

About The STEP Academy Trust

Through membership of The STEP Academy Trust, Angel Oak Academy is committed to working in partnership so that the mission and vision of the Trust are realised. The name, an acronym, reflects the aspirational nature of the organisation – Striving Together for Excellence in Partnership. Inspired by the commitment to improve children's life chances, STEP Academies work together to provide high quality learning experiences for all their pupils.

Mission Statement

At The STEP Academy Trust we are committed to improving the life chances of all children. Where we have the capacity to make a difference, we are morally bound to do so. Members of the Trust strive together for excellence in partnership, so that our children, staff

and Academy communities benefit from excellent teaching, learning and leadership.

Vision Statement

The vision of The STEP Academy Trust is to achieve educational transformation by establishing a growing family of academies that share core values, principles and aims.

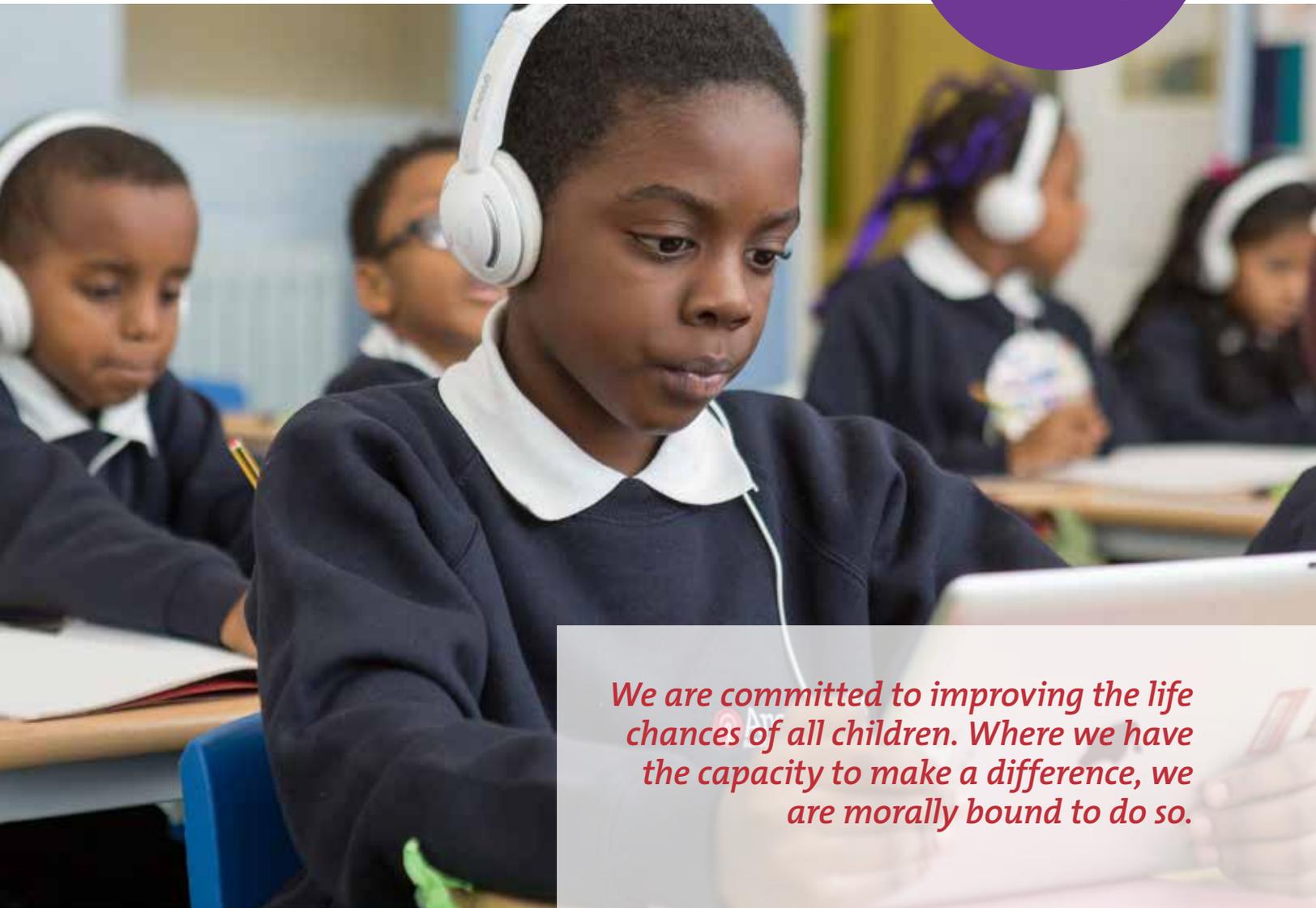
Non-negotiables

Whilst individuality and diversity are encouraged, all member academies subscribe to The STEP Academy Trust Non-negotiables. These have been developed to identify common characteristics that must exist across the Trust. The Non-negotiables are grouped into three broad categories: "Ethos and Culture", "Teaching and Learning" and "Investing in People".

Trust Organisation

The STEP Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The Board of Directors, the body responsible for running the Trust, meets once or twice each term. Each member of The STEP Academy Trust has its own Local Governing Body which has delegated responsibility for overseeing the day-to-day management of their Academy. Information about The STEP Academy Trust is available on the website at: www.stepacademytrust.org.

**STEP stands for
Striving Together
for Excellence in
Partnership**



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About Our Academy

“Achievement through hard work; strength through kindness.”

Angel Oak Academy is named after the oak tree on Peckham Rye in which artist and poet WILLIAM BLAKE saw his first vision in 1765 – ‘A tree filled with angels, bright angelic wings bespangling every bough like stars.’ For the academy, it references the academic and creative roots of the local area and community whilst symbolising a protective environment in which children grow, flourish and sparkle.

Our Mission

To offer local children a world class education.

Our Commitments:

We will strive at all times to ensure that children who attend Angel Oak Academy:

- receive an excellent and rich education;
- learn to develop the self-control and self-discipline to become happy, committed life-long learners motivated by education;
- develop a strong foundation of values that builds self-confidence and enables pupils to become successful role models in the local and global community.



We aim to apply the best principles of early years education, encouraging positive attitudes to school and its routines.

Admissions

For information on admissions please refer to our website or contact the Academy office. Parents who are considering applying for a place should telephone the Academy office and make an appointment to visit. Nursery admissions are handled by the Academy Office.

Organisation

Our Academy is organised into three key stages.

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) – children in our nursery and reception classes.
- Key Stage 1 (KS1) – refers to pupils in Years 1 and 2.
- Key Stage 2 (KS2) – children in Years 3, 4, 5 and 6.

Times of Sessions

Nursery times

Morning session: 8.50am – 12.00pm
Afternoon session: 12.30pm – 3.30pm

Morning

Reception: 8.50am – 12.00pm
KS1&KS2: 8.50am – 12.30pm

Afternoon

Reception: 1.00pm – 3.30pm
KS1&KS2: 1.30pm – 3.30pm



We aim to make our children’s learning experiences varied and inclusive; raising standards, particularly in English and Mathematics, remains our main objective.

The Curriculum

Structure and Organisation

EYFS

We aim to apply the best principles of early years education, encouraging positive attitudes to school and its routines. During their time in the early years, children have free access to learning areas both inside and outside. A variety of activities are on offer which are either child-initiated or adult-led.

In our nursery and reception classes children develop social skills, learning how to work harmoniously together – taking turns, sharing and listening. Through a purposeful, well-planned and organised curriculum, children gain strong foundations in communication and language, literacy, numeracy, creative and physical skills, as well as nurturing their personal, social and emotional development. The children’s development during this crucial stage underpins their future learning.

KS1 and KS2

In Years 1 to 6, English, Maths are taught discretely every morning, following national guidelines. Throughout KS1 and

KS2, children enjoy focused, carefully planned core lessons, which reflect the emphasis placed on teaching the children reading, writing, numeracy and investigative skills.

Other subject areas are covered in an integrated manner through topics or themes embracing particular focuses. Children work in a variety of ways: as a class, in groups, pairs or individually. The emphasis is always on active and meaningful involvement of children in their own learning. All children have regular opportunities to engage in musical and creative activities.

PE is an important part of the curriculum; therefore all children take part in regular physical exercise. Angel Oak Academy actively encourages children to make healthy choices. Fruit is available as a snack at break times and a variety of vegetables are offered at lunchtimes.

The Academy is very well resourced, enabling teachers to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. We continue to invest in digital technology so that our pupils can learn using the most up-to-date hardware and software.

Within our curriculum we aim to provide for the academic, personal

and social development of every child; encouraging them to work and think independently so that learning is irresistible.



Assessments

Assessment is an integral part of teaching and learning. Children's work is marked daily and subsequent lessons are adapted to ensure quality learning. Progress is continually monitored by teachers and learners are given feedback and targets for improvement.

The children are given opportunities to evaluate and improve their work, either independently, in pairs or as a small group. In this way our children are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning. Children are well-prepared for all statutory assessments.

Additional Support for Children

We provide a range of targeted support in order to overcome barriers to learning. Additional support for children is achieved through appropriate assessment, setting personalised challenges and responding to individual needs. Staff work closely with parents to ensure the learning needs of all children are met.

Assemblies

Assemblies are an integral part of our Academy life. Each day the children come together to celebrate good work, share what each other has been learning about and reflect on progress and values.

Behaviour

At Angel Oak Academy the very highest standards of behaviour are expected and disruptive behaviour is not tolerated and dealt with immediately. Self-control, self-discipline and behaviour that leads to social and academic success are systematically promoted. As a UNICEF Right Respecting School, all our children are taught to respect the rights of others by acting in a responsible manner and by showing consideration, courtesy and respect at all times. There is a balance of rewards and sanctions that are consistent throughout the Academy.

Attendance and Punctuality

Excellent attendance and punctuality are essential if children are to do well at school. Parents who ensure their children attend regularly and on time, demonstrate the importance of school; as a result, their children develop healthy attitudes to learning. We therefore insist that pupils are in school by 8.50am ready to start learning. If a child is absent, a reason must be given in the form of a letter or telephone call. Apart from very

exceptional circumstances, parents should not take children out of school during term time. In such cases, prior permission must be obtained from the Academy.

Uniform

Our uniform, worn by all the children, is a distinctive feature of Angel Oak Academy. We place an emphasis on maintaining high standards of dress and appearance because we believe it encourages the children to take pride in themselves and their Academy. We therefore ask parents to ensure that their children always wear the correct uniform and that it is clearly labelled. Children also need to wear the appropriate kit during PE lessons. Our Academy office can provide guidance on where to purchase uniform.

Homework

Homework enables children to practise aspects of their learning, extend and share school work with their families, pursue areas of interest and become independent learners. Children are given regular homework. All children are expected to read at home every night as well as learn spelling patterns and times tables. As pupils progress through the Academy, they are given regular assignments to complete. Teachers encourage parents to provide feedback on tasks carried out at home.

Educational Visits

Educational visits that enrich our curriculum topics are an important way for children to learn and experience activities beyond the classroom. Outdoor education is also an important part of the curriculum. The Academy's physical environment and the local area are well used as a learning resource. In addition, there are opportunities for children to go on residential trips.

Parents can be asked to make a contribution towards the cost of trips. Without such support these activities could not take place.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities are run to complement and extend our curriculum. However, they are dependent on staff availability and specialism. Activities may occur before school, during the lunch break and after school. Where private companies are used to run clubs, charges may be set to cover costs.

Child Care

To support working parents/carers, we offer the provision of a breakfast club and a privately run after-school club.

OUR ACADEMY COMMUNITY

Pupil Voice

Because we place our children at the centre of what we do, pupils are empowered to express their views and develop their leadership skills. Our Academy has a School Council that meet regularly to discuss a variety of issues. Through the School Council, children can have real influence in helping to develop the ethos of the Academy, its policies and practices.

Parental Partnership

We believe that children learn best when parents and staff work closely together. When children are admitted to the Academy, parents are asked to sign the Home School Agreement which clearly states the expectations of the child, parent and Academy.

In order to build relationships based on mutual trust, support and cooperation, we emphasise the need for effective communication. As well as termly parents' evenings, teachers are always happy to meet parents to discuss matters of concern as soon as they arise. Senior leaders are also available to discuss issues as and when they occur. If we are unable to resolve the problem, formal procedures are in place.

There are many opportunities for parents to actively participate in the life of the Academy. Regular help from parents covers such things as: assisting with listening to children reading, Academy events, class trips etc.

As an Academy, we regularly canvass the views of parents on a range of issues. Feedback from meetings, questionnaires and surveys, help us to identify priorities for improvement.

Staff

All Academy staff play an essential role in ensuring Angel Oak is a safe, healthy and inspiring place for our children to learn. Most members of our teaching staff hold specific leadership responsibilities. We also work closely with outside agencies such as educational psychologists and occupational therapists as required. A current list of staff can be viewed on our Academy website.