



Fairlands Middle School



Caring and Inspirational

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Masons Way, Cheddar, Somerset, BS27 3PG

Telephone: 01934 743186/7 Fax: 01934 744457

E-Mail: office@fairlands.somerset.sch.uk

www.fairlands.somerset.sch.uk



Fairlands Middle School in Cheddar is a vibrant and welcoming place for pupils and staff to come to work each day. As a Middle School we are in the privileged situation to be able to work with children in the years where they develop as independent learners.

We were recently regarded as being outstanding in many major areas by OFSTED.

We have approximately 510 pupils currently on roll with an admission number each year of 127.

We employ 28 fully qualified teachers and an equal number of well qualified non-teaching staff.

The school was purpose-built in 1976 when the highly effective 3-tier Cheddar Valley Learning Partnership was established.



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Somerset Local Authority is the admission authority for our school and places will be allocated in accordance with their published arrangements. Copies of these arrangements can be obtained by calling Somerset Direct on 0845 3459122.



Welcome

Dear Parents

I am delighted to be able to welcome you to our school. Thank you for your interest, whether you have children here already or your daughter or son will be starting at Fairlands Middle School in the near future.

Our main aim is for the children to be able to learn to their full potential and develop lively enquiring minds. We will help them to grow as independent young people, well prepared for the next stages in their learning and able to thrive in our complex and challenging society. In order for the children to learn best we set out to provide an environment in which pupils feel secure and are able to develop their own self-esteem. We emphasise respect for others and a sense of personal responsibility within the community.

We are delighted that OFSTED visited us recently and again agreed with us that pupils' personal development is outstanding. The latest OFSTED report also shows that our curriculum too can be judged as outstanding. The widest perspective of pupils' learning is central to our school aims and sits alongside attaining the highest possible standards of achievement.

At Fairlands Middle School the parents support us strongly in our educational, social and fund-raising activities. We regard it as essential to develop strong partnerships between home and school, and the wider community. We are very pleased to be a part of the Cheddar Valley Community Learning Partnership.

I hope this prospectus will give you some useful and interesting information about our school and will answer many of your questions. If you want to know more please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

Headteacher



Personal Development

Our pupils are the best possible advertisement for our school. Visitors to Fairlands comment on the warm welcome from the children and the vibrant atmosphere here.

Children at Fairlands learn best when they enjoy lessons – it is what we expect; learning does not have to be dry and boring! We are pleased that our pupils live up to our expectation in committing themselves to their learning and demonstrating positive attitudes. It is this that enables them to make such rounded progress.

Fairlands Middle School is a very caring school, where there is a fine balance of support and challenge. High expectations are deeply embedded and are recognised as rightly important by pupils and their parents. We make the most of our opportunity to teach young people who are moving towards adolescence and coming to terms with their own growing up. At Fairlands we don't just keep the children safe and healthy, we expect them to take part in making safe and healthy choices for themselves and their school. The voices of Fairlands' pupils are positive, tolerant and intensely loyal to their school.

We have the whole child at the centre of our thinking and we help them develop confidence and key skills. As a result we find that the pupils are ready to face the challenge of our creativity with the curriculum.

Parents tell us that their children have been well supported through the transfer from First School to Fairlands Middle School. We are ever mindful of the risk that younger pupils might miss the continuity of a single class-teacher as they move to Fairlands and, as a result, our tutorial and personal development work is always a key priority. Children at risk of falling behind are identified early, so we can intervene and help them with appropriate support.



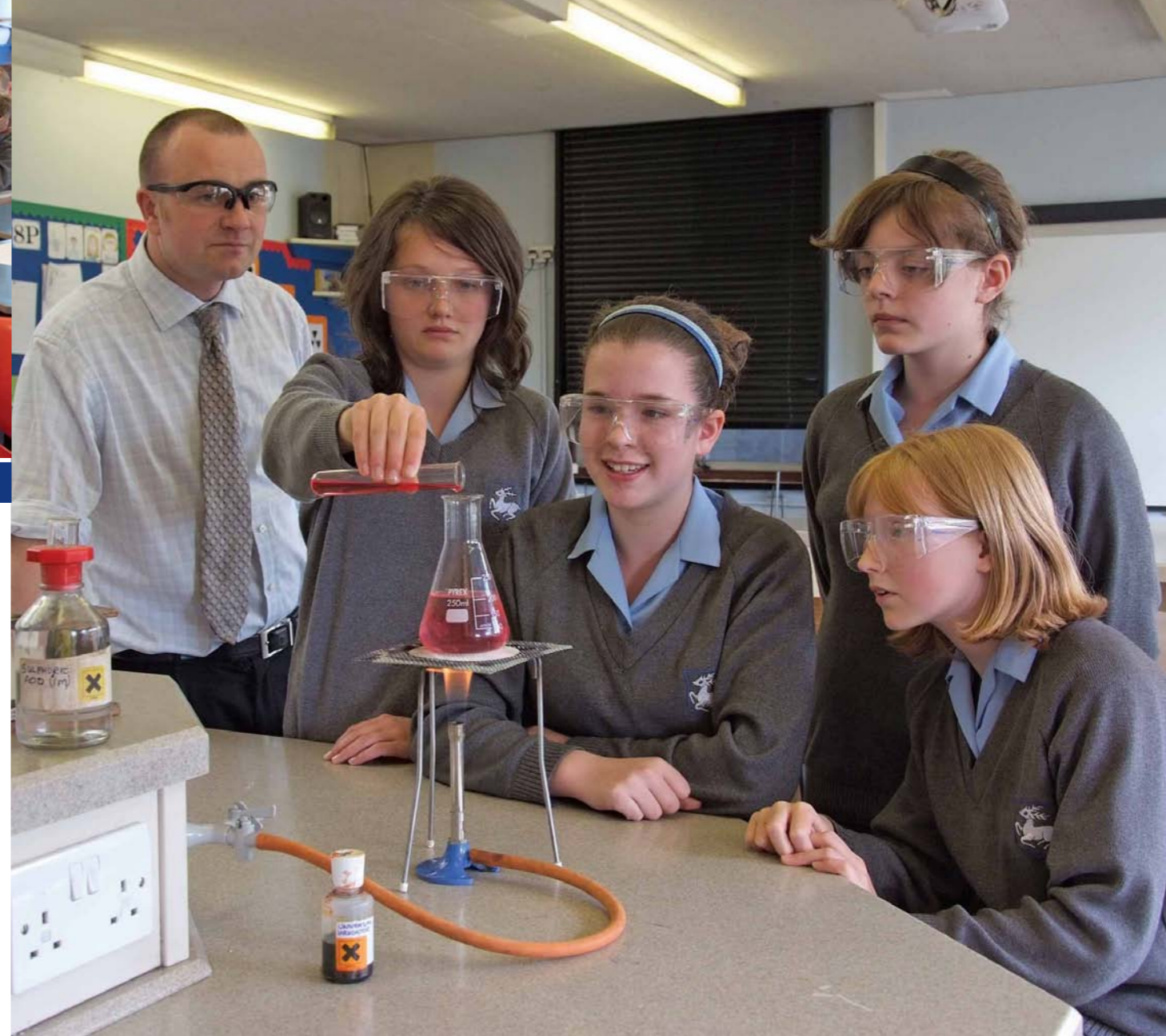
'teaching promoted pupils' creativity and the opportunity to learn alongside their peers' OFSTED

'Fairlands is an exceptionally caring school. 'OFSTED

Pupils are supported in a great variety of ways; emotionally, socially and academically. At Fairlands Middle School pupils do not suffer from any stigma for taking part, helping or being successful. This is partly because we expect all pupils to play their part in supporting the school, for example, when setting up the school hall and organising the lunch sessions – all pupils take their turn with these responsibilities.

An example of health and emotional intelligence in action is our Health Week when tutors teach very difficult subjects about relationships and reproduction, the use of drugs and dealing with personal stress. This is done in a way that doesn't alienate pupils or indeed cause difficulties for their families. Bullying is never tolerated and every reported incident is investigated, often dealt with through restorative approaches and always managed in an emotionally intelligent manner. Pupils' personal development and well being was recognised as outstanding by the recent OFSTED.





Curriculum and Standards

Visitors to our school often note how engaged and motivated our pupils are and how much they enjoy their learning, using a wide range of learning styles. It is impossible to pick out particular strengths in the curriculum because there are strengths in every area!

We are able to offer the pupils exciting and enjoyable learning experiences both inside the classroom and in a range of different settings used on school trips and residential activities.

At Fairlands Middle School we have high quality specialist subject teaching and accommodation throughout the age range and we believe this has a real impact on learning. We have a well-established and collaborative approach to curriculum development. Our programme meets the needs of each individual pupil and provides seamless transition between the three tiers of education in the Cheddar Valley.

We strive for the highest possible standards in the core skills, expecting all pupils to achieve their potential. The standards of attainment of Fairlands pupils' in the externally marked National Curriculum Tests (SATs) have always been strong. Fairlands can claim to be one of the highest achieving Middle Schools in Somerset and possibly in the country. Able children and those with

special learning differences enjoy their learning and make as much progress as other children.

As well as the successes in the core subjects of English, mathematics and science we also see Fairlands pupils making tremendous progress across all the other subjects too. Whilst the SATs in the core subjects may have their place, we feel we have got the curriculum balance right and we do not allow a disproportionate emphasis on the tests, even in the summer term of Year 6! Our timetable continues as normal with the full range of subjects, including:

- art, drama and music,
 - design subjects of food, textiles and resistant materials,
 - geography, history, citizenship and RE,
 - French, German and Spanish,
 - PE,
- as well as the core subjects, studied throughout their time at Fairlands.

Some of the highlights of our calendar each year are the suspended-timetable weeks, such as India Week or Health Week. In these weeks extended projects are taught, often by the pupils' tutors, enabling a thorough investigation of a project and the focus on the key skills, creativity and personal and social education.

We also see Fairlands' sports teams make national finals, we have had a choral group sing at the Albert Hall and the productions in school are stunning; quite often involving every child in the year. These activities plainly show the breadth of pupils learning and it is a joy to see the skills across the curriculum brought together. Regular trips and outings help develop an awareness of the world beyond the school and engender independence and creativity. The quality, range and participation in extra-curricular and enrichment activities are excellent.

The school's new Virtual Learning Environment – Fronter – is helping us make the best of modern technology to improve the curriculum even further.



'The curriculum is a major strength of the school.'
The school provides 'outstanding and innovative provision, carefully tailored to meet the needs of each individual pupil' OFSTED



Partnerships and Community

The pupils at Fairlands Middle School are a wonderful group of children. On a walk around our school visitors will always see children working collaboratively and it will also be obvious that there is an atmosphere of care and respect, as well as the evident enthusiasm and enjoyment.

One of our aims is to help the pupils discover their own identity and ensure that they are actively involved in the life and work of our school community. We have regular assemblies where we recognise and celebrate successes. Often these assemblies are joined by visitors from our wider community such as the churches, environmental organisations or police.

Our citizenship, careers and personal education programme is a full and integrated part of the curriculum. We want children to see and understand the relevance of our curriculum as preparation for their futures. We encourage pupils to respect their environment and take responsibility for themselves and others.

The School Council and Year Councils are very effective and an important part of school life. The representatives are respected by their peers and truly make a difference in our school.

The partnership between teachers and the pupils' parents is special - engaging parents as partners in the pupils learning.

The children also benefit from the close liaison with our partnership community of schools. The strength of our school partnerships ensures pupils benefit from gifted, talented and enrichment activities, e.g. sporting events, master-classes in many curriculum areas and visits with other schools.



'The breadth of extra-curricular and enrichment activities is outstanding'
OFSTED



