

**Small Heath School
and
Sixth Form Centre**

A High Performing Specialist School & Technology College



Mission Statement

To work with parents and our community to motivate and enable each pupil to achieve his/her highest intellectual, physical, spiritual and moral potential.

To develop a learning culture which uses all aspects of modern technology with the best in traditional methods to maximise effective delivery of a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.

To provide the best possible educational environment and resources for our pupils.

To offer, with the active participation of sponsors from commerce and industry, additional opportunities for achievement in Technology, Science and Mathematics.

To utilise our resources, as opportunity permits, for the education, development and well-being of our local community.



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General Information

Small Heath School is a successful school and was described by Ofsted as: “..... *an outstanding school. Students and staff find it a vibrant and exciting place in which to work and learn, and all are very proud of their school. Academic progress is exceptionally good because of the consistency of high quality teaching and innovative approaches to the curriculum*”. Ofsted 2010.

We were listed as an Outstanding School in Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools Annual Report for 2002, 2006 and received our third consecutive outstanding judgment during July 2010.

We were privileged to become one of the first generation of Specialist Schools. This challenging government initiative has enabled us to offer unique opportunities to our pupils and generally to enhance the quality of education at Small Heath School.

Being a Specialist Technology College means that we have to set challenging targets for raising achievement in technology, science, mathematics and ICT. Such demands can lead to a curriculum driven by these targets. Our curriculum has not been dominated as such because we have remained committed to our mission statement and year on year we deliver a curriculum based on the needs of our children. We believe in personalising learning. We have now been awarded High Performing Specialist School status which means that we are allowed a second specialism in addition to Technology. We are a RAPP School, this stands for Raising Achievement Partnership Programme. Through this specialism we are able to support and develop other schools nationally. The Headteacher is a National Leader in Education and the school is a National Support School. This reflects the school's approaches towards inclusion, learning and leadership.

Over the last few years our curriculum has changed in order to motivate children into learning and to allow all of our pupils access to learning. This is reflected in the school gaining Sportsmark, Artsmark, the Basic Skills Charter Mark, Investor in People and the Investor in People bronze award and we were the first secondary school in Birmingham to receive the Inclusion Quality Mark. We recently gained the International School Award and we are working towards the Cultural Diversity and Investing in Community Engagement awards.

These awards reflect standards, strategy, collegiality, hard work and above all a commitment to learning in all areas of our school.



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The History of the school

Small Heath School is an inner ring, split site, co-educational 11-18 comprehensive school. It was established in 1983 by amalgamation as part of the reorganisation of secondary education in Birmingham.

Both of the schools amalgamated in 1983 occupied split sites. Upon amalgamation the Tilton Road site of the original Small Heath School was vacated and the new school based on three sites. In 1986 the Oldknow Road premises were vacated.

The school is now on two sites, 'Upper School' in Muntz Street and 'Lower School' in Waverley Road. They are a little over half a mile apart and are bisected by the A45 trunk road to Coventry. The Muntz Street premises have an open, landscaped frontage. They were opened in 1978 as a multi-use school, public library, community and leisure centre. The facilities are heavily used during the day and evening throughout the year. The Waverley Road premises were opened in 1892 as one of Birmingham School Board's first "Higher Grade" schools. It is a Grade 2 Star listed building of considerable character, bordered on one side by the new Small Heath bypass whilst its other aspect faces Small Heath Park.

In 1994 the school was accorded Technology College status and opened its own sixth form. Having worked hard to secure funding, in 2007 a purpose built, new Sixth Form Centre linking to Upper School was completed.

Buildings and Facilities

The school is based in two buildings:

Lower School . . .

is the 'school by the park' in Waverley Road. It is a "listed" building of high architectural merit and we make every effort to maintain it as a lively and attractive place to learn.

It is 'home' for pupils in years 7-9. They gain a great deal from having their own premises in which to live and learn together in an attractive pleasant, lively and well-disciplined atmosphere. Pupils in year 10 use the premises for lessons in Mathematics, Modern Languages and Religious Studies.

The lower school pupils also use the upper school art, drama, music, physical education, science and technology facilities.

Our recently refurbished former caretaker's house is now home for our Behaviour Support Base, an integral part of inclusion. This learning zone is affectionately referred to as the 'House'.



The National Curriculum - Key Stage 3

All pupils in Years 7, 8 and 9 study the following courses:

Core Subjects: English, Mathematics, Science.

Foundation Subjects: History, Geography, RE, Art & Design, Music, Drama, Bengali/French/Urdu/Spanish, Physical Education (incorporating outdoor education), Resistant Materials, Food Technology and Textiles Technology, Information and Communication Technology.

Y7 pupils follow a Creative Minds curriculum and a Humanities curriculum.

In addition all pupils follow a personal development programme comprising Health and Social Education, Careers and Enterprise Education, Drama, Library Skills, Religious Studies and Citizenship.

Towards the end of Year 9, pupils, their parents and school staff will share in deciding upon the most appropriate courses to be followed in Years 10 and 11.

Upper School . . .

is situated in Muntz Street and is 'home' for pupils in years 10 - 13. It houses a wide range of specially designed teaching areas together with a public library, community centre, sports centre, swimming pool and first class outdoor facilities which include one of the finest astro pitch areas in the Midlands. Our Sixth Form Centre which links to upper school contains classrooms, a social area, office area, lockers and a student/independent learning zone.

All pupils thus enjoy access to an excellent range of educational and recreational facilities and both sites are serviced by an extensive ICT infrastructure, library, resource centre and their own dining facilities.

The National Curriculum - Key Stage 4

All pupils follow courses leading to GCSE in English and Mathematics and in Science all pupils study courses leading to at least two GCSE or BTEC qualifications.

After option choices during Y9, pupils will be involved in studying a range of subjects from the following groups.

Languages: GCSE: French, Urdu, Bengali

Humanities: GCSE: History, Geography, Islamic Studies.

General: GCSE: Art, Expressive Arts, PE.

Vocational: OCR National Business Studies
 Applied GCSE Leisure and Tourism / Business Studies

Like good parents, staff have a genuine affection for pupils but are 'tough' in expecting hard work, good manners, respect and consideration for others.

The school 'family' naturally divides into year groups. These are sub-divided into tutor groups, each comprising a teacher/tutor, 15 pupils in Year 7 – 9 and 21 pupils in other year groups.

Each tutor meets his/her group every day. Regular personal interviews are also arranged with each pupil to discuss and review behaviour and progress and to set personal targets.

Teaching and Support Colleagues

There are 103 committed and caring teaching staff, including 4 Advanced Skills Teachers, supported by an excellent team of 140 support colleagues. As a foundation school we employ our own catering, cleaning, maintenance, technical, administrative, support and teaching staff. Colleagues are expected to work on either site according to the needs of the school. For the sake of efficiency, movement between sites is minimised.