



CYPRESS PRIMARY SCHOOL

CYPRESS PRIMARY SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2026





CYPRESS PRIMARY SCHOOL

Mission statement

All schools in the Pegasus Academy Trust share the same mission statement which explains our values in child friendly terms. We call it 'Pegasus People'. We often talk about how 'Pegasus people' should behave in assemblies, staff meetings and community meetings. We believe it is our values that make us different. You will see a description of what makes a 'Pegasus person' in all of our classrooms and many locations in our schools.



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Introduction

Cypress Primary School is part of The Pegasus Academy Trust which includes Whitehorse Manor Infant and Junior Schools, Ecclesbourne Primary School, Beulah Infants' School and Atwood Primary School. Pegasus also leads Thornton Heath Nursery School.

Our school prospectus contains information we hope you will find useful. Should there be anything else you wish to know please contact the school office to discuss your query. We welcome prospective parents and carers to the school. Visits can be arranged by contacting the school office where the staff will be more than happy to make an appointment.

Mrs Jo Sorensen: Head of Lower School

Ms Claire Binks: Head of Upper School

Mr Gavin Lambert: Chair of Academy Council

The Pegasus Academy Trust

Lynne Sampson: Executive Headteacher

Jolyon Roberts: Executive Headteacher

Richard Hill: Chair of Directors

The Pegasus Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee registered in England and Wales. Our company number is 7542114.

Admissions: School

Parents of children due to start school at the age of 4 or rising 5 and those joining in years 1-6 must apply through the London Borough of Croydon's website.

Children will be admitted into the school in line with the Local Authority's guidelines, taking the following priorities into account:-

- If they are in the care of the Local Authority or have previously been in care of the Local Authority;
- Medical Grounds;
- Children of members of staff who have been employed for more than 1 year;
- If there are any siblings attending the school;
- Distance from the school to the home address
- Special Educational Needs and /or referrals from outside agencies.

Admissions: Two Year Olds and Nursery

Parents of children who are eligible to start Rainbow Class the September after they turn 2 or Nursery the September after they turn 3, should contact the school office for an application form.

Admissions - General information

Parents have a right to appeal in the event of a place not being available. Please note that children who attend our nursery are not guaranteed an automatic place in our Reception classes.

Entry to both Nursery and Reception is staggered to enable children to be provided with individual attention and to transition smoothly.

The School Day

The school day starts at 9:00am.

All doors to classes open at 8:45am. Children are given a late mark after 9:00am. If your child arrives after 9:30am they are given an absent mark (U code).

We encourage children to come into school independently, where possible.

Lunchtime: Rainbow, Nursery and Reception have a staggered lunch time daily between 11:45am and 12:30pm. KS1 have lunch daily between 12:20pm–1.20pm. KS2 have lunch daily between 12:10pm–1:00pm or 12.30pm–1:20pm.

School finishes at 3:15pm.

Please note that the gates to the playgrounds of Upper and Lower School are open between 8:40am and 9:00am. After this time, pupils must enter through the main entrance and will receive a late mark. Gates to Lower School site are open from 3:00pm and 3:10pm in the afternoon at the Upper School site. Any child who has not been collected by 3:30pm will need to wait in the office and Parents/ Carers will need to sign them out.



Nursery Day

'Little Cypress' is our provision for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Children who start when they are 2 years old will be in Rainbow class and our 3 and 4 year olds are in either Gold or Silver class.

Morning session: 8:45am–11:45am
Full-time session: 8:45am-3:15pm



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Food in school

School Meals

The Universal Infant Free School Meal (UIFSM) offer means that ALL children from Reception to Year 6 are entitled to a free school meal under the Mayor of London scheme.

School meals are provided at a cost of **£2.70** per day for children in Nursery, via our 'Magic Booking' system which requires dinner money to be paid in advance.

School meals are suitable for most dietary requirements offering a vegetarian, fish and meat option. We are a no pork school. Bespoke menus can be devised for children with food intolerances following a meeting if needed with the school and caterers. Parents/ Carers who prefer to provide a packed lunch are respectfully requested to provide a healthy, balanced lunch which does not include sweets, nuts or fizzy drinks.

Water is the only drink allowed in school.



Catering Partner

The Trust's caterers are Harrison Catering Limited. Their menu can be found on the school website. Further information can be found on their website:

www.harrisoncatering.co.uk

Fruit and Milk

Fruit is provided for children in the Foundation Stage and KS1 under the Government Fruit Scheme. Children under the age of 5 are entitled to free school milk.

All children entitled to Free School Meals will qualify for free school milk, if requested.

Milk can be purchased for children over the age of 5 if ordered and paid for in advance (Parents/ Carers to apply online).

Children should bring in a water bottle to school daily. Parents/ Carers are responsible for refilling and washing bottles.

Children should not bring food or soft drinks into the school.



School Uniform

We believe that our school uniform provides the children of Cypress Primary with a sense of identity, pride and belonging to our school community.

All children are required to wear school uniform including black shoes. No boots or sandals are allowed. Black trainers with no visible brand or logo are allowed as substitute for school shoes. Baseball caps and hats are allowed during warmer weather.

Our uniform is red with grey trousers or skirts. In the summer, children can wear red and white summer dresses with white socks and black shoes.

We expect hair to be kept sensibly neat and tidy. Mohican hairstyles, colours, extravagant or brightly coloured hair accessories and shaved markings in hair or eyebrows are not acceptable.

Clothing with the Cypress logo can be purchased from 'Bubblegum' which is located opposite Tesco on Brigstock Road in Thornton Heath or from Hewitts in Croydon. Additional school uniform, ie. jackets with the Pegasus logo are available through the website.

PE Clothes

Children are required to participate in Physical Education at least once a week. PE Kits are required for every lesson which includes **plain** red or black shorts, grey or black tracksuit bottoms, a white T-Shirt (with or without logos) and trainers/plimsolls.

Mobile Phones

Mobile phones should not be brought to school unless for a specific reason which has been pre-agreed with the school office by written request.

The phone must be handed in at the school office at the start of the day and collected at home time from the school office.

Swimming kit

In Year 4, children at Cypress go swimming. Girls should wear a one piece costume and boys must wear trunks, not board shorts. Children must also bring a pair of goggles and a swimming hat.

Please note: Swimming is a required subject within the National Curriculum and therefore is not optional.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons jewellery should not be worn in school with the exception of small studs or a watch.

The Academy Trust does not take any responsibility for any items brought into school.



Attendance and Punctuality

We aim for 100% attendance for every child.

Doors to the school open at 8:45am and children are expected to be in class by 9:00am. Children arriving after this time will be marked as late.

Children who arrive after 9:00am must report to the school office to record the time of arrival and reason for lateness. Persistent lateness will be referred to the respective Head of School and our Attendance officer.

Children arriving at school after 9:30am will be marked as an unauthorised absence. Any unauthorised absence will be monitored by our Attendance Officer.

The gates to the Lower and Upper School sites are closed promptly at 9:00am.

To avoid misunderstandings parents are asked not to request entry to the classroom after registration as it is disruptive to the class.

The school monitors each child's attendance and the Attendance Officer will work with families whose child's attendance or punctuality is not acceptable.



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It is the legal responsibility of Parents/ Carers to ensure that their child attends school every day unless they are unwell. Parents are expected to inform the school of the reasons for any absence by reporting on 'Studybugs' by 9:30am on the 1st day of absence.

We use 'Studybugs' to monitor attendance and to send out messages, newsletters and information to families. You can choose to download the App or receive comms via email. When your child starts at Cypress you will be able to create an account enabling you to report an absence or send a message to the school.

Studybugs 

If the school does not hear from a Parent/ Carer, a message is sent requesting a reason. If a satisfactory reason is not received following the text being sent, the absence will be followed up with a phone call and/ or a formal letter.

Authorisation will not be given for outings, shopping trips or family visits. Holidays need to be taken during school breaks and not during term time. In exceptional circumstances, permission may be given by the Head of School for leave.

Requests for exceptional absence must be made in advance using the appropriate form which is available from the school office or on the Trust's website:

www.pegasusacademytrust.org

Any appointments off site (such as dental, hospital, GP, school examinations, visits to new school) will require evidence such as letters and/or appointment cards. More information about our Attendance Policy and procedures can be found on our school website

<https://www.pegasusacademytrust.org/attendance-2>

Travel and Data Protection Notice

Commitment to Sustainable Travel

We are committed to:

- improving the safety of journeys to and from our schools;
- reducing the number of car trips made by staff and parents;
- increasing awareness of the alternatives to driving;
- encouraging the use of walking and public transport on the annual school journey and during visits. Staff at the school are very experienced with taking large numbers of children on public transport but we do also remind children before each trip of their responsibility to act safely.

The most popular form of transport for children at Cypress Primary School is walking. Many of our children live close to school and parking facilities around the school are limited. We encourage all parents and staff to avoid driving whenever possible.

Cypress Road is a School Street which means that vehicles are restricted between the hours of 8:00 to 9:30 and 14:00 to 16:00 on weekdays. This is monitored by Croydon Council and fines are issued for vehicles that enter Cypress Road during these times.

Data Protection Fair Processing Notice

Schools, Local Authorities (LAs), various government agencies, the London Borough of Croydon (Social Services and Education departments) and Croydon Primary Care NHS trust all process information on pupils in order to run the education system, and in doing so have to comply with the Data Protection Act 1998. This means, among other things, that the data held about pupils must only be used for specific purposes allowed by law.

Information on what these agencies use this information for is contained in Croydon education department's fair processing notice which can be found on their website.

Pupils, as data subjects, have certain rights under the Data Protection Act, including a general right of access to personal data held on them, with parents exercising this right on their behalf if they are too young to do so themselves. If you wish to access the personal data held about your child, then please contact the relevant organisation in writing.

In order to fulfil their responsibilities under the Act the organisation may, before responding to this request, seek proof of the requestor's identity and any further information required to locate the information requested.

Regulations also provide a pupil's parent (regardless of the age of the pupil) with the right to view, or to have a copy of, their child's educational record at the school. If you wish to exercise this right you should write to the school or provide us with 24 hours notice.

The Curriculum

- When we talk about the curriculum we mean all the experiences in learning that we provide at school.
- We make learning interesting, practical and enjoyable and explain to our children what they are going to learn and the targets they will need to help them make progress and realise their potential.
- We have high expectations and praise effort and achievement.

All children follow the National Curriculum from the time they start primary school.

The National Curriculum is divided into three main stages:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage (from birth to 5): Rainbow class, Nursery and Reception
- Key Stage 1 (ages 5 to 7): Years 1 and 2;
- Key Stage 2 (ages 7 to 11): Years 3 to 6.



The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Early Years Foundation Stage is the first part of the National Curriculum focusing on children from 0-5.

There is a strong emphasis on learning through play and exploration. The outside classroom is considered as important as the inside classroom. Children are encouraged to be independent learners and are supported in making their own choices and decisions. This helps to build confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

The children develop their social skills and learn how to work and play together harmoniously for example learning how to take turns, share with their peers and listen to others.

The curriculum is delivered through a topic based approach. The following are the areas of learning in the Foundation Stage:

- Communication and Language
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



Key Stage 1

In KS1 we place a lot of emphasis on the core subjects: maths, English and science. There is daily teaching of phonics, reading, writing and number skills and plenty of opportunity to practise the skills learned. Phonics and reading are taught through 'Little Wandle Letters and Sounds' and all staff at Cypress are trained.

Foundation and thematic subjects include: History, Geography, Computing, Art & Design, Design & Technology (DT), Music, Physical Education (PE), Relationship and Sex Education (RSE). Religious Education is based on the Croydon Syllabus.

Topics are planned carefully to ensure that they provide children with a balanced and broad curriculum which is engaging and challenging, developing children skills and understanding of their world.

At the end of Year 1 children are assessed through the national Phonics Screening Check (PSC). At the end Year 2 children are assessed by their teachers in line with national expectations.



Key Stage 2

In KS2 children continue working on their basic skills. Reading, writing, maths and science skills are extended throughout these years.

Other subjects are taught through a thematic curriculum which is designed and planned to build on the knowledge, skills and understanding gained in KS1 and foster independent working.

Children continue to enhance their skills in computing, music and PE. Pupils also learn Spanish.


Before leaving Cypress children in Year 6 are assessed in English and Maths. Children are awarded the level they achieve in the Statutory Assessment Tasks (SATs). They are also assessed by their Year 6 teacher in writing.



Assemblies

Assemblies are an integral part of the school week. Each day children come together in classes, phases and as a school.

Assemblies have a theme which is either social, spiritual or moral enabling the children to have time to think and reflect. Children's successes are celebrated and awards given out.

Every week we hold a rainbow  assembly where the school community comes together to celebrate individual achievement.

Homework

Children are given regular homework which increases as they get older. All children are expected to read at home every day whilst older children are provided with Preview Homework to help them prepare for the following week's learning. Further details can be found in our Homework Policy, available on our website.



Visits, Visitors and Journeys

We believe it is important to provide our children with opportunities to go out of school and visit different places of educational interest.

This not only enhances the curriculum and takes learning beyond the classroom, but also gives children the opportunity to encounter new experiences. In the past, our children have visited museums, theatres, parks, places of worship, libraries and galleries. Visits often take place with children from other schools in the trust.

In Year 6, children are given an opportunity to take part in a residential visit which often takes place with children from other schools in the Academy Trust.

Seve the Cypress Super dog!

At Cypress we have a therapy dog called Seve (pronounced Sevvy). He is a very friendly Golden Retriever who works on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays across both sites. He spends time with children for nurture and reading sessions and also children have 'Seve Time' for receiving a Rainbow Certificate. He is a trained therapy dog with accreditation and is, of course, fully insured to be in school and around children. Seve belongs to the Lower School Deputy Head, Miss Chapman and is cared for at school by her and Mrs Mussard, one of our teaching assistants. Seve will be on the school gate in the mornings and afternoons on the days he is at school and loves having a pat and 'hello' from the children and their adults!

Inclusion

Special Educational Needs

In common with all schools in the Pegasus Academy Trust, Cypress is an inclusive school.

We recognise that every child is unique and makes their own individual contribution to our school.

We believe every child is entitled to reach their full potential within a happy, caring environment, where everyone is able to make a contribution and feels valued member of our community.

All children are entitled to have access to broad and balanced curriculum.

- Some children may need extra help because of learning difficulties, physical disabilities or social, emotional or behavioural needs:
- Some children need help for a short time, some all of the time:
- Some children have particular gifts and talents which need nurturing.

A range of support is offered to children who need extra help which may mean they receive a slightly different programme from other children in the class or have access to specialist resources. We employ a number of Teaching Assistants who support children in the class. The Inclusion Manager works closely with the class teachers to identify and monitor children who have any Special Educational Needs. These children are given additional support plans to support their learning.

Staff in the Pegasus Academy Trust follow the government's Code of Practice for SEND.

If a child has identified Special Educational Needs we will work with the Parents/ Carers at every stage, ensuring that they are involved in all decision making. Parents/Carers will be kept informed and invited to regular review meetings.

English as an Additional Language

Some of the children who attend Cypress speak another language at home. Small group and individual support is provided to these children, where appropriate, so that they can quickly develop their spoken and written English.



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Safeguarding Mission Statement

At Cypress Primary School we are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and staff. We expect staff, governors, visitors and volunteers to share this commitment.

The school has policies, guidelines and procedures that reflect our mission. These are in line with national and local legislation. For further information, please contact the school office or visit our website: www.pegasusacademytrust.org

Safety and security

The school prioritises children's safety. All entrances and exits to the school are secured during the day through the main entrance and via the school office.

The school has a health and safety policy. Staff have attended appropriate training relevant to their position in the school.

Several members of staff are qualified in first aid and paediatric first aid.

All members of staff and regular visitors to the school are checked against records held by the Disclosure and Barring Service to ensure their suitability to work with children.

Children Protection

The Children's Act gives every child the right to be protected from any form of abuse or exploitation and to have any enquiries made to safeguard them from any harm. The school has policies and procedures in place to respond to any concerns that may arise.

The Heads of School, Deputy Heads of School and the Inclusion Manager are the designated people for child protection.

Staff monitor children's welfare and are trained in carrying out school policy and reporting and concerns. The school has legal duty under The Children's Act to refer any cases which cause concern to the relevant authorities. This may include social services where appropriate.



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Behaviour

Schools in the Pegasus Academy Trust share a common behaviour policy. We believe every member of our school community has the right to feel safe and happy and great emphasis is placed on establishing and maintaining high standards of behaviour.

Good behaviour is expected of every child. We believe in the importance of our children developing self-discipline and having high self-esteem so that they are able to make the right choices and decisions to enable themselves and others to thrive and be happy at school.

We celebrate the efforts and achievements of all our children.

All classes have their own 'Recognition Board' which is used to celebrate children who have gone 'above and beyond' in class or around the school.

Staff pride themselves in showing 'We Care' by taking time to get to know children and engaging in conversation about things that important to them.

The Pegasus Academy Trust has high expectations of the conduct of all parents, staff and visitors whilst on school site. Copies of the school behaviour, conduct and exclusion policies are available from the school office.

Equal Opportunities Statement

We take seriously the responsibility to provide equal opportunities for all groups and individuals in our school community, regardless of culture, gender, socio economic group or ability. We recognise that 'equal' does not mean the same. We aim to provide all the children in our care a curriculum that meets and is suited to their individual needs.

Our Terrific Trio

- Kind thoughts;
- Kind words;
- Kind actions.



Racial Harassment

We regard racial harassment as a hostile or offensive action against individuals or groups, because of their skin colour, ethnic origin, religious or cultural background.

We are proud of the diversity of our school community and will take any concerns about racial harassment very seriously. Any reported incidents will be investigated in accordance with school policy.

Anti Bullying

We believe that pupils learn in a supportive, caring and safe environment without fear of being bullied. Bullying affects everyone: it is unacceptable and will not be tolerated in any of the schools run by The Pegasus Academy Trust.

We believe that only when all issues of bullying are addressed will pupil be able to fully benefit from the opportunities available. Any reported incidents will be investigated in accordance

1. Bullying is ongoing. It is not the same as a conflict between two individuals or a random unprovoked aggressive act;
2. Bullying is deliberate and often premeditated;
3. Bullying is unequal – it involves a power imbalance (this can result from size, number, higher status or as a results of having access to limited resources).

Copies of current school policies are available from the office or on the Trust's website: www.pegasusacademytrust.org



Partnership with Parents

We believe that the relationships between home and school are important and our aim is to foster a positive partnership. Before a child starts at Cypress we have an induction meeting.

Parents/Carers receive regular news updates from the Heads of School which informs them of the main school activities and curriculum development. These are also posted on the Academy Trust's website:

www.pegasusacademytrust.org

We use 'Studybugs' to send out messages, newsletters and information to families. You can choose to download the App or receive comms via email.



Meetings are held through the year to explain the curriculum. Teachers have informal contact with Parents/Carers after school to help each child to be happy, confident and successful at school.

Open evenings are held during the year for more formal contact between Parents/Carers and teachers to discuss the children's progress and targets. At the end of the year each child will receive a written report.

Parents/Carers are encouraged to accompany classes on school trips and attend events at school. The support of Parents/Carers is fundamental to the school and all are encouraged to share their skills with us.

Parents/Carers who wish to see their child's class teacher formally during the year are asked to make an appointment which can be arranged directly or through the office.

Staff

The Executive Headteachers and the Heads of School are assisted in the running of the school by the senior Leadership Team.

Most members of the teaching staff have responsibility for a specialist area of the curriculum.

The school has large number of teaching assistants who work alongside teachers in the classroom to support children's learning. Some assistants have specific responsibility for children with Special Educational Needs.

There is a team of office, premises and IT staff.

Academy Council

Within The Pegasus Academy Trust each school has an Academy Council. The Chair of the Academy Council at Cypress Primary School is Gavin Lambert who can be contacted via the school office.

Minutes are taken of all meetings which are available to be seen by request to the Heads of School.

The Chairperson of the Academy Council can be contacted in writing care of the school office.



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'Wraparound' care at Cypress Primary School

'Wraparound' care is a way of describing the care that schools provide before and after school hours. As these are extra hours there are additional payments should parents wish to use this facility. However, the Directors of the Pegasus Academy Trust run this provision on a 'not for profit' basis and therefore our rates are, in most cases, noticeably less expensive than commercial providers available locally.

Breakfast Club

We run an 'in house' breakfast club which is available to children from 7:30am. This club is run by school staff. The cost of this club is £5.00 per day. If you would like to enrol your child in to the breakfast club please ask in the school office.

Extra- Curricular Activities

Extra curricular activities are organised by our Extended Services Leader, Suzanne Christopher. Sessions typically last 1 hour and previous activities have included ballet, football, archery and forest school.

Clubs are regularly reviewed to offer variety and we use a range of local providers. Letters are sent early in each half term offering after school activities to children and clubs are offered on a 'first come, first served' basis.



After School Club

We run an 'in house' after school club at Cypress. The provision is overseen by our Extended Services Leader who ensures that the activities offered and the care provided are of the same high standard that we see in our other schools.

The after school club is available from 3:15pm until 6:00pm and a meal is offered as part of the cost. We are currently running the costs at a very competitive rate of £13.00 each day.

The after school club is popular with parents as it offers good quality care at a sensible price. If you would like your child to register for this club, please ask for a registration form at the appropriate school office.

The Wider Community

Our children and their families represent a wide range of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, something which we celebrate within our curriculum.

We offer after school activities: this we believe enhances the curriculum and also enables children to increase their understanding of diversity.

We are always seeking ways of increasing our links with our local and wider community.

Complaints

If a Parent/ Carer has a complaint they should, in the first instance, report the problem to the class teacher, senior teacher or Deputy Heads of School. If the parent is still dissatisfied they should contact the Heads of School or the Executive Headteachers who will investigate and try to resolve the issue.

If the Parent/ Carer is still dissatisfied then they should follow the guidance contained in the complaints policy of the Pegasus Academy Trust which is available from the school office upon request, or on the Trust's website.

Charging policy

There are no charges for day to day school activities. There are charges for 'Extended schools' sessions.

Voluntary contributions are requested for educational visits and some in-school workshops, such as theatre groups. We rely on these contributions to support us in funding exciting educational experiences for children.

Financial assistance for those on free school meals may be available. Please contact the office for further information.



Medical Matters

The school is always willing to discuss any medical concerns with a Parent/Carer about a child's health and to arrange a visit by the school nurse if appropriate.

Illness in School

If a child becomes ill during the day, the Parent/ Carer will be contacted immediately and given the details. The Parent/ Carer will be expected to make arrangements for their child to be collected immediately.

A child who has vomited or had a bout of diarrhoea must not return to school for at least 24hrs, to ensure that they are clear, before they have contact with other children. If it is deemed to be winter vomiting virus, children need to be clear for 48hrs before returning to school.

Medicines in School

As a rule, medicines should not be brought to school. However, children with a continuing need for medication, for instance in cases such as asthma, severe allergy or diabetes, are allowed to keep their medication in school.

Clear instructions for use and dosage must be given to the school and a form is provided for parents to authorise their child to take such medicines. In all cases, any other short term medicine needs to be prescribed by a doctor. If a member of staff agrees to assist your child in taking their medication, this is done on an entirely voluntary basis and with the Parent/ Carer taking full responsibility.

Contact Numbers

It is the responsibility of Parents/ Carers to ensure the school has up to date telephone numbers and other relevant information in case of emergency.

Hot Weather

The school has many natural shaded areas which children will be encouraged to use. During very hot weather and excessive heat, it may be necessary to have indoor play.

Children are able to bring sun caps, sun hats and sun cream to school which Parents/ Carers are asked to label clearly with their child's name and class.

We encourage all children to drink plenty of water during hot weather.

Younger children who require help in putting on sun cream will need to have agreement from their Parent/ Carer. We advise against bringing sun glasses into school as they can be easily broken or lost: there are sufficient shaded areas for the children.

Head Lice

Parents/ Carers are expected to check their children for head lice and immediately treat thoroughly. Information on the treatment of head lice is available from the school office.



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Email: cypadmin@pegasusacademytrust.org

Website: www.pegasusacademytrust.org

Head of Lower School: Mrs Jo Sorensen

Head of Upper School: Ms Claire Binks

Chair of Academy Council: Mr Gavin Lambert



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