

Risley Avenue Primary School



Chinese Week Celebrations
- Ribbon Dance



Our spectacular Fan Dancers

Risley Avenue Primary is a three-form entry school in north London serving a widely diverse community. Almost 70 per cent of its pupils speak English as a second language and many come from disadvantaged backgrounds. These factors present significant challenges, but the school is clear that it has a responsibility to maintain high expectations for its students in order to create an aspirational environment. Headteacher Linda Sarr explains that the school prides itself on being a place where every child can succeed, where every voice is heard and where no child will go unsupported in developing their potential.

Here at Risley we keep a relentless focus on developing the highest-quality teaching and learning experiences for our children. We are building our own curriculum, adapted to the needs, strengths and interests of our pupils. Yet we are not only considering the content of the teaching, but also establishing the sequence in which key skills and knowledge are taught so that each year group builds securely on what it has learnt before.

We follow the Haringey Education Partnership humanities curriculum, which not only focuses strongly on the key knowledge that our pupils need to learn but also has a strong disciplinary content. This fosters the critical and creative aspects of learning, which are strengthened by the distinctive demands of the subject. The HEP curriculum directly nurtures values, attitudes and dispositions, which enable our pupils to become citizens who will improve our world. As such, three main themes run through this programme: climate change, multiculturalism, diversity and anti-racism and social injustice.

REPORT CARD RISLEY AVENUE PRIMARY SCHOOL

- » Headteacher: Linda Sarr
- » Founded in 1913
- » Location: Tottenham, London
- » Type of school: Three-form entry primary school
- » No. of students: 650
- » No. of staff: 108
- » 67% pupil premium
- » Ofsted "Good", June 2017
- » www.risleyavenueprimary.org.uk

“We are building our own curriculum, adapted to the needs, strengths and interests of our pupils”

Alongside the expectation that every child leaves us confidently literate and numerate, we offer a wide range of learning opportunities that boost personal resilience, wellbeing and creativity. Highlights of these, which the children at Risley can use to broaden their horizons, include learning Mandarin and French, representing their classmates on our pupil leadership team, learning to cycle and garden, attending forest school sessions and playing team sports.

Music is central to life at Risley, and children have the chance to learn to play a range of different instruments and to join a choir. We are particularly proud that around 30 children have been proposed for grade exams based on their work with our music mentor.

We are also engaged in a number of Erasmus international projects, focusing on leadership in the challenging urban context.

The Risley Recovery Curriculum

After the constraints of the Covid-19 lockdown led to closure of schools

in the summer term of 2020, we needed to plan carefully to re-engage our school as a focused learning community. We worked around five key principles:

1. Rebuilding relationships: giving children time to make and restore friendships and revisiting respect for ourselves as a core value at Risley.
2. Community: exploring our experiences during lockdown.
3. A transparent curriculum: addressing anxiety among children and their parents about missed learning time and sharing our plans for catching up and filling gaps.
4. Metacognition: refocusing the children on the habits and processes of learning.
5. Space: supporting children to express their thoughts and feelings, to attend to their own physical and mental health and to rediscover themselves as learners, and as children.

This was a principal focus for the first two weeks of the school year, but it will continue to be a priority as we move forward through this year.

Living Our Best Life Assembly - Headteacher, Linda Sarr welcoming Stuart Lawrence and Isata Kennah Mason



The Haringey Education Partnership

We are working closely with the Haringey Education Partnership to ensure that our offer across the curriculum and all key stages is as strong and inclusive as it can be. This partnership is made up of over 80 Haringey schools and we collaborate to improve outcomes for all our children.

Raising achievement among Black Caribbean and BAME children is a key focus, and we have signed a HEP pledge, undertaking commitments to give this work priority. We stand fully behind the pledge's assertion that "We cannot say we have succeeded until success is shared by all."

The Headteacher is also an improvement partner for HEP and work closely with four other schools, supporting their development.

Stephen Lawrence Day: "Live your best life"

We are immensely proud to have been part of the inaugural Stephen Lawrence Day in 2019. This day celebrated the life and legacy of Stephen himself. The motto "Live your best life" has been championed by Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation and also encapsulates the spirit of our work at Risley.

During Black History Month in October 2018, Risley ran a competition to design a sculpture to commemorate Stephen Lawrence's life and legacy. The winning design, by Rashailah O'Connor, was interpreted by a talented art student at Haringey Sixth Form College. James Dowden's beautiful and thought-provoking work of art is now a focus of reflection year round in our school garden.

This year, in an effort to underpin the "Live your best life" motto, we welcomed world-renowned pianist Isata Kanneh-Mason to our school to speak to our children and perform.



Our Sculpture that commemorates Stephen Lawrence's life and legacy

We endeavour to expose our pupils to visitors who are living their best lives, and who can provide them with at least one point of reference for their own dreams and aspirations and a common language by which to articulate them.

We take our ambassadorship for Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation very seriously and are proud that our own efforts to challenge inequalities mirror the overarching tenets of their framework for Stephen Lawrence Day.

Stephen Lawrence Day is a highlight of the school calendar and a focus for the celebration of our diverse community and our efforts to ensure that we are a truly inclusive community. Sadly, this year we were unable to celebrate in the way we would have liked because of unprecedented circumstances. As a result, we had to postpone a visit from Baroness Lawrence but we hope to welcome her in the future as we have already hosted her son Stuart. We continue to work closely with the Stephen Lawrence Day Foundation.

Moving forward

Through providing inspiring role models for our students and a curriculum that plays to their strengths and builds upon their weaknesses, we are confident we will be able to do our very best for our pupils in the years to come.

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