



Nurturing inclusive learning communities

Reach Academy

# Parent Guide

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[www.eat.uk.com](http://www.eat.uk.com)

# Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to welcome you to Reach Academy, a well-established school for children aged 11-14 who need time out of their mainstream settings due to social, emotional & mental health difficulties.

We strongly believe that school is a partnership between children, parents, teachers and other professionals, and that by working together we can enable and motivate children to succeed in all areas of development. We have developed a high-quality provision where young people can learn through supportive interaction and be supported through our personalised intervention curriculum in order to experience success in their learning.

The staff and I look forward to meeting you and

your child to ensure that these first experiences of school life here at Reach Academy are both happy and successful for you and your child. This information booklet will provide you with some information about the school and our offer to children, schools and families.

We value and place a key emphasis on placing you and your child at the heart of all we do, planning, doing and reviewing together with you and your child.

Testimonials from parents include:

*"You started the ball rolling towards his emotional wellbeing which has led us to having the happy and clever and funny teenager we had been missing for so long."*

*"Thank you to all involved in my child's journey and a million thanks for not giving up! Some children experience difficulties that impact on their lives and unfortunately some children of the world just don't get school during that particular time in their lives."*

More details about our school can also be found on our school website:

[www.reachacademy.uk.com](http://www.reachacademy.uk.com)

Kind regards,

**Hannah Lord**  
Head Teacher



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# Our Mission, Aims and Values

## MISSION:



### Nurturing inclusive learning communities.

Focused on maximising the life chances of all children, Ethos Academy Trust embraces a forward-thinking and open-minded outlook, informed by a thorough understanding of the strengths and needs of our pupils, parents / carers, local schools and the wider community.

## CORE VALUES:



Leading with integrity



Thinking innovatively



Encouraging freedom and responsibility



Celebrating achievement



Driving continuous improvement

# School Day

The school day starts at 9.00am and finishes at 2.30pm.

Staff meet and greet children as they arrive in school from 8.45am onwards. Pupils attend their group breakfast from 9.00am.



**At my mainstream school, I didn't fit in and I didn't want to be there. Since I have been at Reach, I love coming to school. The staff want to work with me and I trust them.**

Pupil

# Attendance

Reach Academy has high expectations around attendance. If your child is unable to attend school for whatever reason, please contact us.

Whilst you have a legal obligation to send your child to school the Academy will support you if you are experiencing difficulties.

Reach Academy does not authorise term time holidays.



# Reading at Reach

Here at Reach, we see reading as the key to learning and succeeding; we take enormous pride in the efforts our students make to improve their reading levels.

Recent research shows that the benefits of reading for pleasure can result in: being more successful in school; having lower levels of stress and depression; improved well-being; having greater levels of empathy and better relationships with others; lower incidence of dementia in later life.

We have recently established a new library with a wide range of books – you're certain to find something you enjoy. We also run an after-school library club which is open to all students who want to find a quiet space and a good book.



# Supporting your child in school



## Show an interest in what happens to them at school

It helps if you have a copy of your child's timetable from mainstream school with the names of their teachers on it. Ask what s/he has done in certain lessons, particularly those s/he enjoys and is good at. Attend your child's Parents' Evenings/Progress reviews.



## Give them your time

If your child is asking for your attention, it's because they need it at the time they're asking for it. Children live in the present, so pretend you've got all the time in the world for them. The washing up/ironing can wait for ten minutes.



## Stick to a handful of basic rules.

If you have too many rules, you'll always be fighting. Basic rules could include always tell the truth, be kind to other people and be safe – let us know where you are and don't talk to strangers.



## Encourage your children to read.

Even for very short periods. Turn off the TV and stay in the room; that way there's no pretending! Reward them in some way after they have done some reading. If you can get children into the habit of reading regularly when they are young, they will have fewer problems with school work later.



## Keep in touch with school.

Give the school a ring from time to time, speak to their Head of Year/Pastoral Leader, just to see how your children are getting on. This is much better than contacting school only when problems arise. Close contact can stop things going wrong. Few young people will ever admit it but they like to know that you are interested in them. It is also nice for you to hear what your children are doing well



# Behaviour Principles

**Our first priority is the responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our students. Reach Academy believes that high standards of behaviour and attendance lie at the heart of a successful academy which enables:**

- all of its students to make the best possible progress in all aspects of their educational life;
- all staff to teach and promote good learning.

**All staff and pupils have the right to:**

- feel safe;
- learn;
- be treated with respect;
- work in a positive, welcoming school community;
- be heard.

**With rights go responsibilities, which apply to staff and pupils who all have a responsibility to:**

- keep the school a safe place to be;
- allow each other to learn;
- treat each other with respect;
- develop and maintain a positive, welcoming school community;
- listen to each other.

# SEND

**At Reach Academy we recognise that children and young people may present themselves in a variety of ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated from their friends and studies or present with behaviours that may reflect underlying mental health needs.**

The staff team at Reach Academy is skilled at working with young people with needs across the social, emotional and mental health (SEMH) range. In partnership with parents / carers and other professionals, Reach Academy takes a holistic

approach to ensuring a young person's needs are identified accurately upon arrival and then met through a curriculum which addresses academic needs as well as SEMH needs through targeted and additional interventions. Reach Academy tracks SEMH progress on a termly basis using an assessment tool called the SNAP Profile. Other specialist assessments may be undertaken by the SENDCo according to need and presentation and may include dyslexia diagnosis, cognitive ability testing and handwriting legibility assessments and interventions.

Those young people with an EHCP will receive an annual review of their needs; whilst those at SEN Support can expect termly reviews of their SEN through their My Support Plans.

Our mission at Reach Academy is to create a secure and stimulating learning environment in which all students are valued and respected; their learning is promoted and their strengths are nurtured.



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