The Dean Trust
Ashton on Mersey School

Prospectus

Believe Achieve Succeed

Ashton on Mersey School is one of the most popular and oversubscribed schools in the region with a reputation for excellence and aspiration.

As Headteacher, I am proud to lead a team of teachers and support staff who truly believe that every pupil should achieve or exceed their potential. Our mission statement is:

‘Together, we will be the best we can be.’

This mission lives and breathes in every area of our school community. The school has an established and embedded ethos of setting high academic standards by carefully crafting a pupil-centered approach where individual needs are matched with a broad, ambitious and exciting curriculum. In addition, the school is passionate about providing rich and diverse opportunities in an environment designed to nurture lifelong learners and citizens who can thrive regionally, nationally and globally.

At Ashton on Mersey we are unwavering in our commitment to opening up a future of choice for our young people. This can be seen in every aspect of our work as we hold true to our motto:

Believe Achieve Succeed

I look forward to working in partnership with you.

Mr Lee McConaghie
Headteacher

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Headteacher

WELCOME
TO ASHTON ON MERSEY SCHOOL

An Ambitious Vision

Our **Vision** has been created by all stakeholders with direct input from pupils, parents, staff and governors.

Our **Mission** is our daily intent and why we exist. It indicates our desire to be a strong community with high aspirations for all.

Our **Values** encapsulate the personal qualities which we believe every member of the Ashton on Mersey school community should exhibit. Our values are further supported by our values charter as designed entirely by pupils and students.

"Trustees and members of the local governing committee support the school well to ensure it is a highly positive place for staff and pupils. Staff are eager to contribute to the school's ambitious vision for pupils' education." *Ofsted*

The success of the school is built upon a tradition of providing exceptional opportunities for our pupils to develop academically and socially. Teaching is adapted to suit learning style and potential, which encourages children of all abilities to challenge themselves and develop resilience with their learning.

We seek to provide each pupil with the opportunity to achieve their potential. For many, this will mean securing a place at our 'Outstanding' Sixth Form where pupils may study A-levels or may choose from our broad range of vocational qualifications. For others, the school will inform, advise and guide pupils to their next steps including the world of work or apprenticeships.

Examination results are consistently strong and our reputation for ensuring pupils achieve the highest possible outcomes at Key Stage 4 and 5 is deserved.

"Pupils are confident and self-assured because of the quality of support that they receive at school. They display good attitudes to learning and take pride in their work. Pupils display resilience in their learning, which has a good overall impact on their learning and progress." *Ofsted*

Ashton on Mersey School has a disciplined and ordered environment. This is the bedrock for a culture which provides young people with stimulating lessons that engage and challenge pupils, whilst instilling learners with a sense of personal responsibility.

Maintaining a positive ethos is important to us and we look to praise all pupils who display good behaviour and a committed work ethic. Pupils understand the consequences of poor behaviour and the sanctions available to staff.

Our pupils thrive on the positive atmosphere at the school and take advantage of the many academic and social development opportunities available to them. We offer activities to suit the needs of all abilities and interests.

We seek the views of our pupils on a whole range of issues and our pupil leadership groups are influential across the school. Their views have contributed to ensuring that we have a high quality learning environment, this is evidenced by high attendance and levels of engagement. Pupils tell us and Ofsted that they enjoy coming to school and feel safe and happy. Through regular contact with parents we are able to communicate and discuss a wide range of issues to further strengthen the home - school partnership.

Curriculum

At Ashton on Mersey School our curriculum is designed to be aspirational and to ensure that all pupils achieve to the very best of their ability. Our ambition is for our pupils to be: Powerfully Knowledgeable; Global Citizens; Healthy in Mind, Body and Soul; and have Ambition and Aspiration. Lessons are tailored to meet the needs of all learners and are engaging and challenging. Pupils are taught skills and strategies to help them become effective, independent, resilient learners which prepares them for the different stages of school life and beyond.

The design of the curriculum provides learning pathways for pupils from Year 7-13. Pupils are given appropriate and specialist advice and support in making the transition between Key Stages 2-5, preparing them fully for higher education opportunities and for embracing the world of work. The breadth of subjects offered ensure that pupils are supported and enriched from the moment they arrive in Year 7 though to our Sixth Form where pupils can study a broad range of qualifications including A-Levels.

"The curriculum for pupils in Years 7 to 11 is suitably broad and ambitious. In the sixth form, leaders are extending the range of subjects that students can study. Many pupils and students are keen to take up a rich blend of academic and vocational opportunities." *Ofsted*

Ashton on Mersey School has a long history of providing high quality teacher training as well as continuing professional development for teachers and leaders across the North West. As part of The Dean Trust, our highly qualified and experienced staff continue to support many schools in the region thus helping to raise standards and improve outcomes.

Facilities

Ashton on Mersey School has first class facilities and resources that contribute to creating a stimulating environment for learning. Pupils enjoy lessons in high quality, purpose built accommodation. Teaching areas are constantly developed to ensure that they use modern technology whilst all teaching space designs are influenced by current research. Specifically, our sports facilities are renowned as being amongst the best on the country. Such world class facilities are an expectation for our pupils whilst they further harness our relationships with partners such as Manchester United Football Club and Sale Sharks.

It is our policy to remain at the forefront of information and communication technology. The school's ICT network and classroom computing equipment is regularly updated and provides our pupils with the resources to learn and achieve the very best qualifications.

"Leaders track pupils' progress and attainment assiduously. They have high aspirations for their pupils. Teachers have strong subject knowledge and they use this effectively to plan lessons that ensure pupils make consistently good progress." *Ofsted*

Enrichment

“Pupils have access to over 40 clubs every day. They enjoy the range of activities on offer, including the Duke of Edinburgh Award, the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) club, photography, art and design, sporting activities, music and performing arts.” *Ofsted*

The school has an excellent reputation in Sports and the Arts.

The school boasts teams in a significant number of sports and our pupils have enjoyed outstanding success both at home and abroad.

Our sporting leaders have made a significant impact on the school and they share their skills and experiences with other schools in the UK and around the world.

The school remains a pioneer with its diverse PE curriculum offer which enables every single pupil, regardless of gender, to play sports such as Football and Rugby and with every pupil engaging in important wider activities such as Dance. Equality and progression in sport is an essential part of our vision.

Music, dance and art are offered during the school day but also include regular trips to the theatre and other cultural events. The school production takes pride of place and involves many pupils and staff working together on and off stage. Our school productions include ‘Sister Act’, ‘Shrek’, ‘We Will Rock You’, ‘Our House’ and ‘Jesus Christ Superstar’. The school has several choirs and singing groups alongside an impressive orchestra which draws upon our bank of exceptional musical talent.

Beyond the Classroom

We pride ourselves on the additional opportunities offered to each and every pupil. Learning inside the classroom is the key to success, but we also believe that this learning can be enriched and extended with activities beyond the classroom.

Extra curricular activities are a key feature of the school with a range of trips and visits offered to suit all interests and abilities. Year 7 school camp, ski trips, theatre trips to London, visits to Normandy and trips to Iceland, Holland, Belgium and America are just some of the highlights of the school year, which provide rich cultural experiences for pupils.

We have regular visits from colleagues and pupils from all parts of the world. Sixth Form students, and pupils at the school, have also had a variety of opportunities to represent the school on trips abroad.

"Pupils benefit from a wide range of additional opportunities that go beyond the academic curriculum. For example, pupils enjoy taking part in sports events and performing arts." *Ofsted*

An Inclusive and Caring School

Pupils benefit and value the support from a large network of caring adults. In addition to their subject teachers, our pupils are supported by their Form Tutors, Heads of Year, Pupil Support Managers and wider support staff.

Student Services at Ashton is the focal point for many of our pupils (and parents). This is due in no small part to the highly trained and caring staff who will never accept that a pupil cannot be supported to overcome any challenge.

"Pupils regularly learn about the world from different perspectives. They are keen to explore and understand different cultures, beliefs and points-of-view. They show a keen interest in the differences between people in their school and in the wider community." *Ofsted*

"Pupils benefit from well-established routines at the start, during and at the end of the school day. Pupils are calm and courteous. They show consideration for other pupils, staff and visitors and enjoy a highly positive culture of behaviour." *Ofsted*

The Dean Trust
Believe Achieve Succeed

The Dean Trust's vision is for all our pupils to **believe** *in themselves,* **achieve** *their academic and social potential, and* **succeed** *in their journey through life.*

Our Mission is to always...

- put pupils first
- invest in the most talented and dedicated workforce
- have an inclusive environment that values diversity
- provide our pupils with experiences to acquire powerful knowledge, transferable skills, social and cultural capital
- work collaboratively with our partners to nurture global citizens.

"Trustees and the local governing body are passionate about securing the best possible education for the pupils at Ashton on Mersey School. They have a clear vision that every pupil must 'Believe Achieve Succeed'." *Ofsted*

Our Values

We will ensure that our school communities are:

- **Diverse and inclusive**
- **Compassionate**
- **Ambitious**
- **Aspirational**
- **High Performing**
- **Dynamic and innovative**

To achieve this we expect our people and pupils to display:

- **Honesty**
- **Respect**
- **Tenacity**
- **Commitment**
- **Discipline**
- **Courage**
- **Creativity**
- **Resilience**

Ashton on Mersey School

Part of The Dean Trust group of schools

Cecil Avenue Sale Cheshire M33 5BP
t: 0161 973 1179
e: thedeantrust@aom.trafford.sch.uk
w: www.thedeantrust.co.uk

Registered in England 8027943