



RUSSELL LOWER SCHOOL

Challenge • Enjoy • Respect • Succeed

Welcome to Russell Lower School...

...The Friendly School

Ofsted

"Pupils say they love school...they say teachers are good and fun, they get support if they need it, teachers encourage them to do high-level work and they learn a lot, everyone gets along."



Pupil

'We are told there is no such word as can't in this school.'

Parent

'The children are treated with respect and are given responsibilities - you watch them grow taller in response.'

Parent Governor

'All of my three children have attended Russell. Every day I see them go into school happy. I think that tells you that they love school!'

At Russell Lower we are proud of our school, our pupils and all they achieve.

We are a happy school that achieves extremely high standards. Above all, we believe that the children and their development are paramount. We are passionate about enhancing each child's knowledge, skills and understanding to enable them to become more confident, successful, active and responsible.

We operate an 'Open Door Policy', where parents are encouraged to become involved with the school and their child's education.

In addition to the National Curriculum, children are given diverse opportunities in music, art, sport and languages.

We encourage children to stay safe, to be healthy, to enjoy, to achieve and to make a positive contribution.

Our facilities include a state-of-the-art ICT suite, interactive clever touch boards in all classrooms, a well stocked library, three playgrounds, three wildlife gardens and extensive playing fields and grounds.

Ofsted said of the school, 'The warm and nurturing atmosphere and the sense that everyone is willing to go the extra mile to help pupils achieve are evident on setting foot in the school.'

Welcome to Russell Lower School!



EVERY CHILD MATTERS...

'Every child matters' is at the core of the Russell Lower School ethos.

The children are valued as individuals and we strive to do our very best to nurture the 'whole child'. Staff focus on each child's abilities in order that every child achieves their full potential and are fully supported and challenged to succeed in all areas of the curriculum.

At Russell our vision is to: **Challenge, Enjoy, Respect and Succeed.**

We want to:

- **challenge** and inspire children to become intellectually curious
- ensure children are happy, safe and **enjoying** their education
- be proud, confident and **respectful**
- work together to ensure every child can **succeed** and exceed expectations

We have a strong moral ethos and a 'Values' approach at Russell.

We believe that everyone in our community has:

- The right to be safe
- The right to learn
- The right to be happy
- The right to be included

These rights underpin our positive and effective behaviour policy at Russell: our children are proud to uphold these and know them by heart.

Pupil

'School is so much better with rights. I can deal with things myself. For example, I can just ask to join in with a game: I have the right to be included so I know they'll say "yes!".'

Parent

'As parents of 3 children, we are very pleased with their progress. Motivational and inspiring teachers have made learning fun and interesting.'

Ofsted

"Pupils are very proud of their school and keen to take on responsibilities. Their personal development is a strength."





THE LEARNING JOURNEY...

Pupil

'Guess which lesson is my favourite? All of it! Russell is the best school in the world because it's got the best teachers in the world!'

Parent

'My children are very happy here. We are very happy here. We LOVE the open door policy – thank you!'

Governor

'The Headteacher keeps us well informed and together we ensure that children are always at the heart of our decision making.'

Ofsted

"A rich curriculum and the wide range of extra-curricular activities bring learning to life."

Children learn best when they are happy, secure and feel good about themselves.

Learning should be fun and is for life. Using our knowledge of the individual child and how they learn, we ensure that excellence is achieved through enjoyment of the curriculum and all the activities we provide.

Children are encouraged to explore, question and take ownership of their learning. They spend time discussing and assessing their own and others' work, striving to do better and to understand what they need to learn next in order to achieve their full potential. Our results at Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 are consistently above the national and county average.

We believe children flourish within a broad and balanced thematic curriculum.

We provide regular enrichment 'wow' days when we explore different subjects of the curriculum in depth, such as Year 1's visit from Sir Teachalot, Year 4's visit from an Egyptian Archaeologist or Year 2's Teaching Talons. We also have regular trips out such as Year 1's trip to Whipsnade, Year 3's visits to the National Space Centre and Polar Explorers' Museum in Cambridge, or Year 2's seaside trip to Great Yarmouth! These days are an opportunity to extend the pupils' knowledge and understanding whilst focusing on a particular subject.

Following a £3.9m investment in 2015/16, our facilities include a state-of-the-art IT suite, interactive 'Clevertouch' boards in all classes, a well-stocked library, three playgrounds (with age-appropriate trim-trails), a wildlife garden and pond, play equipment and extensive playing fields. We have an impressive range of after-school activities and clubs that include competitive sports eg. Football, tag rugby, archery and fencing as well as a choir, gardening club, Science club and Art Adventurers club.

In addition, we also provide wrap around care between 7:45am and 6pm in our thriving 'Before and After School Club' which provides quality care for our children and also their siblings from Alameda Middle School.



OUR COMMUNITY...

Pupil

'The PE is really good here. There are lots of different clubs and so many new skills to learn. School is exciting!'

Parent

'The creative curriculum, 'wow' days along with visitors and trips are simply fantastic! There is never a dull moment at Russell!'

Ofsted

"Parents, pupils and staff say that the best characteristics of this school are exemplified by 'The Russell Way' and 'not-a-second-wasted' approach through which everyone is valued and stimulated to make the school even better."

In addition to the National Curriculum, children are given many diverse opportunities to develop their passions and enrich their learning.

Children benefit from the expertise of our sports coaches who come in to share their skills each week and regularly take part in sporting events and festivals enjoying the teamwork and challenge this provides. This includes working with Redborne Upper School Sports Partnership to ensure the children receive expert sports coaching and opportunities.

Children take part in musical and drama productions and concerts during the year and a significant number of children learn to play a musical instrument such as the viola, violin, piano, flute, guitar, drums and brass instruments. There are regular trips to the theatre, local places of interest in Amptill and beyond and museums or galleries which further enhance the children's learning and understanding of the world. In addition, we offer a Year 4 Residential Visit to enable the children to experience an overnight stay away from home.

We have an extremely active, supportive and successful PTA who run fun fundraising events. Recent events include a Winter Ball, Christmas Fair, Children's Discos, Big Top Circus and Quiz Nights to name but a few.

We have a skilled, supportive and highly effective Governing Board and Parent Governor Forum which works closely with the leadership of the school to provide the very best education and experiences for the children.

Russell Lower School prides itself in being at the heart of the Amptill community, participating in St Andrew's Christmas Tree Festival, attending Remembrance Day Services, hosting Open the Book assemblies and joining in with the Gala Weekend Festivities and parade. Children love learning at Russell Lower School and thrive in our friendly, happy, caring environment. We think we've got the best of everything. We warmly invite you to come and see for yourself!



When we buy a minimum of £500 of NOU...

When we load a minimum of £700 onto a Travel M...

Rates for other currencies and smaller amounts a...



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