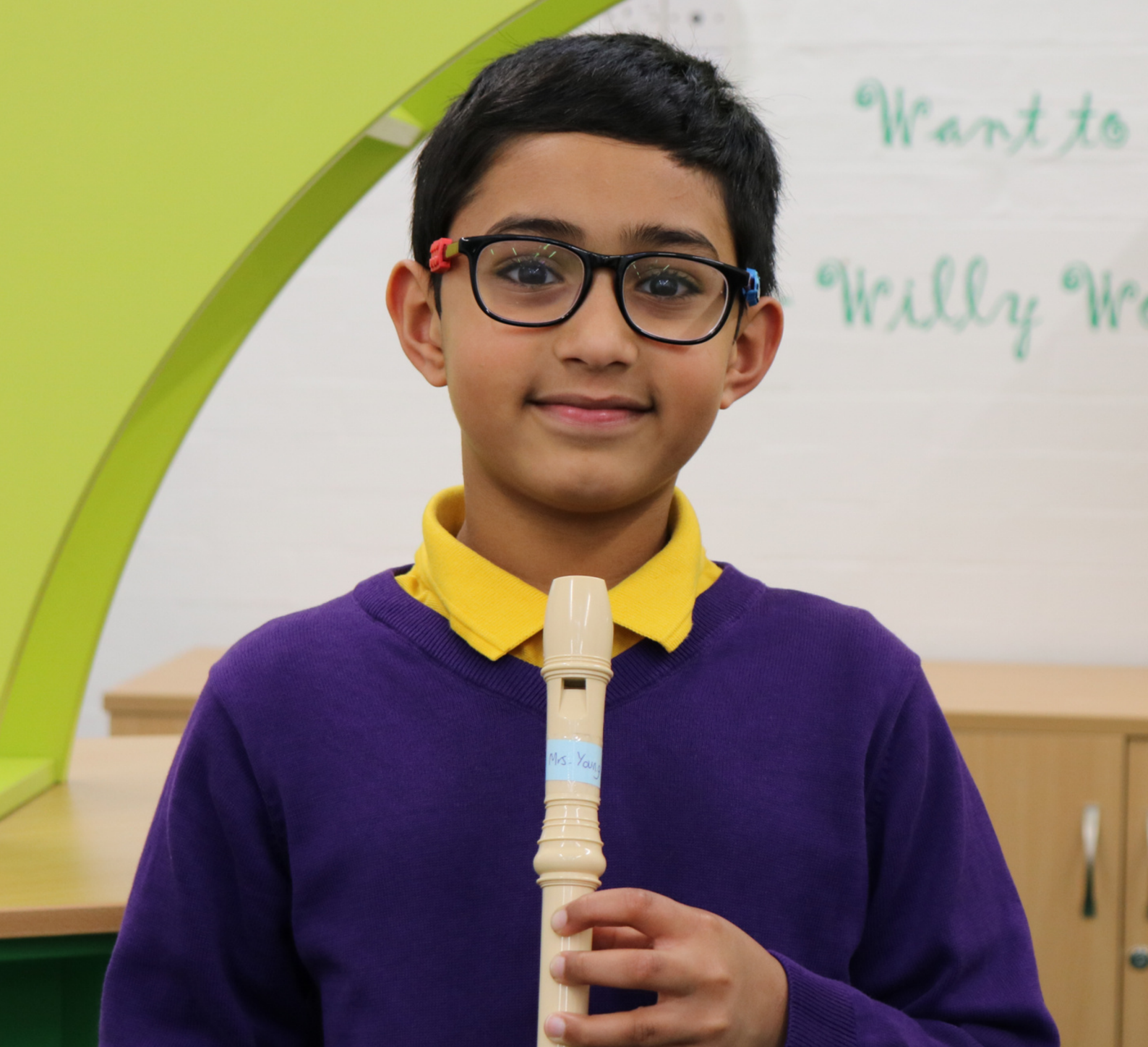


Love Learning for Life



School  
Prospectus







# Welcome to Penbridge Schools

**We are excited to welcome you to Penbridge Schools.**

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, we are committed to an ethos of excellence and a whole school approach to the teaching of thinking skills.

Penbridge Infant and Penbridge Junior Schools work in close partnership with one another and can provide your child with an all through primary education on two sites, Penbridge Infant and Penbridge Junior.

Your child will enjoy the benefits of shared teaching expertise, resources and extracurricular activities. At Penbridge, we seek to instil a thirst for learning through an engaging and creative curriculum, which will inspire children to become confident and curious learners.

We pride ourselves on providing a safe, stimulating and caring environment where children can develop intellectually, physically, emotionally, and socially to be prepared for their future lives.

This prospectus aims to provide you with an introduction to our schools, our ethos, and the creative curriculum, which we are immensely proud of. Visits to the schools are always warmly welcomed. Please contact the school office to make an appointment and visit our schools.

Yours sincerely,

**Anna Webb**

Executive Headteacher  
& Deputy Regional Director for Primary (South)

**Caroline Morris**

Head of School, Penbridge Infant School

**Karen Denton**

Head of School, Penbridge Junior School





## Values, Vision & Ethos

At Penbridge Schools, the children, parents and carers, staff and governors have a common vision and six core values which reflect a passionate commitment to learning and recognition of the uniqueness of individual learners.

1. Show respect
2. Be kind
3. Aim high
4. Be resilient
5. Be independent
6. Work well with others

Our vision is that every child will 'Love Learning for Life'.

This means that every day is an opportunity to learn something new that children will take forward into the next step of their learning journey.

We are part of the 'Thinking School Academy Trust' which means that we work on memory and retrieval skills so that children make links between different areas of learning.

We follow an 'all through' model where the children move on from the infant school at the end of year 2 to the junior school and at the end of year 6 they move on to The Portsmouth Academy.

### Relationships and Behaviour

We believe that genuine connections between our staff and our pupils is the fundamental foundation of positive behaviours for learning and life.

We recognise that all behaviour, positive or negative, is a form of communication. We feel that through this authentic, heartfelt connection with our pupils, we are then able to best support them with any difficulties involving their behaviour which communicate that something is not going well for them.

The following sections outline our approach to relationships and the support that we commit to offering every pupil within our care. This approach is built on the foundations of our school values.

As a school we use the PACE approach to support our pupils (PACE stands for playfulness, acceptance, curiosity and empathy). The principles of PACE aim to support the development of rapport and trust, so that the adults working with children and young people are able to develop secure, positive relationships with them.

All adults working closely with them are most likely to form these bonds. PACE approaches often work for other adult roles in children's lives also.





## We are proud to be a Thinking School

**The Thinking Schools Academy Trust is a family of schools that work together to “Transform Life Chances” of all our children.**

We share a common mission to nurture successful young people who are confident and can think and act independently.

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, Penbridge Schools take pride in the unique approach we take to education: we provide our children with the skills and tools they need to think in a variety of ways and become lifelong learners.

We believe that the best way to transform the life chances of our young people and help them achieve their aspirations is by shaping their minds, attitudes and habits through a framework of cognitive education that enables them to become the masters of their own destiny.

Our pupils are equipped with a bank of Thinking Tools designed to prepare them for a range of scenarios, dilemmas, and circumstances that they may face in life as part of modern society.

The use of these Thinking Tools in our curriculum is supported by scientific and metacognitive research,

and pupils are encouraged to apply their tools independently and use them to unlock new ideas. Our Thinking Tools include Thinking Maps, De Bono’s Thinking Hats and Thinking Keys.

These tools are used consistently across all areas of our curriculum and support our children tremendously in their learning and personal growth.

The concept of ‘Being your Best Self’ is also at the heart of our approach to learning at Penbridge Schools, as part of our Thinking School ethos.

Children are encouraged to strive to be and achieve their best and are given multiple opportunities to reflect on their learning and work on their personal development.







## Learning at Penbridge

For our children to develop a 'lifelong love of learning', we teach the skills they need to be effective learners and the language they need to express how they can become successful across all areas of the curriculum.

We want to make learning irresistible so that all children come to school every day happy and eager to learn.

We know that children are naturally inquisitive and we aim to develop this curiosity by providing a curriculum that engages, excites but also provides challenge at the correct level.

At Penbridge Schools, we believe that children learn best when learning is linked in a meaningful way. We aim for every child to achieve their very best by providing them with the opportunities to do this through a rich, challenging, and engaging curriculum.

Our topic-based curriculum is designed to capture children's interests, excite their imagination, and ensure that everything they learn has a purpose.

We encourage our pupils to participate in and personalise their learning by asking them "What do you know already?" and "What would you like to find out?"

Learning in safe outdoor spaces is also a regular part of our curriculum.

Each topic ends with an opportunity to express what they have learned through our "Prove It" sessions. This is the stage at which children decide how they will demonstrate and prove their learning.

This may be by delivering a presentation to parents, producing a booklet, sharing their learning with another class or year group, or creating an exhibition or gallery for parents to come and see.

Our curriculum promotes cognitive education and thinking skills by providing our children with a range of tools and techniques to structure their thoughts.

We develop their metaognition and meta-memory to help them retrieve knowledge as they move through school and beyond.

For further information about our curriculum and the topics available for your child to enjoy, please go to our website:

[penbridgeschool.org.uk](https://penbridgeschool.org.uk)





## Penbridge Powers

We recognise that our children are novice learners and that part of our job is to educate them in effective learning strategies as they start their learning journey to 'Love Learning for Life'.

We believe that if children are to love learning, then they need to be taught what learning is and how to do this successfully.

At Penbridge we use four powers which we believe will equip the children to be the best learners they can be both during their time at Penbridge and in the future. The four powers are:

- Curiosity
- Concentration
- Collaboration
- Improvement

Each power is linked with a set of learning behaviours which are actively taught and encouraged in school in order to teach your children the skills that a successful independent learner needs.







## A nurturing and safe environment

Children learn best when they are in an environment which makes them feel happy and safe.

We pride ourselves on our high-quality learning environment, which is calm, purposeful and promotes children's independence.

There are high expectations of behaviour and everyone in the school community has a responsibility for maintaining a relaxed, calm, and happy atmosphere.

We recognise that all behaviour is communication and that sometimes children need support to make the right choices.

As a 'Relational School' we work hard to foster strong, positive relationships between staff and children, as well as parents / carers to ensure that we nurture children's social development.

We will support them to recognise and deal effectively with the different emotions they will experience.

Through our school values we will equip our children with the skills which will enable them to be polite, confident, hard-working members of society.

Penbridge Schools are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expect staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

Staff work hard to maintain an environment where children feel safe and secure.

Any concerns that are raised are dealt with swiftly by the DSL or deputy DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Lead).

The curriculum is designed to ensure opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse.

Children know they can approach any of the adults in school if they are worried and that they will receive a consistent supportive response.





## Penbridge Nursery

**Our staff build relationships quickly with children to ensure they have the best start with us.**

We discuss with parents the children's routines so that we can make a smooth transition as they start in nursery.

Children are invited to settling in sessions so they get to know the routine and become familiar with the environment.

### **A THINKING NURSERY:**

We are a 'Thinking' nursery. We provide hands on engaging experiences that stimulate children's senses so that the brain develops.

### **TAILORED CURRICULUM:**

As part of the Thinking Schools Academy Trust, our 'curiosity' curriculum is planned by staff who understand the next stage of education and are committed to laying the very best foundations during the early years for their all-through thinking journey. We use children's interests to develop learning opportunities.

### **LIGHTING UP LEARNING:**

We know that learning habits are vital for success. We support the children to become independent and resilient learners.

*The Penbridge Nursery is located on the Penbridge Infant School site.*





## Rainbow Fish

The Inclusion Centre is a resourced provision for children who have an EHCP (or are currently undergoing assessment), and are awarded placement by the Inclusion Support Panel (ISP), run by Portsmouth City Council's SEND Team.

The children work towards being able to integrate into mainstream for some learning, with a high level of support from the provision staff to meet their specific needs.

### THE CURRICULUM

Our curriculum centres on each child of Rainbow Fish Centre as an individual, looking at their starting points and next steps.

We follow the EYFS and National Curriculum, however, this is highly tailored to the needs of the children.

We work closely with the mainstream part of Penbridge to ensure that there are meaningful opportunities for children to integrate and learn in their link classes where appropriate.

To ensure that our curriculum is child-centred, we work with a range of other professionals such as Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists to ensure

that each child's holistic needs are being met as part of our curriculum.

Our topics are closely linked across the Inclusion Centre so that learning is built upon each year. These topics are a vehicle to the individualised learning for those children within the Inclusion Centre as their learning will be highly personalised according to their needs.

### WORKING WITH PARENTS

Our aim is to work closely with parents which is why we start with a home visit or an opportunity to visit the Rainbow Fish Centre to ensure that our staff know the children as well as possible before they start within the Inclusion Centre.

We use communication books which go between home and school so that all adults involved with the child know about the day-to-day details and children are well supported. We also hold termly parent's evenings to discuss the children's next steps.

Observations are uploaded to our online learning journal, 'Tapestry' by the staff.

**If you would like more information about The Rainbowfish Centre or would like a tour please call Penbridge Infant School on 0333 360 2185.**





# Apply for a place at Penbridge School

**Getting your child a place at Penbridge Infant School or Penbridge Junior School is a straightforward process, and we're here to help every step of the way.**

## **Admission Forms:**

Admission forms for all Portsmouth schools are issued by the Local Authority, Portsmouth City Council. You can complete these forms and return them to the Portsmouth Admissions Team at the Civic Offices. Alternatively, you can hand them in at the Reception at one of our school receptions. For more detailed information and to access the application forms, you can visit the Local Authority website: [portsmouth.gov.uk](http://portsmouth.gov.uk)

## **Visiting Our School:**

We encourage parents considering applying for a place at Penbridge Infant School or Penbridge Junior School to visit us. It's a great way to get a feel for the school environment and meet our wonderful staff. You can contact the school at any time to make an appointment for a tour and to see the school in action, or attend one of our open events advertised on the school website and social media.

## **Transfer to Junior School:**

If your child is in Year 2, the Local Authority will distribute information and application forms for transfer to Junior School during the Autumn term.

Don't worry if you're thinking about a mid-year transfer; children can be accepted during the school year if there's an available place.

## **Admission Policy:**

For detailed information about our admission policies, you can visit the Portsmouth City Council's School Admissions page. If you prefer a hard copy or have specific questions, feel free to contact the Admissions Team directly at 023 9268 8008.

We understand that choosing the right school for your child is a big decision. At Penbridge, we're committed to making the application process as smooth as possible. Whether you're looking at the Infant School or Junior School, we're here to support you and answer any questions you may have.



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0333 360 2185

Penbridge Junior School  
New Road, Fratton  
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0333 360 2190

[office@penbridgeschool.org.uk](mailto:office@penbridgeschool.org.uk)

[penbridgeschool.org.uk](http://penbridgeschool.org.uk)

