

MAKING LEARNING IRRESISTIBLE



CEDAR  
Children's Academy



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# WELCOME TO CEDAR CHILDREN'S ACADEMY

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A very warm welcome to you from the staff, governors and children of Cedar Children's Academy.

The Thinking Schools Academy Trust (TSAT) is a non-profit making charitable trust that has successfully grown over the last few years to include a diverse range of academies in Medway, Plymouth and Portsmouth. As TSAT has grown, our ambition of what we expect to achieve has grown with us. We have an excellent knowledge and experience of education. We believe our greatest asset is our children, and we are proud of their many achievements and their personal growth.

Through the high quality education the children receive and the support and care from school and home, they will have the best life chances possible.

At Cedar, we believe in a strong partnership between the school and parents, benefitting our children with stability and the ability to develop, strive and achieve. We employ

an inspiring workforce who show a relentless dedication to school improvement. We encourage pupils to be proud of their school and achieve in an exciting environment. We celebrate everyone's success and provide each pupil with the life chances they deserve. We are relentless in pursuing the best and show care and hope for all our pupils who will become young adults of the future.

I am immensely proud to be the Head of School of Cedar Children's Academy and look forward to your support, co-operation and loyalty in sharing our school vision so that your child's time spent at Cedar is a rich and unique experience.



Claire McNally  
Head of School

# CEDAR ATTRIBUTES

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Here at Cedar, we believe that children should be given the best possible chances to unlock their potential. Children are diverse and have many different abilities of which we enjoy celebrating with them through many different platforms.



Our vision is that our children will encompass the following attributes during their time with us:

**C – Considerate**  
**E – Enthusiastic**  
**D – Determined**  
**A – Assured**  
**R – Resilient**

We feel that this celebrates our children as the individuals they are and by focussing on these attributes we aim to teach them the skills they will need for their future.

## Making Learning Irresistible

We want to make learning irresistible so that your child comes to school every day happy and eager to learn. We know that children are naturally curious, and we aim to develop this curiosity by providing a curriculum that engages, excites but also provides challenges at the correct level.

As a Thinking School, we teach our children to become creative, analytical, adaptable and resilient thinkers, which we believe is a vital skill needed for life in the rapidly changing 21st Century.

Above all, we want to give even the youngest children the tools that will enable them to become successful lifelong learners.







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# OUR CURRICULUM

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We believe that children learn best when learning is linked in a meaningful way. So our topic based curriculum is designed to capture children's interest, excite their imagination and ensure that everything they learn has a purpose, helping them prepare for life in modern Britain and empowering them to achieve success in the future.

Children are taught according to their developmental level and are either learning something new, practising or applying skills in a variety of contexts. We regularly assess in all subjects to ensure all children are making good progress and give extra support when necessary.

## Early Years Foundation Stage

Nursery and Reception follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. There are 3 prime areas; communication and language, physical development and personal, social and emotional development. These are linked to 4 specific areas; literacy, numeracy, understanding the world and expressive art and design. The environment in the foundation stage is invigorating and engaging. It is designed to allow children to develop their knowledge and skills through play. We feel it is essential that the children get the opportunity to learn and explore both inside and outside to enable them to transfer their skills to a variety of situations.

## National Curriculum

In Years 1–6, we follow the National Curriculum. Your child will be gaining a range of knowledge and skills in English, Maths, Science, Computing, History, Geography, Art and Design, Design Technology, Music, Physical Education and Personal, Social and Emotional Education. We encourage a cross-curricular approach to ensure secure links between subjects, allowing children to develop their skills in real-life situations.

## Thinking Skills

Our curriculum promotes cognitive education and thinking skills by providing our children with a range of tools and techniques to structure their thoughts. Thinking Maps, Habits of Mind, Keys and Hats are embedded in our curriculum to help our children make decisions, structure their thoughts and order their answers. These are used at different levels throughout the school, from our youngest thinkers in Nursery right through to Year 6.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

School staff run our Breakfast Club which starts at 7.30am and provides the children with the opportunity of a good breakfast to get them set for the day. There is a selection of cereals, toast, fruit and cheese available daily. Children also have the chance to take part in various activities such as puzzles, games, sports and ICT. The children are then escorted by staff to their classroom, ready to start their day.

Cedar staff and outside agencies run after-school clubs to give our children experiences outside their learning environment. In addition, we have an after-school provision that provides child care until 5.30pm on the school site, allowing safe and interactive play for those children with working parents. Please see our website for more details of our exciting after-school clubs.

# BEHAVIOUR AND EXPECTATIONS FOR LEARNING

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At Cedar, we believe that children learn best in a safe, calm and well-organised atmosphere where purposeful and self-disciplined behaviour is expected.

We want every child within our school to feel happy, secure and confident. We have the highest expectations in learning, behaviour, and attitude and encourage the children to develop the same beliefs in their own potential and pride in their achievements. Our Cedar attributes, school rules and behaviour expectations are consistently promoted within the classroom and in other areas of the school. We emphasise positive behaviour and together strive to make our environment enjoyable and rewarding.

Whole school systems are in place to recognise success, emphasise praise and celebrate our various achievements. We celebrate academic success and effort, hard work, and contributions to the school community.







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# EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE

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Our Early Years Foundation Stage is a place where happy children are intrinsically motivated to learn through a combination of high quality teacher input and child initiated time, where they learn through play, discovery and exploration.

We strive to have an exciting and interesting indoor and outdoor learning environment.

Through nurturing relationships, every child has an equal opportunity to learn, receive support when necessary and have their learning enhanced and moved on by experienced adults. We aim to instil a love of stories and learning in all our children. The children are confident, engaged and have opportunities to enhance their physical development, communication skills, be able to regulate themselves, learn about the world we live in, be artistic and learn the academic skills of reading, writing and maths.

Parents are encouraged to be part of their child's learning through engagement in various ways, including story time, parents' days, participating in trips, book looks, and the use of our online learning journal.





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