



**BIRKLANDS**  
PRIMARY SCHOOL

*Prospectus*  
2016-17



# Contents

Torch Academy Gateway Trust .....	4
Welcome .....	7
Core values .....	8
Classes .....	9
Houses .....	10
Early Years Foundation Stage .....	13
Our curriculum .....	14
Foundation subjects .....	16
Ensuring that every child succeeds .....	18
Admissions .....	20
All about me .....	21
How to find us .....	23





# Torch Academy Gateway Trust

Birklands Primary School is situated in the town of Market Warsop, Nottinghamshire.

Every child deserves the best start in life and at Birklands Primary School we strive to help our pupils develop academically and creatively.

Birklands provides a safe, nurturing environment that allows our pupils to learn, grow and develop with confidence.

We believe learning should be active, stimulating and engaging, and will ensure that any barriers to learning are overcome.

In April 2014 we became an academy and joined the Torch Academy Gateway Trust, allowing us to benefit from the support and guidance being part of a multi-academy trust provides.

Since 2011 the trust has been working with Meden School — as a result Meden is one of the 10 most-improved schools in the country.

By being part of the trust, Birklands Primary School has access to a whole range of services that can help support and develop every aspect of work in the school.







"I like Birklands because they take other people's ideas."  
Emily

## Welcome

I am delighted to introduce you to Birklands Primary Academy, which opened in April 2014 replacing Birklands School. We are a one-form entry mixed non-denominational primary academy for children in Warsop and neighbouring areas.

We became part of the Torch Academy Gateway Trust in 2014 joining a network characterised by its exceptionally high expectations for every child.

We aim to provide an excellent education that lays the foundations for every child to be successful in primary and secondary school, so that when they reach 18 years of age they have the choice of going to university or pursuing a rewarding career.

We put English and Mathematics at the heart of our primary curriculum and we provide outstanding teaching and support so that every child does as well as they possibly can.

Birklands Primary is a happy, friendly school where children love to learn. We place a high value on behaviour and courtesy and we work closely with families to help their children succeed.

I hope this prospectus shows what Birklands Primary can offer your child. We look forward to meeting you.

**Nick Copestake**  
Head of School



# Core values

We want every child at Birklands Primary School to have a rich, rewarding and happy primary experience, learning skills that enable them to be successful and thus our core values were developed with the pupils.

Our core values are:

- We aim high
- We care
- We believe
- We are respectful

# Classes

Classes at Birklands Primary School are organised into year groups.

Each class is named after a local Nottinghamshire bird, as decided by the pupils:

Foundation 1 — **Wrens**

Foundation 2 — **Robins**

Year 1 — **Jay**

Year 2 — **Dove**

Year 3 — **Siskin**

Year 4 — **Kittiwake**

Year 5 — **Nightingale**

Year 6 — **Goldcrest**

“Everyone looks out for each other and we work together as a team.”

Josh







# Houses

“It’s really good because the teachers and staff are all nice and friendly.”

Amber

At Birklands Primary School we operate a ‘house’ system. All children are allocated a house and they will spend all their time with us in that one house.

Every week, in our Friday celebration assembly, the house points are calculated to show the house with the most house points.

Children can earn house points by working hard in class, producing high quality work, being polite and courteous, helping each other and by setting a good example.

At the end of each term, the house with the most points receive an experiential reward.

There are regular house meetings where the children are encouraged to work hard for their houses and to do the best they can to earn as many house points as possible.

As well as the academic side of school life, children also represent their houses in Sports Day and other sporting/competitive events throughout the year.



“It’s exciting to work with everyone and it’s fun. New changes have made the school a better place to work in — we have new areas, new classrooms and everything is easier to find. I love working and learning with all my friends.”

Ella Bettridge  
Year 6

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“I like the whole school because they are kind and special.”

Tamara



# Early Years Foundation Stage

The primary curriculum is divided into three phases — Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2) and Key Stage 2 (Years 3–6).

## The Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage 1 children attend on a part-time basis the term after their third birthday for their 15 hours flexible free entitlement. For some, it is their first experience of life in an environment outside home and family, which can be an exciting venture. We strive to make this important phase in every child's life secure, safe and happy.

## Reception Class

Foundation Stage 2 children are encouraged to become independent learners through play. The

day is divided into a number of sessions covering a variety of areas of learning. During these sessions there is a balance of adult-led and child-led activities.

## Prime Areas

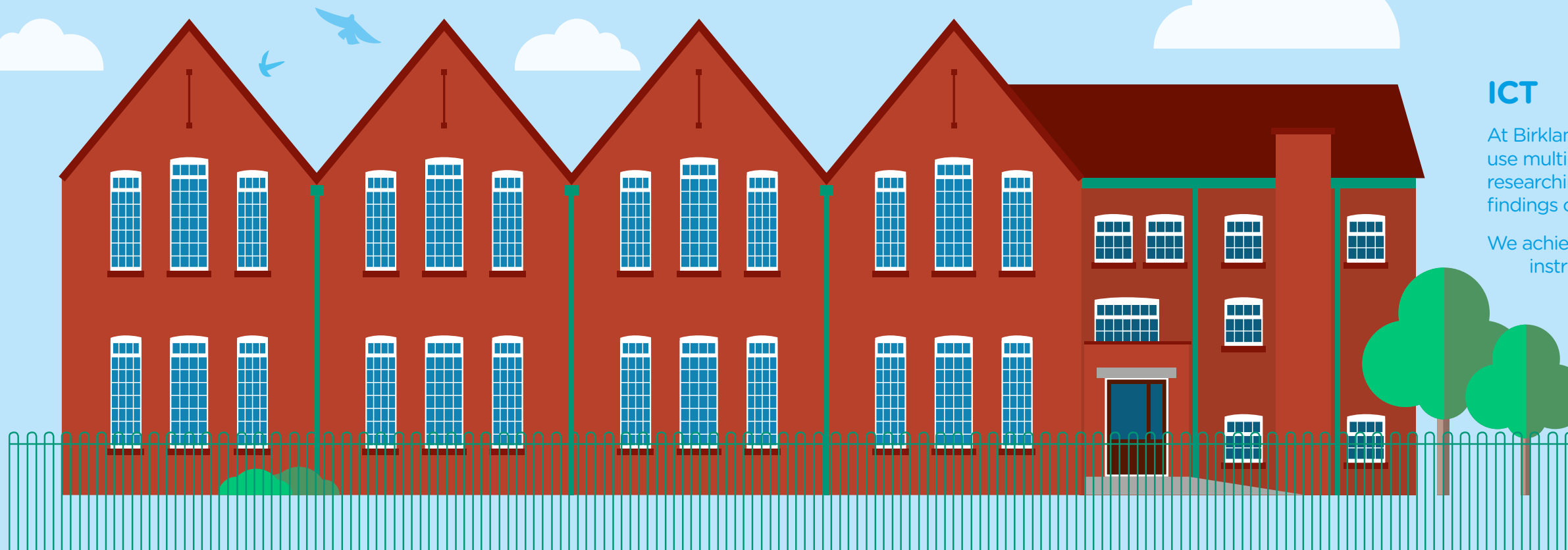
- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

## Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

# Our curriculum

Our primary curriculum is designed to fully prepare children for secondary school and for the national curriculum tests in English and Mathematics at Key Stage 1 and 2. We aim to ensure that every child achieves their full potential and cater for each child's strengths, abilities and interests.



## English

Children continue to have lessons in English, phonics and guided reading in Key Stage 1 and 2. We focus on grammar, spelling and guided reading each day alongside writing for purpose. We also encourage cross-curricular writing.

- **Speaking and Listening:** Pupils at Birklands learn how to express themselves and listen to others.
- **Reading:** We want every child to enjoy reading for pleasure and to become life-long readers. Children read every day and are encouraged to become independent readers as they move through school.
- **Writing:** Pupils are supported to develop their writing skills to enable them to express their ideas in a variety of formal and informal styles.

## ICT

At Birklands children are taught to use multi-media devices as tools for researching, developing ideas and showing findings creatively.

We achieve this via learning about instructions which leads into the world of coding.

## Mathematics

Considerable importance is attached to the children achieving and understanding mathematical processes, concepts and skills. There is a strong emphasis on the development of arithmetic and mathematical reasoning. Mathematics is taught as a daily one-hour lesson at Birklands Primary School. Class teachers also plan for opportunities to develop and apply key mathematical skills in other subjects throughout the year.

## Science

Science stimulates and excites children's curiosity about the world around them, linking practical experience with ideas. Children undertake experiments and investigations to allow them to acquire and develop their own scientific understanding and knowledge. Science is taught separately as well as through cross-curricular links.



# Foundation subjects



We teach History, Geography, Design and Technology, PSHE, Music, Art and Drama through a creative and themed approach as well as in distinct lessons. We update parents regularly on the topics covered across each phase.

## Modern Foreign Languages

Children are introduced to languages in Reception and have weekly French lessons, with an emphasis on spoken language.

## Music

Children take part in a song-based curriculum beginning in Reception, broadening to include more specific skills in Key Stage 2.

## Physical Education and healthy living

Our pupils have regular PE lessons and active play is encouraged every day. Children learn athletics, dance, team and individual sports and competitive performance. Achievement is celebrated and the Birklands Sports Day is an annual highlight. Children have swimming lessons in Year 5.

## Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education

This helps to give pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding to lead to confident, healthy, independent lives and to be informed and responsible citizens. Children learn to articulate their feelings, to identify the causes of their emotions and to develop coping strategies for certain feelings. They learn to set themselves goals and to make good choices about health and well-being.

## Religious Education

We provide non-denominational religious education for all children including learning about the religions observed by their classmates. In assembly, we emphasise how our values relate to our school community and the world around us. Assemblies are non-denominational and we commemorate the major festivals observed by our pupils.







# Ensuring that every child succeeds

Birklands is an inclusive school, committed to the success of every pupil. In the Foundation Stage we screen every child for language and communication abilities and needs. Throughout school we keep careful track of each child, regularly re-assess their learning progress and review individual targets. If children have difficulty we intervene quickly and provide relevant support.

## Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Birklands Primary School follows the government's 'Revised Code of Practice' to identify, assess and support pupils with Special Educational Needs. We provide tailored support through individual education plans. Support may be given in class, a small group or through withdrawal classes by a skilled team of teachers and learning support assistants.

## English as an Additional Language (EAL)

Pupils for whom English is an additional language benefit from our emphasis on the core curriculum gaining extra support until they reach the expected achievement for their age in English. Through careful assessment and a combination of small learning groups, our pupils have full access to the learning opportunities provided by the school.

## Gifted and Talented Pupils

We want all our pupils to maximise their potential and we are not content with gifted and talented pupils simply achieving the expected level for their year. We ensure that all our pupils are appropriately challenged and supported. Careful identification and assessment enable us to provide suitable challenge and differentiation to extend the learning of all our pupils.







"All of the different events we do at Birklands make it a great place."

Jay

# Admissions

Birklands Primary School is a non-selective, mixed, non-denominational primary school. Applications must be made on the Nottinghamshire County Council Common Application Form. You can find details of how to apply on the council's primary admissions web page:

[www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/school-admissions)

If Birklands Primary School is over-subscribed, priority is first given to pupils who are:

a) Looked after children and children who have previously been looked after.

b) Children or families who have professionally supported medical, physical, psychological or social need.

c) Children who have a sibling (living within the same household) already on roll and who will still be attending the school the following year.

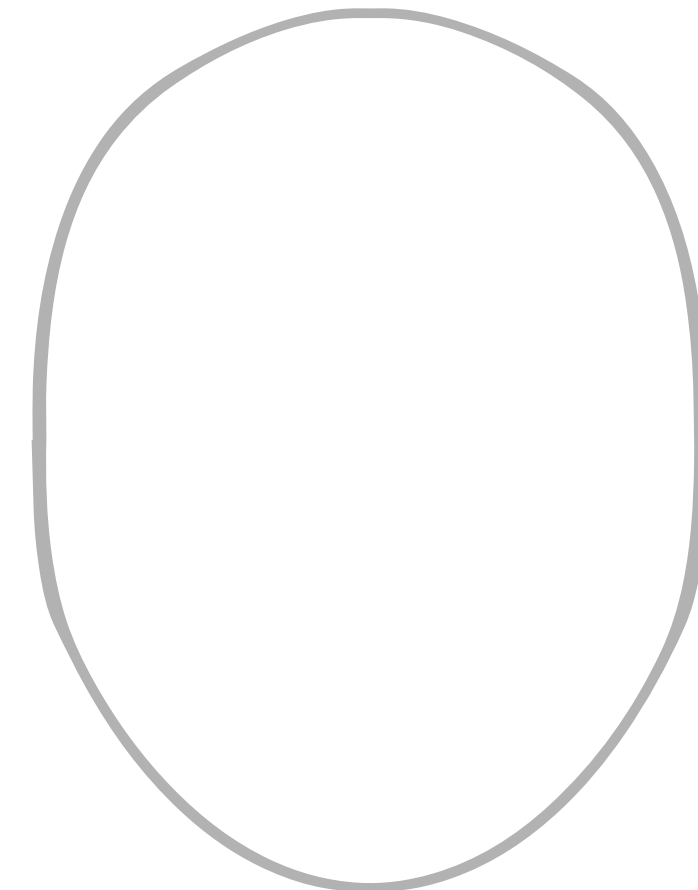
If in any of the categories a), b) or c) there are more applicants than there are places available, priority will be given to applicants who live nearest to the school.

d) Children who live closest to the school.

## All about me

Name ..... Date .....

### This is what I look like



Use the space above to draw your face









# BIRKLANDS

PRIMARY SCHOOL

## **Birklands Primary School**

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Mansfield  
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✉ **office@birklandsschool.co.uk**

🌐 **www.birklandsschool.co.uk**

Executive Head Teacher

**Helen Duffy** BA (Hons), NPQH

Head of School

**Nick Copestake** BSc (Hons), MSc, PGCE



**TORCH**  
ACADEMY GATEWAY

Birklands Primary School is a member of the  
Torch Academy Gateway Trust

**www.torchacademy.co.uk**

Chief Executive Officer

**John Tomasevic** BA (Hons), Econ, MEd, NPQH, NLE