



## Poplars Community Primary School

Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR34 4HN

Poplars is a large primary school with 275 children on roll, of which 52% attract pupil premium funding. We are part of the Evolution Academy Trust family of schools, a primary specialist Multi Academy Trust in Norfolk and Suffolk. 28% of the school have SEND, which includes 8% with an EHCP. Despite the significant social and economic challenges our community faces, the school provides a supportive and inclusive environment, offering a full, ambitious curriculum to support both academic and emotional needs. Due to this, our attendance figures have been well above national in all pupil groups, including our most vulnerable children. This year to date, attendance is 96.7% and continues to improve.

### Vision and culture

We are dedicated to providing children with the knowledge and skills needed to reach their full potential. Recognising that every child is an individual with their own set of talents and interests – this is celebrated and actively encouraged. We have exceptionally high expectations of all, as a school community who act with honesty and integrity. Our offer includes recognising and celebrating children's effort and dedication, with a reward system designed to motivate and encourage in striving for their personal best, both academically and personally. Recognition includes: certificates, praise notes, house tokens, golden tickets, class breakfasts and positive phone calls home.



We believe strong relationships are the foundation to a thriving school community, valuing the opinions and voices of our children, parents and staff - with each contributing to the success and well-being of the school. With open communication and clear procedures we have created a sense of belonging and partnership that helps us build a strong and positive culture.

Our aim is to support and help nurture independent, articulate and aspirational children by providing a safe and inspirational environment, where children develop a love of learning and a natural curiosity to know and remember more. We are passionate about creating leaders of tomorrow, ready for their future lives in today's diverse society. Our vision is underpinned by our values of courage, honesty, aspiration, kindness and collaboration.

### Our approach

Our curriculum is designed to enable all children to be the best they can be. Our values are interwoven throughout, ensuring the principles are not only taught but lived and experienced daily by our children. Our curriculum has been developed to incorporate opportunities and experiences that enhance and embed learning across all subjects and includes a range of trips and visits. In addition, we developed 'The Poplars Experience' in collaboration with the children and staff team. Together, we grouped opportunities we want all Poplars children to participate in. Examples include: take part in an



art exhibition, learn how to ride a bike, experience ordering a meal in a restaurant and visit a theatre.

A recent development in our curriculum stemmed from evaluation of our pupil leadership groups, where a number of children undertook leadership roles. Whilst these were meaningful and impactful for some children, part of our vision includes all children having the knowledge and skills to be future leaders. We therefore developed our Social Action curriculum. Throughout their primary years, children will learn all 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and take action to support positive change and raise awareness. This involves multiple avenues to have impact, culminating in independent projects for our oldest children. Some examples of action our children will be involved in are: donating, debating, contacting local MPs, writing a letter to ask for support and raising awareness across school in pupil-led assemblies. This has been mapped, so as well as having knowledge of some of the biggest issues our nation faces, children will have the skills, confidence and empathy to know they can make a difference.



In addition to our curriculum, our school holds high expectations for children's attendance as we believe it is key for academic success. We are committed to an unrelenting yet supportive approach with parents, understanding that clear communication, expectation and partnership are essential to enabling a culture of regular attendance. We maintain robust procedures and policies designed to minimise absences and encourage consistent engagement from all children. We work with families to overcome attendance challenges and provide the support necessary to keep children on track. This supports us to address any barriers as well as creating a positive cycle of attendance as our children love coming to school every day.

Our whole school offer, designed to be challenging yet meaningful, inspires children to take ownership of their education. This is reflected in the enthusiasm and excitement levels when taking part in new learning experiences where children feel valued and supported, along with successes being celebrated and recognised. Alongside this, our families join us throughout the year to enjoy learning and events. A particular favourite for our community is our annual Bedtime Stories where we spend an evening with our families in our pyjamas, listening to stories, whilst drinking hot chocolate and eating cake. We also host information sessions, share learning and celebrate success regularly. As a result, strong attendance is a natural outcome of the inspiring and inclusive school community we create together.

