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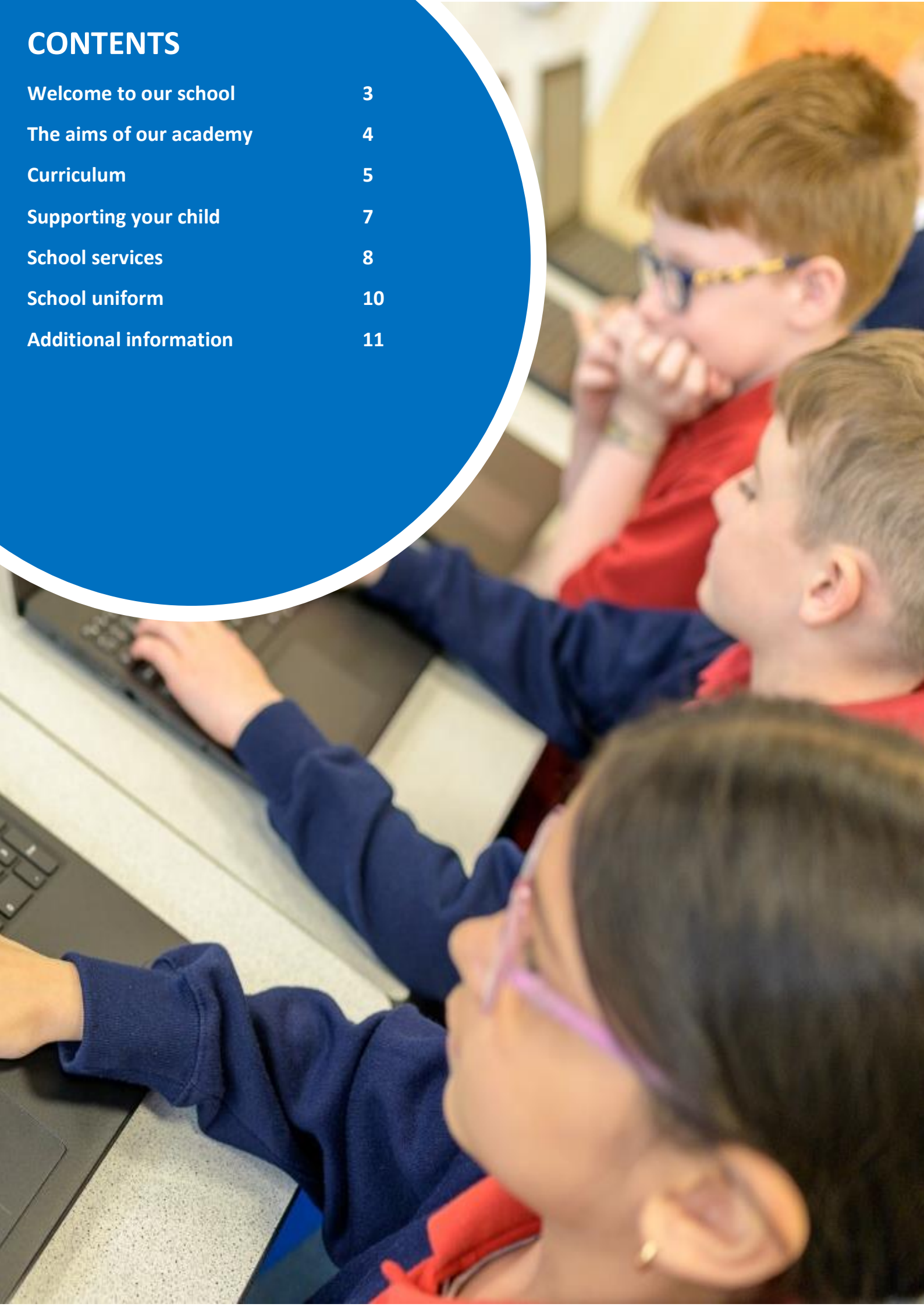
 westgate academy

Prospectus 2024/25

Learning and Growing Together

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WELCOME TO WESTGATE ACADEMY

Dear Parents/Carers/Guardians,

I wish you a very warm welcome to Westgate Academy. We are a Junior School situated in the heart of the Bailgate area of Lincoln and are fortunate to have Lincoln Cathedral and Lincoln Castle as a backdrop.

At Westgate Academy we believe that our core beliefs are intrinsic to the academic, emotional and characteristic development of the children in our care. We are committed to working together as a professional team and are extremely proud of the high standards we achieve in all areas of our children's development. We strive to ensure that your child experiences the best possible learning journey and feels valued and proud of their achievements as individuals. Our belief is that the child is at the heart of all we do, and every decision made. We offer a wide variety of facilities and follow a rich and diverse curriculum, which are all designed to inspire learning.

We believe children all have talents, which we must unlock, and our aspiration is that each child achieves their potential in a safe and happy environment. Working in close collaboration is highly valued and essential to guarantee success. We believe in developing close partnerships between the school, parents and wider community so that our pupils become resilient, confident, and well-rounded individuals.

Westgate Academy is a fully inclusive school, working closely with schools across Lincoln. We believe in sharing our good practice and learning from fellow schools.

John Beaven
Headteacher

Westgate Academy embraces children as individuals. By recognising and valuing children's particular strengths and talents, we seek to encourage their full potential. We work hard to celebrate all successes, whenever and wherever they occur, no matter how big or small. Children are encouraged to become well-rounded and sociable. It is important to us that our children believe in themselves and are both confident and resilient. We draw upon our well-established local and school community, to enrich the curriculum and promote mutual respect and a strong moral ethos in every child.

Our Vision - Learning and Growing Together.

Our Mission - Every day matters. Every opportunity counts. High aspirations. Talents unlocked.

We believe in inspiring, nurturing and supporting each child to achieve key skills for life. Education is special and every child deserves success.

Our children should achieve their best in all aspects of life, and we aspire for them to achieve:

excellence, show **respect**, show **positivity**, demonstrate **self-belief** and show **teamwork**



SCHOOL DAY

School opens: 08:45

Lessons begin: 09:00

Break times: 10:30-10:50 (Years 3&4),
11:00-11:20 (Years 5&6)

Lunch: 12:00-12:50 (Years 3&4), 12:45-13:35
(Year 5), 13:10-14:00 (Year 6)

School ends: 15:30 (Years 3 & 4),
15:35 (Years 5 & 6)

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum focuses on the development of basic skills, providing children with a range of stimulating, inspiring and exciting learning experiences. Through our broad, balanced and rich curriculum we aim to:

- promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils
- prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life
- provide essential knowledge that pupils need to be educated citizens
- provoke an appreciation of human creativity and achievement

We follow the National Curriculum, which is skills based and age appropriate for our children. Our curriculum is topic based, encouraging cross-curricular links between all subjects if pertinent to the needs of the children. Each topic is planned to inspire curiosity and inquisitive thinking by providing a variety of activities where children will have the opportunity to learn and apply new skills.

Our 'Topic' learning is split into 3 areas over the course of an academic year: past, place and pick. By focusing on three themes a year, we create a better depth of understanding as time can be spent addressing the key subject skills. Classroom displays reflect the importance of linking areas of our learning across the curriculum.

Past (Autumn Term) – History focus

Through our 'Past' topics, children's curiosity is inspired to know more about history. Teaching equips children with the ability to ask perceptive questions, think critically and weigh evidence.

We place great importance on developing a good overview of the period of time being studied and as a result, children move into the next year group being able to talk about key events and significant people from that era. In addition to this, links are frequently made to our local history and we place high value on the use of sources, discussion and giving opinions.

Place (Spring Term) – Geography focus

Geography teaching at Westgate inspires pupils' curiosity and fascination about the world and its people. Children are equipped with knowledge about diverse places, people, resources and natural and human environments, together with a deep understanding of the Earth's physical and human processes.

Pupils extend their knowledge and understanding beyond the local areas in Year 3, to include national locations. As children move through the school, they look at our continent, followed by other continents and finally, by the end of Year 6, they gain a global perspective. During their time at Westgate, pupils understand the location and characteristics of a range of the world's most significant human and physical features.

Our teachers work hard to ensure the curriculum is as stimulating and exciting as possible, so that the children enjoy learning and are inspired to become lifelong learners.





Pick (Summer Term) - Various subject foci

This topic has, at its focus, another area of the curriculum. The topic will either concentrate on children's interests, current affairs or a need of the cohort of children which has been identified by teaching staff.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND HEALTH EDUCATION (P.S.H.E.) & RELATIONSHIPS AND SEX EDUCATION (R.S.E.)

We take a proactive approach to P.S.H.E and RSE. at Westgate, by ensuring children receive at least one session of P.S.H.E. per week. Our P.S.H.E. curriculum is divided into three core themes and each theme is divided into three general topic areas.

Core Theme 1: Health and Wellbeing

- Healthy lifestyles
- Keeping safe
- Growing and Changing

Core Theme 2: Relationships

- Healthy relationships
- Feelings and emotions
- Valuing difference

Core Theme 3: Living in the Wider World

- Rights and responsibilities
- Taking care of the environment
- Money matters

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We aim to encourage pupils to learn from different religions, beliefs, values and traditions while exploring their own beliefs and questions of meaning. They are challenged to reflect on, consider, analyse, interpret and evaluate issues of truth, belief, faith and ethics and to communicate their responses. During their time in Key Stage 2, we encourage pupils to develop their sense of identity and belonging, enabling them to flourish individually within their community and as citizens of the world.

ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

Whilst at Westgate, every child will swim every year. Some children will join the school swim team and might take part in local and national competitions. We have a range of other sporting events that the children might take part in from football teams to cross country.

We ensure visits and visitors enhance our teacher, these may include a visit from a Roman Soldier or visiting a Workhouse. Whilst in year 6, the children are offered a residential visit

We end all our topics with a celebration event during which we share our learning with our parents and carers.

We offer a range of musical instrument lessons too.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND)

The Governors and staff work hard to ensure that children with SEND have access to a fully inclusive curriculum and can take part in everyday activities. The school operates within the guidelines contained within the revised Code of Practice that came into effect in September 2014. We will always consult parents if we feel that a child needs special support with learning and parents are encouraged to voice any concerns they may have with their class teacher or the Head teacher. Children will also be encouraged and helped to express their views and all staff work towards supporting these children effectively and boosting their self-esteem. As part of our assessment process, all children entering school will be assessed and this highlights any possible developmental areas, which may benefit from very early identification and intervention. The support which children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) receive may be given in class, as an individual or as a small group member out of the classroom.

SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN

Children with SEND will receive specific help from their class teachers, the SEND co-ordinator and teaching assistants. Where necessary, the school and parents will consult with and receive advice from various outside agencies, such as the Learning Support Advisory Teacher and the Speech and Language Therapist. At all times, the progress of children with SEND is assessed and reviewed and individual or group education plans are produced accordingly.

ACCESSIBILITY

The school has an accessibility plan, to ensure that we consider the needs of people with disabilities. We have disabled access toilets within the school. Parents with disabilities are encouraged to let the school know if there is any way we can make communication between home and school easier for them.

PASTORAL CARE

Effective pastoral care depends on mutual respect, confidence and understanding between the home and the school. We aim to motivate children through praise and reward for good behaviour, but have a scale of sanctions, which we can use for children who misbehave, if necessary. If your child's behaviour is causing concern at school, you will be informed and invited to discuss the way forward with the class teacher or Head teacher.

We believe that it is important to encourage every child:

- To understand that the school community depends on the co-operation and goodwill of all
- To understand the need for self-discipline and acceptable behaviour
- To think of the needs of others
- To show good manners.

The school values are intended to ensure that the children are safe.

We aim to motivate children through praise and reward for good behaviour



SCHOOL SERVICES

REPORTING TO PARENTS

A positive and supportive link between home and school can help your child come happily to terms with two very important parts of their life. Your child will learn more readily in the secure and happy environment that such a link can provide. We will keep you informed about your child's progress and of any concerns we might have. Please let us know of any factors at home that might affect your child during the day. It can be difficult to help if we are not clear about the situation. Formal Parents' evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring terms.

During the Summer Term, an annual report is produced and sent through the Arbor App (which can be accessed by parents / carers).

We are always happy to discuss any matter at any time. Please make an appointment at any reasonable time, to talk to your child's class teacher.

ILLNESS AND ABSENCES

If your child is taken ill at school, we will contact you. Children are not allowed to go home on their own if they are unwell. If your child is absent from school through illness, please contact the school office by telephoning before 9.00am, if possible, stating the reason for absence. If your child has to attend a dental or medical appointment during the school day, please give the school the information in writing and arrange for a responsible adult to collect the child at the arranged time or let us know in advance that the child will arrive late on that day. Head teachers are unable to grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances. If leave is granted the Head will determine the number of school days a child can be away from school.

SAFEGUARDING

We have a legal duty to ensure our children are not at risk from neglect or abuse. All our staff and governors are trained in child protection procedures, and we will investigate any physical injury or disclosure. If we have concerns, we are legally obliged to report this to Children's Social Care. Your child's safety and wellbeing are our first concern.

MEDICINES

If your child has been prescribed a medicine by their doctor and a dose is required during the school day, you will need to complete a medical requirement form to enable school staff to administer it on your behalf. We are normally unable to give over-the-counter medicines to children during the school day. Parents must usually make arrangements to administer these medicines to their children themselves. Please talk with the Headteacher if this causes insurmountable problems. If your child is asthmatic, diabetic, extremely allergic or has epilepsy, you will be asked to complete a detailed medical form, providing all relevant information, and provide us with emergency/preventative treatment for use in school.

FOOD AND DRINK

The school serves a wide range of high-quality dinners from Good Lookin' Cookin', which are planned to provide a balanced and healthy diet with a choice of food every day. If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please speak to the school office. The cost of school meals is available from the office. Children not wanting a school dinner can bring a packed lunch to school. If your child has free school meals, they will have a packed lunch provided for visits.

Snacks and sweets are not allowed in school. Fruit is allowed at break time. Drinks for the children should only be in plastic bottles only, for safety reasons. No carbonated drinks, please. Fresh water is always available for children.

We are a nut free school.

We work incredibly hard with all our families to ensure than safety, wellbeing and welfare underpins practice at Westgate Academy



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Westgate Academy believes that a consistent school uniform supports the promotion of high expectations, both in teaching and learning, as well as attitude and behaviour.

Westgate Academy strongly believes that a uniform contributes to its ethos and sets an appropriate tone by:

- instilling pride and a true sense of belonging,
- supporting positive behaviour and discipline,
- encouraging identity with, and support for our Academy ethos and values: through instilling excellence, respect, teamwork, positivity and self-belief
- ensuring that pupils of all races and backgrounds feel welcome
- protecting pupils from social pressures to dress in particular ways
- nurturing cohesion and promoting good relations between pupils

School Uniform

The chosen uniform for pupils attending Westgate Academy, on non-PE days, has been identified as;

- Grey or Black skirt/ trousers/shorts;
- Red polo shirt, either plain or Westgate logoed;
- Navy blue sweatshirt or jumper, either plain or Westgate logoed;
- Red and white or blue and white gingham summer dress
- White, grey, or black socks/tights
- Sensible, low heeled flat black shoes

PE Uniform

The chosen PE uniform for pupils attending Westgate Academy, on PE days, has been identified as;

- Navy blue hoodie/navy blue fleece;
- Navy blue crew neck T-shirt, either plain or Westgate logoed;
- Black shorts or black tracksuit bottoms;
- Trainers.

ALL CLOTHING SHOULD BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.



SCHOOL VISITS

We use visits to museums and other places of interest as a stimulus for work across the curriculum. You will always be fully informed about any visits planned. All visits are planned with care, taking full account of the Local Authority and Government safety recommendations.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The admissions number is 120. An induction programme of visits is arranged, to ease the children into school life. Children who begin in September will make visits in the previous summer term. The school's current admission policy is operated by the Lincolnshire Local Authority (LA), which is the admissions authority for all community and controlled schools within Lincolnshire.

Application forms need to be returned in January for a place in the following academic year. Full details of the policy, together with information about arrangements for admission can be accessed via:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/school-admissions/apply-school>

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

There are many ways that you can become involved in the life of the school, including hearing readers, sharing a story, cooking, art or craftwork or joining us on a visit. We encourage parental involvement and value the part parents can play in enriching the life of the school. If you would like to become involved in any way, please talk to your child's teacher.

PARENTS FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

We value the friends of Westgate Academy, our PFA, who raise money, organise events and support us in many, many ways. The PFA New members are always welcome.

DROPPING CHILDREN OFF AT SCHOOL AND COLLECTING THEM

Please do not park in the school car park as we are extremely limited on space. The best area to park is in the car parks that surround the school as we have an agreement with the City of Lincoln council for free 10-minute parking. You may like to consider walking or cycling with your child to school, if there is a safe route. Children must wear a helmet if they cycle to school. Cycle racks are provided. At home-time you are invited to stand and wait for your child/ren in one of our playgrounds. Gates will be open at 08:45 in the morning and we reopen the parent gate shortly before 15:30 for school finishing time.

AND FINALLY...

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus.

We hope that you have found it informative and that it has given you an insight into our wonderful school. If you would like to find out more please don't hesitate to ring the school office to make an appointment. We look forward to both welcoming and working in partnership with you.

Children do really well academically and socially at Westgate Academy. It is a lovely place to be and to be part of. I'm sure the experiences you have read about in this prospectus are ones that you would want for your children and I hope you decide that your child will be part of our future success.



