ORCHARD ACADEMY

Ready • Respectful • Safe

ORCHARD ACADEMY

PROSPECTUS

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Ofsted Good Provider

East Midlands Academy Trust

Welcome to Orchard Academy

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to Orchard Academy, a proud founder member of the East Midlands Academy Trust.

At Orchard you will find a positive, family atmosphere in which we develop friendly, welcoming, confident and independent young people. We do this through high quality teaching and excellent pastoral care delivered by a passionate, hardworking team who really do want the best for every child at the Academy.

Challenging lessons mean pupils of all abilities are stretched in an atmosphere which allows them to be confident and comfortable enough to take risks and make mistakes. Our children's attitudes to learning are excellent. As the pupils journey through the school they reveal their strengths and develop their interests, inspired by our excellent curriculum.

Together with strong community links, we share leadership, teaching and administration with our neighbour, Shepherdswell Academy, allowing us to offer the pupils a continuing broad and balanced curriculum at both key stages 1 and 2.

Zoe McIntyre
Executive Headteacher

School Values

At Orchard Academy we are Ready, Respectful and Safe.

Our school culture, pastoral ethos and curriculum design are underpinned by our seven core values.

The approach we take to our curriculum learning and the way pastoral development integrates with academic learning enables each and every child to learn and grow. All members of our school community are valued equally. We rely on a positive partnership between pupils, staff, parents and carers, visiting professionals and the wider community.

We want pupils to be the best they can be, be successful, value their achievements, monitor their own progress and celebrate the success of others.

Curriculum

The aim of the curriculum at Orchard Academy is to provide an ambitious, motivating and enriched curriculum that meets the needs of all children, allowing them to explore and understand the world they live in. We provide opportunities for children to develop as independent and confident learners with high aspirations, empowering every child to become a responsible and successful citizen in the local and global community, becoming life-long learners.

Our curriculum incorporates the key knowledge, skills and understanding set out in the National Curriculum and other experiences and opportunities which best meet the learning and developmental needs of the children in our school, equipping them with high levels of literacy and numeracy and critical and creative thinking skills essential for now and in the future.

The curriculum is carefully planned with high expectations to ensure clear progression within all curriculum subjects and aims to support children in gaining a deeper understanding of their learning. Our children are provided with a firm grounding in core skills including, reading, writing, spelling, grammar and mathematics.

We ensure by the time children leave Orchard Academy they are equipped with the knowledge and skills to continue to learn and grow independently in the next stage of their learning journey.

Extra-curricular opportunities

Orchard Academy offers a varied programme of extra-curricular clubs for all pupils who wish to participate.

We understand the importance of enrichment opportunities and experiences. Children have the opportunity to learn both inside and out of the classroom, through themed days, whole school activities and opportunities within and out of school which enrich learning. We are a creative school and promote this across the curriculum.

A variety of after school clubs based on interests of our children and high-quality visits and visitors extend these opportunities further. Children have opportunities to share their learning with each other, their parents and carers and other learners through school-based performances, competitions and events involving other schools.

Aspen

Aspen is Orchard Academy and Shepherdswell Academy's Specialist Communication Department.

Children are allocated a place in Aspen by Milton Keynes Council. It is a requirement of the authority that the child has an EHC plan and that the child's main area of need is social communication. At present the department has twenty places for children at Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2.

As much as the department is focusing on the social communication needs of the children, we also pride ourselves on offering personalised teaching and support for each child.

The learning pathway of each child is individualised and bespoke to their needs. Staff work closely with each child to ensure that their physical environment, visual environment and adapted learning appraoches work to build on each child's strengths and support them to achieve to the best of their ability and make progress from their starting points.

This could be your child accessing the department but attending specific lessons within the mainstream to the ability of your child's needs.

Performance

Orchard Academy was inspected by Ofsted in June 2026.

Ofsted no longer issues one overall grade following an inspection, but instead scores schools in individual categories

Attendance and Behaviour	Expected standard
Curriculum and Teaching	Expected standard
Inclusion	Expected standard
Leadership and Governance	Expected standard
Personal Development and Wellbeing	Expected standard

Read our report in full at **orchard.emat.uk**

Orchard was recognised by Ofsted for its respectful relationships between staff and pupils and for the children's impressive understanding of tolerance and respect for others.

The report praised our high expectations for behaviour, strong support for disadvantaged pupils and pupil's increasingly good progress from their starting points. There was also praise for our specialist provision Aspen, where inspectors reported 'high-quality teaching from highly trained staff'.

The inspection also recognised the ongoing improvements taking place which are helping to ensure consistent teaching and improving pupil outcomes.

School Day

TIME	ACTIVITY
8.30am	Doors Open
8.35am	Registration
8.40am	Assembly/Maths Core Skills/Singing Assembly
9.05am	Lesson 1
10am	Break
10.15am	Lesson 2
11.10am	Lesson 3
12.05pm	Lunch (11:55 for Year 3)
1pm	Reading for Pleasure
1.15pm	Lesson 4
2.10pm	Lesson 5
3.05pm	End of Day
3.15 - 4.15pm	After school clubs (Mon, Wed, Thu)

School Uniform

It is an expectation that all Orchard children will wear the approved school uniform.

From September 2026, the school uniform includes a branded varsity jacket and blue polo shirt. These are available from www.stevensons.co.uk. Other uniform items can be bought affordably from supermarkets and other clothing retailers.

Uniform

- Black or charcoal grey trousers or chinos, pinafore dress, skirt/skorts or shorts (summer only)
- Black shoes (trainers are permitted if they are all black)
- Royal blue V-neck jumper or cardigan (optional), available from retailers of your choice including most supermarkets, for messy play or other practical activities and colder weather

PE uniform

- Learners can wear the blue polo shirt for PE to reduce the number of items parents/carers are required to buy
- Black shorts, jogging bottoms or leggings
- Black hoodie for outside PE (optional)
- Trainers or plimsolls

PLEASE REMEMBER TO PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN EACH ITEM OF CLOTHING

Pupil Welfare

Orchard Academy is committed to delivering good outcomes for children and young people by providing a safe learning environment that promotes their welfare and helps them to develop socially and emotionally so that they can make the most of their life chances. This is achieved by:

- Providing a safe, healthy learning environment that allows them to develop to their full potential
- Safeguarding their welfare, particularly those children and young people who are most disadvantaged
- Providing young children and young people with opportunities to discuss issues and report problems affecting their safety and welfare
- Ensuring safe recruitment practices
- Ensuring robust procedures for recognition and referral where there are welfare or child protection concerns
- Raising awareness amongst staff of child protection issues and ensuring staff are equipped to deal with concerns
- Monitoring and supporting children and young people who are subject to child protection plans and contributing to the implementation of their plan
- Promoting partnerships working with parents and professionals

Wraparound Care

At Orchard Academy we offer before and after school provision for children in Year 3 to Year 6.

- Breakfast Club operates from 7.30 – 8.40am.
- After School Club operates from the end of the school day until 6:00pm.m. We do not accept entry from any child using breakfast club after 8:30am.

Our wraparound care is a welcoming and friendly environment for all children at Orchard Academy. Children are given choices to participate in a variety of arts and crafts, sports, team games, or simply just relax and read a book in the quiet area.

During Breakfast Club, children are provided with breakfast and at After School Club, children will be provided with a light snack. All menus for food at our extended care is carefully planned and shared with parents.

Booking is available allowing you to select the days you require. Once a booking has been confirmed the place is secure unless cancelled. Bookings and payments need to be made in advance for all sessions that are required to ensure a place for your child/ren.

About East Midlands Academy Trust

East Midlands Academy Trust was incorporated in September 2012. East Midlands Academy Trust is a Multi Academy Trust based in the centre of Northampton. Since incorporation, the MAT now includes five primary academies, one secondary academy and one all-through 4-19 Free School. East Midlands Academy Trust's key ambition is straightforward - to create excellent academies.

East Midlands Academy Trust

#EMATters

Vision, Values and Purpose

'Every child deserves to be the best they can be'

We are driven by a strong moral purpose that every child has the right to outstanding teaching and leadership. It is our mission to work with our children, their parents and carers and our staff to create excellent schools. Schools that demonstrate integrity of purpose through high aspiration for every child. We set high expectations for our leaders and teachers to support and stretch every child. We ensure that they make excellent progress and build the skills, knowledge and attributes that will prepare them well for secondary school and beyond.