

Annual Report

2024 - 2025



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Welcome

from The Chair of Trustees

Dear Colleagues, Parents, Carers, and Members of our Community,

As Chair of the Trustees at the Golden Thread Alliance, I am humbled and honoured to address the vibrant family that spans across our 9 Primary schools in Gravesham and Dartford.

We are, and always have been, a values-led organisation. Our seven guiding principles—Respect, Equality, Courage, Integrity, Ambition, Kindness, and Responsibility—are not just words; they are how we live each day. They shape our culture, guide our decisions, and unite us all. Together, we inspire our children through the “Golden Thread” poem we share in every school:

*Here we are all different in how we talk, learn and play,
But we have our seven values and we live them every day.
We're respectful and ambitious, we're responsible and kind,
We believe in courage and equality, so no one's left behind.
We have integrity, so we're honest (we do just what we said).
We look after each other, and that's our Golden Thread!*



Our Vision

Every child, in every school, will confidently grasp the challenges of tomorrow.

We set a vision rooted in ambition, excellence, and equality, striving not just to reach statistically similar schools' outcomes, but to surpass them. Our aim is always above the national averages in every subject and at every key stage.

Trust and Governance

Behind every classroom are the dedication and professionalism of our teachers and support colleagues, who create a safe, clean, and positive setting for learning and growth. It is no coincidence that our Trust is financially healthy—with top marks from independent auditors—because our governance ensures nothing is overlooked. We react swiftly to government changes, proactively manage risks, and stay focused on what truly matters: our children.

In closing, thank you—each and every one of you—for your unwavering dedication. Together, we live our values, share our vision, and inspire greatness in the children and communities we serve. Let the Golden Thread that binds us continue to shine as we step forward with confidence, compassion, and purpose.

Philip Vander Gucht
Chair of Trustees

Inclusion and Growth

We champion high achievement and robust wellbeing for all pupils, regardless of background or individual needs. Our differences are not barriers—they are our strength. By celebrating what makes each of us unique, we learn how to support one another and cultivate an environment where every child and adult can thrive.

Facing Challenges

Challenges are inevitable. However, what defines us is how we respond—with integrity, ambition, and solidarity. Supported by our Members, Trustees, Local Governors, leaders, colleagues, parents, and carers, we deliver the highest standards in education, safeguarding, financial stewardship, and inclusivity.




Welcome from the CEO

Another year has flown by, and what a remarkable one it has been! With nine schools, over 700 dedicated colleagues, and thousands of incredible pupils, our Trust is a hive of activity every single day. This annual report offers a glimpse into the exceptional work that has taken place across The Golden Thread Alliance over the past twelve months.

We operate within an ever-evolving educational landscape. While school funding has seen an increase, the rising costs of National Insurance, food, energy, and nearly all services we procure mean that, in real terms, we have fewer resources to dedicate directly to our pupils. Furthermore, the significant increase in pupils with severe and complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) constantly challenges us. As an inclusive Trust, we are committed to providing the best possible provision, even with reduced funding support from the Local Authority and while awaiting the outcomes of the national SEND Government Review and new county-wide initiatives.

Regardless of these pressures, our core mission remains steadfast: to provide the very best educational experience possible for every child. This commitment stands firm, no matter which school they attend,



their family's financial circumstances, whether they have a special educational need or disability, or if they are neurotypical. Every child deserves – and receives – our unwavering dedication.

This year, our Trust has continued to excel in offering enriching experiences and opportunities beyond the national curriculum. Highlights include our highly successful Trust Residential trip to Rome, the vital “To Be Heartsafe” courses that equipped every Year 5 and Year 6 pupil with life-saving CPR skills, our massive Golden Gala and Golden Games, and the captivating “Poetry by Heart” and “Young Voices” events. These initiatives have truly excited and inspired all who have participated.

This year, we bid a fond farewell to some much-loved and highly respected colleagues. While we say goodbye, we extend our sincerest best wishes for their future endeavours. Our Trust prides itself on strong colleague retention, and this is particularly evident as we celebrate four very special individuals departing this year: Mrs. Lynne Pell and Ms. Carol Chedzoy, two wonderful Associate Teachers from Oakfield. Carol has dedicated an incredible 27 years of service to

Oakfield, and Lynne is retiring after an astonishing 37 years. Mrs. Lindsay Bateman, such a well-respected Associate Teacher from Temple Hill is retiring after 26 years of service. Mrs Cathy Chatwin, an amazing teacher from West Hill, who has also taught at Temple Hill and Oakfield, who has devoted 17 years to our children, is also retiring. Their contributions are immeasurable; they have positively impacted thousands of children over the decades. Lynne, Carol, Lindsay and Cathy will be profoundly missed, leaving a significant void in our schools, but they leave with our love, gratitude, and best wishes for a long, happy, and healthy retirement.

As you delve into the pages of this Annual Report, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to every single person involved with our Trust. Whether you are a parent or carer, a governor, a colleague, a trustee, a member, a neighbour, or a wider community member, your support is invaluable. Thank you for everything you do to empower our young people to be the very best they can be.

Garry Ratcliffe
CEO, The Golden Thread Alliance

About our Academy Trusts

Number
of Schools

8

Number
of Colleagues

718

Number
of Pupils
(Including Nursery)

4,719

Number of Pupils
Receiving Free
School Meals /
Pupil Premium

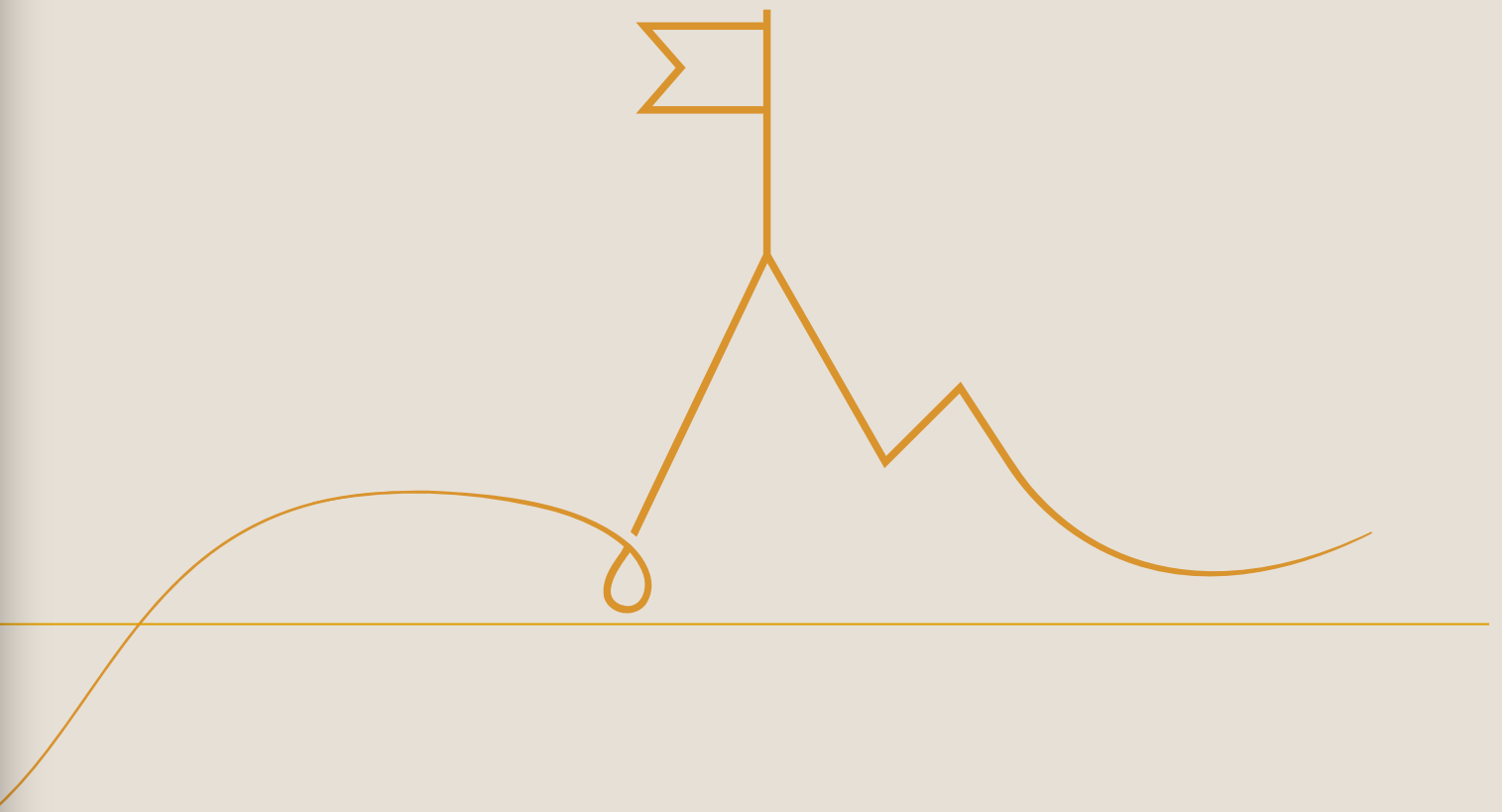
1,186

Number
of Trustees

10

Number of
Local Governors

60



Trust Map



1

Culverstone Green
Primary School

2

Fleetdown Primary
Academy

3

Meopham Community
Academy

4

Oakfield Primary
Academy

5

The Riverview
Academy

6

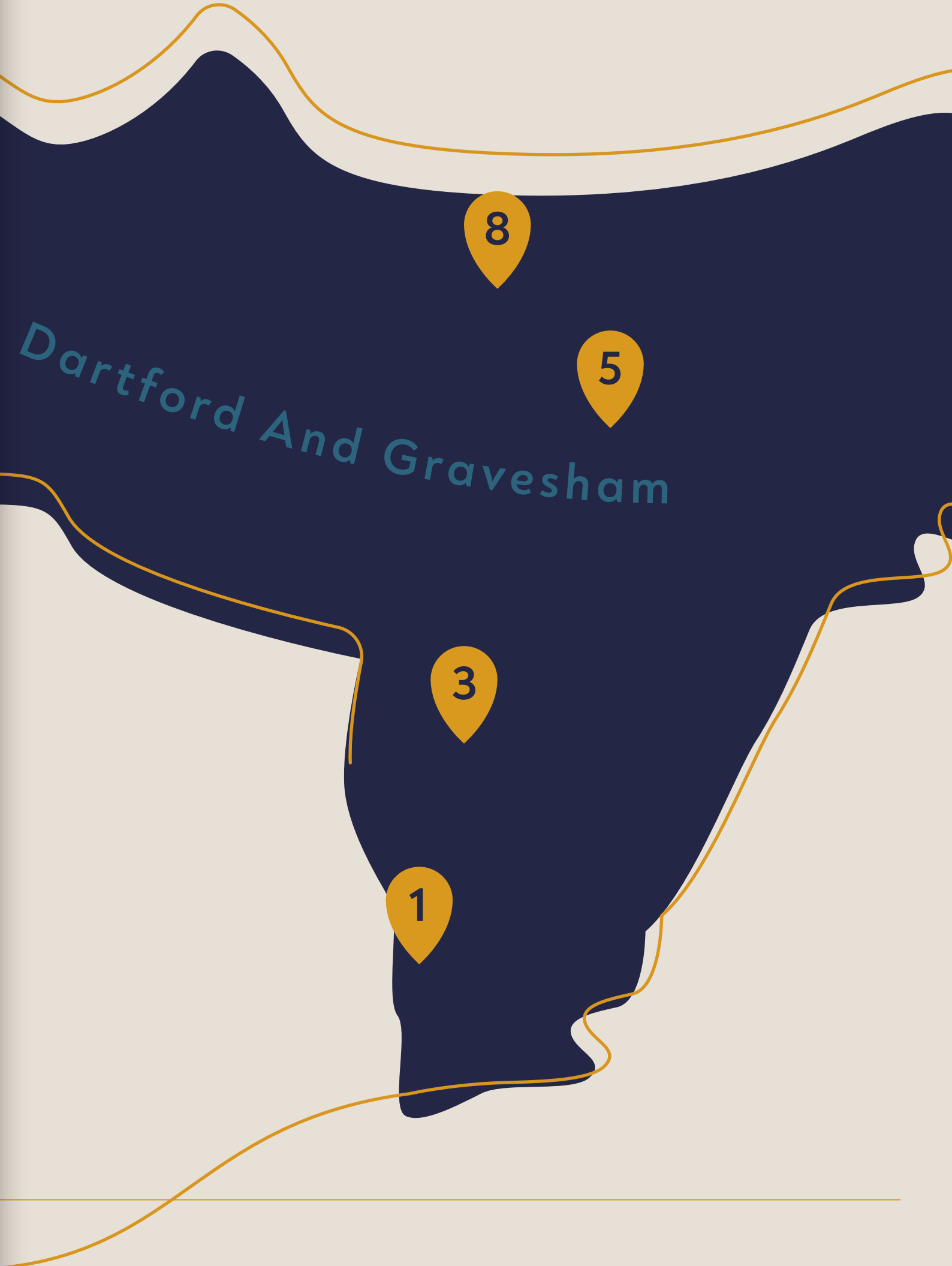
Temple Hill Primary
Academy

7

West Hill Primary
Academy

8

Wrotham Road
Primary School



Dartford And Gravesham

1

3

5

8

Our Vision & Values

We are, above all else, a values-led Trust. Following the thread that connects our schools, colleagues, families and pupils, we aspire to achieve more and be the best we can be, caring for each other and supporting each other's unique goals every step of the way.

Our colleagues and pupils follow 'Our Golden Thread', a Trust-wide set of values delivered through a poem, whose message we all apply to our everyday work.

*"Here we are all different in how we talk learn and play,
But we have our seven values and we live them every day.
We're **respectful** and **ambitious**, we're **responsible** and **kind**,
We believe in **courage** and **equality**, so no one's left behind.
We have **integrity**, so we're honest (we do just what we said).
We look after each other, and that's our Golden Thread!"*

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Our Values

We value diversity in our schools and our communities. What brings us together is our shared commitment to our Golden Thread Values.



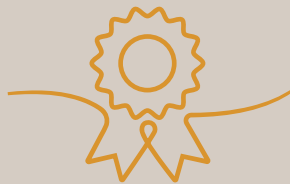
Respect



Equality



Courage



Integrity



Ambition



Kindness



Responsibility

Highlights of the Year

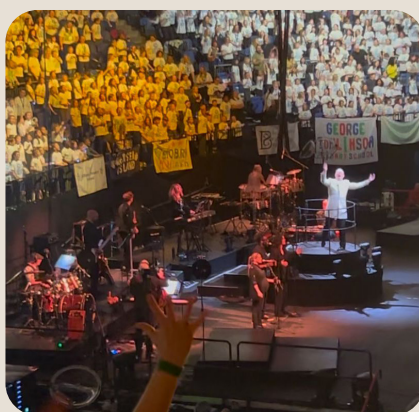
Young Voices

Yet again, our Trust schools all travelled to the O2 to take part in a massive concert of "Young Voices" where schools from across the country came together to celebrate the joy of singing.

Our pupils – hundreds in number, all took to the stage and sang a range of songs, along with thousands – yes, thousands of other children!

As always, our pupils sang their hearts out, to a packed audience of parents, carers and family members.

Thank you as always to our amazing colleague team who lead the choirs as well as ensuring all pupils arrive safely for a day-long rehearsal. Thanks too to the parents and carers who came along to support.



Golden Games and Golden Gala

This year, we continued our usual calendar of sporting events with the Golden Games and Golden Gala. Using the Olympic swimming and diving pools in Stratford, our pupils enjoyed a great gala alongside their friends and trust peers – with parents and carers cheering from the gallery.

In July, we hosted the Golden Games yet again, with Travis, a long-standing friend of our Trust, acting as commentator. Thanks to the All Stars Team for their brilliant organisation and to all the colleagues for supporting their children. A good day was had by all, with many close races – but with Temple Hill lifting the cup for a second year in a row.



Pupil Outcomes

Year 1 Phonics Screening Check

	All Children	Disadvantaged Children
National Average 2023-24	80%	68%
Trust Average 2024-25	76.7%	56.8%

Year 2 Phonics Screening Check

	All Children	Disadvantaged Children
National Average 2023-24	89%	82%
Trust Average 2024-25	91%	88.7%

Year 4 Multiplication Check - Full Marks (25 out of 25)

	All Children	Disadvantaged Children
National Average 2023-24	34%	25%
Trust Average 2024-25	39%	23.8%

Year 6 National Curriculum Tests

	All Children		Disadvantaged Children	
	National Average 2024-25	Trust Average 2024-25	National Average 2023-24	Trust Average 2024-25
Reading	74%	79.3%	62%	69.6%
Writing	72%	71.7%	58%	58.9%
Maths	74%	74.5%	59%	63.1%
Combined	62%	62.7%	45%	49.1%



Financial Overview

Projects funded by the school condition allocation:

New boiler - West Hill Trust Hub	£2,514.74
Fleetdown fire compliance project	£262,844.00
Fleetdown oven & extractor fan replacement	£26,602.97
Meopham KS1 boiler replacement	£19,417.93
Meopham nursery refurbishment	£18,782.05
Oakfield replacement fire doors	£11,037.00
Oakfield LED lighting upgrade	£1,321.00
Riverview new access control system	£16,306.00
Riverview Infants corridor refurbishment	£8,160.00
Riverview Infants LED lighting upgrade	£6,625.00
Riverview Juniors LED lighting upgrade	£2,655.26
West Hill canteen windows and doors replacement	£55,133.54
West Hill new fencing	£4,745.00
Wrotham Road balcony	£2,955.00
Wrotham Road perimeter fencing	£4,873.00
Wrotham Road gable ends	£3,438.00
Wrotham Road security gates	£14,774.96
Wrotham Road roof repair	£8,738.00

£470,923.45

Total revenue Income,
including the surplus

£32,545,079

Total revenue
expenditure

£30,528,667

Expenditure

Staffing

£23,337,946

Resources

£560,973

IT Equipment

£84,575

Revenue investment
in buildings

£301,787

Capital Projects

(excluding School Condition
Allocation Funding)

£267,515

Staffing costs as %
of expenditure

76%

A Focus on Our Schools

<u>Culverstone Green Primary School</u>	22
<u>Fleetdown Primary Academy</u>	24
<u>Meopham Community Academy</u>	26
<u>Oakfield Primary Academy</u>	28
<u>The Riverview Academy</u>	30
<u>Temple Hill Primary Academy</u>	32
<u>West Hill Primary Academy</u>	34
<u>Wrotham Road Primary School</u>	36





MEOPHAM COMMON
ACADEMY

Culverstone Green Primary School

A note from the Headteacher:

As we reflect on another year, I'm immensely proud of Culverstone Green's achievements. It's been a year of rich learning, memorable experiences, and unwavering commitment to our values. We successfully implemented a new, broader curriculum, ensuring every child receives an ambitious education. A recent Ofsted visit allowed us to celebrate successes and plan for future growth. Our dedicated team enhanced learning with exciting workshops, including Chinese New Year and African drumming, along with diverse trips. The improved EYFS outdoor area and woodland school further enrich experiences. Our small but mighty school thrives on strong community relationships. We continue to prioritise wellbeing for all members of our school community, recognising that happy, confident children learn best. Through our eight pillars of effective teaching and learning, we ensure every child receives the support they need to flourish both academically and personally. We're committed to building on our success, strengthening partnerships, and keeping children at the heart of Culverstone Green.

Harvest Festival and Foodbank Donations

In October, Culverstone Green celebrated its Harvest Festival, a time for thankfulness. Children performed songs and poems, while families generously donated food to the local Foodbank. This event truly embodied our value of compassion, showing how small acts of kindness create a big impact. It strengthened our school community's unity, making Culverstone Green a truly special place.





Holi Festival and Our First Colour Festival

March saw Culverstone Green explode with colour for the Holi Festival. We held our first-ever school Colour Festival, with colleagues and children joyfully throwing coloured powder. This celebration fostered respect by helping children appreciate diverse cultures. It was wonderful to see our whole school embrace the fun and mess, highlighting the supportive, family feel of Culverstone Green where we celebrate diversity.

Chinese New Year Celebrations

For Chinese New Year, our children enjoyed a week of cultural activities. They made lanterns, learned dragon dances, and explored traditional Chinese dance. Seeing their dragon dance performances was a real highlight. These celebrations supported our values of respect and thankfulness, encouraging children to appreciate different traditions. These hands-on experiences help them grow into compassionate, open-minded individuals, a core part of Culverstone Green's nurturing environment.



Fleetdown Primary Academy

A note from the Headteacher:

As the school year ends, I reflect with immense pride. Our OFSTED inspection resulted in a “Good” rating, a testament to our community’s dedication and resilience. Highlights also included heartwarming Christmas Sing and Sign performances, enriching trips, and vibrant celebrations of Fleetdown’s diverse cultures.

Even in these final, busy weeks, the Fleetdown spirit shines through. Despite challenges like broken boilers in winter and summer heat, colleagues and pupils show incredible resilience and good humour, keeping classrooms buzzing with activity.

Serving as Acting Headteacher this year has been incredibly rewarding. I’ve learned much about leadership and our wonderful community. I eagerly await Mrs. Harrington’s return in October. It’s been a year of growth and shared achievement, and I’m deeply thankful to be part of this thriving school.

Early Years Foundation Stage Fun

Our EYFS children had an amazing time with CycleMe Tots! They loved getting on balance bikes, wearing helmets, and learning new skills in a fun way. Their smiles and laughter showed their enjoyment. CycleMe Tots helps children build confidence, balance, and coordination while being active outdoors. We’re so proud of their bravery and can’t wait for their next adventure!





A part of
The Golden Thread Alliance

Lunar New Year Celebrations

Fleetdown's Lunar New Year celebrations were full of fun, colour, and excitement. Everyone learned about Chinese traditions, especially the lively EYFS dancing with amazing costumes. Lunchtime featured a special Chinese-themed menu with tasty new dishes, many children asking for seconds. We also discovered our Chinese zodiac animals and enjoyed crafts and stories, making it a brilliant, fun-filled learning day.



Literacy Engagements

Our school year's reading and writing curriculum featured many engaging events to foster a love of literacy. The Accelerated Reader Quizathon was a memorable highlight, sparking enthusiasm for reading. Approximately 250 children participated, with the school buzzing as they took quizzes and shared recommendations. Every participant received a prize, and a Year 6 pupil won a gift card for new books, celebrating reading as a shared, joyful experience.



Meopham Community Academy

A note from the Headteacher:

As Headteacher, I'm incredibly proud of Meopham Community Academy's past year. We welcomed new learners into our oversubscribed Mini Meophams nursery and filled reception classes, alongside 11 new pupils joining other year groups. This reflects MCA's status as the preferred school for local families. Our pupils also excelled in sports, earning silver at the Golden Gala swimming event and reaching both boys' and girls' football finals, showcasing their talent and determination.

Meopham's true strength lies in its vibrant community. I'm continually touched by the strong partnership with our families—parents, grandparents, carers, and friends—who actively support initiatives like our Homecoming project through fundraising and generous acts. A huge thank you goes to FOMCA, our PTA, whose phenomenal efforts from events like the May and Christmas Fayres raised an astounding £24,000. This has enabled us to subsidise trips, support families, and even replace outdated toilets.

Meopham Community Academy is more than just a school; it's a family that tirelessly puts children first, goes the extra mile, and aspires for the best for every child. Our ability to achieve all this while maintaining excellent academic outcomes in a truly inclusive environment is extraordinary. I warmly invite you to visit MCA and experience what makes it such an exceptional place.

The May Fayre

Our spectacular May Fayre on May 5th drew over 2,500 people for a day of community celebration, including maypole dancing and a parade with the Mayor. Thanks to incredible support, we raised £15,000 to enrich the lives of children at MCA. This event truly showcased our vibrant school spirit and strong community partnerships.





Tower of London Visit

At MCA, learning extends beyond the classroom. Our Year 2 pupils brought their Great Fire of London topic to life with an unforgettable visit to the Tower of London. This experience reflects our bold and ambitious curriculum, designed to inspire curiosity and deepen understanding through immersive, real-world learning opportunities.



To Infinity & Beyond: Space Workshop

Year 5 pupils were captivated by a hands-on Space Workshop from the Crayford Manor House Astronomical Society. This perfectly complemented their science topic on Earth's movements in space. From telescope observations to constellation exploration, it was an unforgettable experience that brought the universe right to our school, sparking wonder and scientific inquiry.



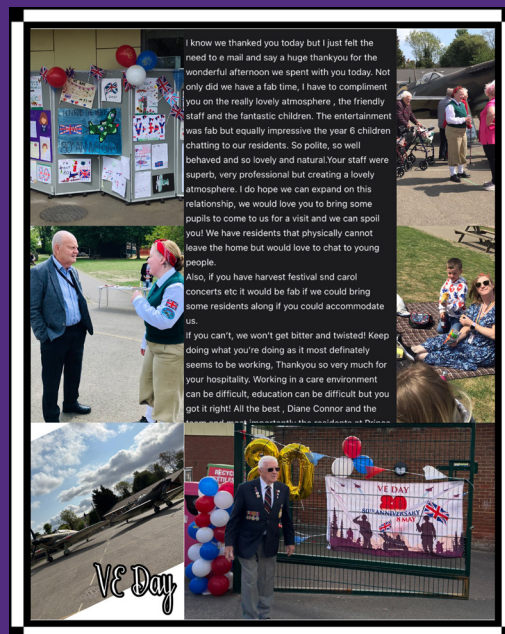
Oakfield Primary Academy

A note from the Headteacher:

What a brilliant year it has been at Oakfield! Thanks to the dedication and hard work of our entire team, we have achieved fantastic outcomes in Key Stage 2—truly a testament to what we can accomplish together. Our trips, workshops, and parent events have been hugely successful, enriching the experiences of our children and strengthening our community. With our increasing levels of need across the school, colleagues and children have further demonstrated how inclusive Oakfield is. We've also received countless messages of praise from visitors who consistently remark on how beautifully our pupils embody our school values. With such a strong foundation, we look forward to an even better year ahead!

VE Day at Oakfield: A Celebration to Remember:

Our VE Day celebration brought history to life, teaching children the importance of peace, gratitude, and resilience. It was a powerful reminder of our shared past and the values at the heart of Oakfield. The school came alive with music, flags, and joy as children sang, learned, and celebrated alongside veterans and neighbours. A picnic, historical displays, and heartfelt performances made it a day to remember — one child called it “the best day ever.” The event strengthened our sense of community and left a lasting impression on pupils, families, and guests. The warm feedback we received reinforced our belief in the value of these shared experiences. At Oakfield, we don't just teach history — we live it. Celebrations like VE Day help our children connect, belong, and grow into compassionate, thoughtful individuals.





Diversity Week

Diversity Week was a joyful celebration of culture, creativity, and community! Children explored global traditions, languages, and daily life through hands-on activities and artwork, proudly sharing and learning from one another. The week ended with a vibrant exhibition where parents admired each class's journey. The hall came alive with colourful displays and a shared sense of pride. A highlight was the food-sharing event, featuring delicious dishes from around the world, generously provided by families and local businesses. Diversity Week brought our community closer, celebrating unity through learning, creativity, and global flavours—a powerful reminder of the beauty in our differences and connections.



National Thank a Teacher



In June, Oakfield marked National Thank a Teacher Day by celebrating all colleagues, including teachers, assistants, site, and support teams. Parents and carers sent over 150 heartfelt messages, shared privately with colleagues. A whole-school assembly featured pupil performances and parent messages, creating a moving tribute. Colleagues received goodie bags with self-care items, donated by local businesses like Calvin Klein, Lush, and The Body Shop. Children also joined "Team Purple" activities, highlighting the value of every colleague in their learning and well-being. Oakfield's commitment to colleague mental health goes beyond single events, reflecting a culture of care rooted in shared core values developed earlier this year.

The Riverview Academy

A note from the Headteacher:

A New Chapter for Riverview: The Riverview Academy

The last academic year was significant for both Riverview Infant and Riverview Junior schools. We faced challenges and celebrated successes as we prepared to formally unite them. Thanks to the relentless focus of pupils, colleagues, parents, and The Golden Thread Alliance, we received permission to open The Riverview Academy on September 1, 2025. This will be one of Kent's largest primary schools, offering an exceptional educational and personal experience for all learners, set in beautiful grounds with impressive facilities. It aims to be the school of choice for families and professionals.

The amalgamation brings exciting changes, including a new leadership team. We welcome Mr. Dan Siggs as Headteacher, Mrs. Walsh as an additional Deputy, and many other new colleagues, including a SEND assistant, Family Liaison Officer, and additional Assistant Headteachers. While it's sad to see colleagues move on, this transition provides a fresh start in a new school with several new teachers joining in September.

The Riverview Academy is a wonderful school, full of excitement and energy. It balances academic proficiency with developing the whole child. Regardless of gender, race, disability, or background, it's a school where every child can reach their full potential.

Sports Day

Sports Day was a fantastic celebration of physical activity and teamwork. Children enjoyed races, relays, and skill-based events, focusing on participation and personal bests. Families joined, creating a supportive atmosphere. Pupils showed great sportsmanship and energy. These events are vital for promoting physical wellbeing and fostering a love of sport across the school.





Year 6 Residential

Our Year 6 PGL residential was a memorable final-term experience. Pupils tackled adventurous activities like laser tag, trapeze, and rock climbing, building resilience and teamwork. They enjoyed excellent food, staying fuelled for action-packed days. This residential remains a key milestone, celebrating personal growth and achievements before secondary school.



Open Classroom Event

The final Open Classroom event was a great success, celebrating strong school-community relationships. Parents engaged with their children's learning, experiencing our vibrant curriculum firsthand. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with families valuing this connection. Special thanks to all colleagues, especially KS2 support colleagues, for ensuring a smooth, inviting experience. These events are vital for fostering strong partnerships and reconnecting families with school life.



Temple Hill

Primary Academy

A note from the Headteacher:

I cannot put into words what an honour and privilege it is to lead such an incredible school, and it is my pleasure to salute the families and school team for the incredible work they do to help develop the most precious things in all of our worlds, our amazing young people. The individual contributions to our school cannot be underestimated in any way.

This year has seen great achievement within the classrooms and our pupils are increasingly developing the skills we think they will need to be successful in the challenges that lie ahead. One of our major focusses this year has been in the area of oracy, and we are seeing (and hearing) the difference in the quality of debate and presentation, and we look forward to building on this next year. Outside of the classrooms it has been a joy to share the work we do with others, including the Ofsted team.

I wish everyone a super summer, to keep up their school and life skills up and to come back ready to go again to the next level in September. We also recognise that things aren't always how we would want them, life can be extremely challenging in and out of school, for young and old. The most important thing is that we are the team behind the dream and communicate effectively. Through compassion, support and action we will achieve great things together!!

Oracy at Temple Hill

Since September, our Oracy focus at Temple Hill has transformed teaching and learning. Pupils are now more articulate, confident, and engaged, showing stronger communication, critical thinking, and collaboration. Oracy has empowered children to express themselves clearly, helping them grow into individuals ready to share their ideas.





Favourite Food Sharing

Favourite Food Sharing is a triannual event where our families bring delightful dishes from around the world. With music and decorations, this beautiful time brings our school community together. It's filled with good vibes and remains one of our favourite family events of the year.



Year 6 Residential to Treginnis

Our traditional Year 6 residential is to Lower Treginnis, Wales' most westerly farm. This offers a unique environment compared to their usual surroundings, with incredible panoramic views. Young people enjoy coastal walks, beach visits, farm tasks, cooking, and crafts, including tending pigs, grooming donkeys, and milking goats—an unforgettable 2025 trip!



West Hill Primary Academy

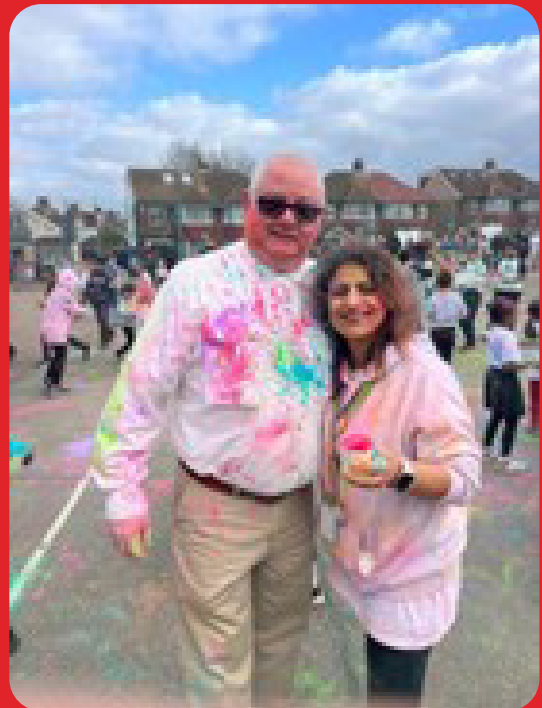
A note from the Headteacher:

As this academic year concludes, I'm incredibly proud of our children's achievements. They've shown remarkable learning progress, grown in confidence, and consistently demonstrated kindness and respect. From sporting triumphs to creative projects, and from academic milestones to personal growth, every child has contributed to making our school a vibrant, caring, and inspiring community.

A huge thank you goes to our dedicated colleagues, supportive families, and especially our wonderful children, for making this year such a success. This year, we also excitedly introduced our new school mascot, Westley, proudly created by Kevan and Jacob. Westley embodies our school's values and spirit, reminding us to be kind, resilient, and hardworking. Our children have truly enjoyed welcoming Westley into school life, and we eagerly anticipate his continued inspiration in 2025-2026! Well done, Team West Hill!

West Hill Community Events

West Hill hosted numerous multicultural events this year, engaging our diverse community. In March, we celebrated Holi, filling the playground with colour and traditional music, even involving the Deputy Mayor in the powder throwing. June saw our Eid celebration, where children made vibrant decorations and we sold treats. Later that month, our Summer Fair brought the local community together with various stalls and games.





A part of
The Golden Thread Alliance

Indigo Trip to Wingham

On May 14th, all of KS1, including Indigo Class, enjoyed a trip to Wingham Wildlife Park. For some, this was their first school trip and first time on a minibus. We explored the animal exhibits and the dinosaur display, focusing on vocabulary and communication using Makaton and PECS to name animals. This was a hugely enriching experience, particularly for pupils who sometimes find accessing the curriculum challenging.



TCS Mini Marathon

West Hill children demonstrated incredible determination and team spirit at the TCS Mini Marathon. They tackled the challenge with enthusiasm and resilience, supporting each other throughout. We're incredibly proud of their positive attitude and sense of achievement. It was a fantastic and inspiring experience for everyone involved, truly showcasing our children's amazing spirit.

Wrotham Road Primary School

A note from the Headteacher:

Wrotham Road Primary School proudly reflects on a year of significant progress. Our commitment to a nurturing yet challenging environment has yielded remarkable results, including a whole-school attendance of 94.79%, ranking us 4th in the Trust. This improvement, bettering our 3-year trend, stems from effective strategies like engaging attendance awards and our supportive Calm Club.

A major undertaking this year was redesigning our curriculum. We transitioned from the IPC to a bespoke curriculum, meticulously crafted by our dedicated colleagues. This comprehensive change builds a robust learning journey from EYFS to Year 6, embedding foundational knowledge and ensuring progressive development. Our new English writing sequence and the adoption of Spelling Shed are already enhancing writing and spelling outcomes, particularly for younger pupils.

In Maths, we successfully transitioned to White Rose Maths based on colleague feedback, meeting diverse pupil needs and reducing workload. This shift also provided significant financial savings for new resources. These efforts are leading to excellent results, with strong Year 6 outcomes and impressive Year 1 phonics scores. Crucially, our SEN and disadvantaged pupils are making good progress, narrowing attainment gaps. These collective successes highlight Wrotham Road's positive trajectory and our team's dedication.

VE Day Celebration Week

Wrotham Road Primary celebrated the 80th anniversary of VE Day with a themed week from May 19th–23rd. Children learned about the history, daily life, and art of the era, creating their own propaganda posters and playing traditional games. The week culminated in a whole-school party with period dress, a celebration assembly featuring songs, and an afternoon tea with music and games. Artwork from the week was proudly displayed.





A Green Flag Year for Wrotham Road!

This year, Wrotham Road Primary's Eco Council achieved the prestigious Eco-Schools Green Flag Award. They focused on Biodiversity, School Grounds, and Energy. Initiatives included the "Cut Your Carbon Campaign" for energy awareness, creating a Rewilding Area, and promoting "No Mow May" to benefit pollinators. The Eco Council effectively informed the community through assemblies and newsletters, demonstrating leadership and teamwork in driving positive environmental change.



Great Athletes Event

On June 4th, Wrotham Road hosted "Great Athletes" featuring Saffron Severn, an ex-Great Britain rhythmic gymnast and Commonwealth Games medallist. Saffron led an inspiring assembly, sharing her journey of resilience. All pupils then participated in a sponsored fitness circuit, enthusiastically embracing movement and sport. This event raised a fantastic £3256.13, with £1591.88 directly benefiting the school for new sports equipment to boost physical activity levels.



Digital Transformation: Enhancing Learning and Inclusion at The Golden Thread Alliance

Over the past year, The Golden Thread Alliance has been meticulously preparing for a digital transformation, moving forward at a thoughtful, steady pace to ensure we “get it right for everybody.” Our core focus for the upcoming year is to roll out this strategy, primarily transitioning our curriculum and teacher resources from Microsoft to Google platforms, as their offerings significantly enhance inclusive learning.

A key aspect of this transformation is dedicated professional development. Every term for the next six terms, a colleague meeting will be allocated for training on digital tools, including AI applications and various Google platforms, with support from external experts. This ensures all colleagues, regardless of their current comfort level with technology, are supported on this journey. We are also engaged in a national research project, the PedTech Partnership, exploring how technology and pedagogy can best converge for all children’s benefit.

A major initiative will be the phased introduction of one device per child, starting with a pilot year group in September. By Easter, we aim to launch a parent purchase scheme for devices, which will be externally managed to ease the burden on school colleagues.

At the heart of our digital transformation is the concept of dignified inclusion. We are committed to leveraging technology’s accessibility features – like adjustable font sizes, text-to-speech, and translation tools – to ensure all children, including those with special educational needs, can learn effectively without being singled out. This builds dignity and belonging. With ongoing infrastructure upgrades to Wi-Fi and broadband, we are laying the groundwork for a truly transformative and inclusive digital learning environment across all our schools. We encourage passionate colleagues, parents and carers to become digital champions and help lead this exciting change.



A Sad Message

This year we have had two children from our family of schools, sadly lose their lives.

Whilst it is not our place to share this information in a wider forum, we wanted to recognise the sadness shared by colleagues, children and the wider community. We lost one little girl from Wrotham Road, who tragically lost their life by drowning. We lost a second young man, who had recently left West Hill, after he courageously battled an illness.

The loss of a child is never easy, but both of these wonderful young people were such important parts of our schools. Their memory will live on in our schools, and we continue to remember and celebrate their characters and their love for their friends, family and their schools.



The Power of a Teacher

For our youngest children, starting “Big School” is often their most monumental transition. While many four-year-olds are accustomed to daily routines at nurseries or childminders, the shift to Reception is still profound. The emotional and practical preparation required cannot be underestimated; a smooth transition from nursery to Reception sets a child up for life, while a difficult one demands significantly more investment to help them settle.

My own experience, as a fifty-something CEO with thirty years in education, offers absolute clarity. I vividly recall the terror of starting school – the noise, unknown adults, vast spaces, and hordes of children. As an only child, even queuing for lunch was foreign. Yet, I settled beautifully, thanks to the care, attention, love, and devotion of my Reception Class Teacher, Miss Wharton. Her kindness, reassurance, and provision of safety and security were paramount. She sat with me at lunch, and regularly updated my mum. I adored her, understanding then, and now, the profound importance of a child’s first teacher and the power of connection.

As we look back at the last year, and look forward to the coming year, I want to celebrate every single teacher, each and every member of support colleagues, who all have such significant impact on our children. I am not sure how many adults reading this can remember their teachers – and whether that is with fear or fondness, but I believe that teachers remain in our memory, and can support the shaping of our futures. Teachers and support colleagues work in our schools because they want to work with children, they want to support their learning, and they want to do the best to support each and every child in their care.

Thank you to our teachers, and thank you to Miss Wharton (now Mrs Hawkins), who inspired me to also inspire the next generation.



Looking Forward

Our Priorities

Only when we provide the very best for every child with SEND, and only when our children who are disadvantaged and receive free school meals, are our top priority, and only when children from every culture and every country can fully access their learning, only then will every child, in every school be able to confidently grasp the challenges of tomorrow.



Our Value of Equality

When we fail one child, we fail all children.

When we support our most vulnerable, we support everyone.

As united as we are different.

Every child, in every school, will confidently grasp the challenges of tomorrow.

Our Children from different countries & cultures

Celebrate culture through in-school events.

Broaden every child's understanding of the world.

Use technology to ensure language is not a barrier to learning.

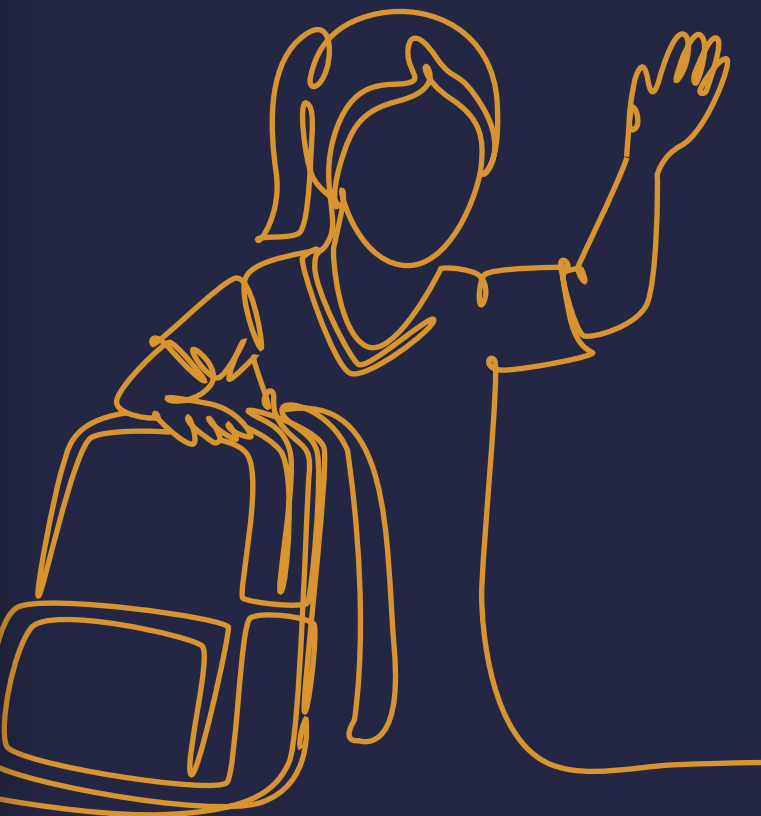
Our Children With SEND

Fully adaptive teaching to support mainstream inclusion.

Inclusive, specialist resource provision for those who need it in order to thrive.

Technology to support learning, tailored to supporting success for the individual.

Support from highly trained school and Trust colleagues.



Our Children who receive free school meals

Extra support to become expert readers at every stage.

Prioritised for keep up and catch-up programmes.

Enhancing cultural experiences to deeper knowledge and vocabulary.

No disadvantage because of background or financial circumstances.





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