

EDUCATION AT OASIS ACADEMIES



Our Mission is to create and sustain a network of excellent learning communities where everyone can realise their full potential

Oasis Academies are committed to:

- Raising expectations about achievement
- Outstanding teaching and learning
- Rapidly improving standards of attainment
- Holistic provision - ensuring that our students are well educated and prepared to become responsible citizens, active members of their communities and fulfilled adults
- Curriculum development – providing a broad and personalised range of opportunities and looking ahead to successful adult and working life
- Inclusion – providing the best education for all our students
- Innovation – making changes for lasting improvement
- Collaboration – working towards excellence with our partners
- Transformation – providing an education fit for the 21st Century
- Building communities – locally, nationally and internationally
- Developing people – enabling everyone to realise their full potential



The Oasis vision for education

Oasis Community Learning is clear about the values, ethos and educational principles that underpin our Academies (see *Further References, p.7*). The person and life of Jesus Christ inspire these values and because of this our approach is inclusive. Oasis Academies exist to serve local communities, students and families of all faiths and no faith. We follow the Local Authority's guidance on student admissions and do not select. We work in partnership with the Department for Children, Schools and Families, Local Authorities and other schools to ensure that we deliver the outcomes of *Every Child Matters*. Our aim is that standards of attainment will improve rapidly and that students will leave Oasis Academies committed to become good citizens who are passionate about serving their communities.

Our broader vision is based on the Academy as a 'community hub' where *Every Person Matters*. We are engaged with other services and sectors like health and social services, professional youth services and business in helping to raise aspirations and regenerate communities. Oasis works on five continents and each of our Academies has links with a project overseas. We also believe that children and young people cannot be successful and fulfilled unless the whole community is involved positively in their lives and, if necessary, has its own aspirations raised.



We do not impose an educational blueprint on the Oasis Academies. However, we do believe that some important ideas, practices and processes have emerged from the last twenty years of research into the brain and learning, on school improvement and effectiveness and on the transformations necessary to create and sustain outstanding schools in the 21st Century. We also draw from the knowledge that has been gained through the wider work of Oasis about how to build and sustain successful communities.

Oasis Academies will...

- Value all members of the community and want them to exceed current expectations, seeing the quality of relationships as vital for well-motivated learners
- Appoint experienced Principals who are committed to the Oasis vision and will lead an excellent team of teachers and support staff
- Create an environment where there is shared passion and enthusiasm for learning, teaching, achieving and being together
- Care about the learning needs and the personal development of individual students and their entitlement to the best education; raising the bar for achievement, individually and collectively
- Set challenging targets to improve standards of attainment, evaluating progress rigorously and regularly
- Get the basics right, including high levels of attendance, positive behaviour for learning, smart dress and improving standards in the core subjects
- Implement a broad and innovative curriculum, introducing developments that are helping to raise standards in the UK's highest performing schools, including the effective use of ICT and a Virtual Learning Environment
- Enrich the curriculum through a wide range of learning opportunities and extend students' horizons through national and international links
- Engage students and their parents in regular conversations about their learning and their progress; working closely with parents and carers
- Develop leadership at all levels, including student leadership and opportunities to contribute to community life
- Have outstanding facilities, able to provide an excellent education for the 21st Century



Oasis Academies are...

- Raising expectations and creating a climate where all students are motivated to improve on their previous best performance; making learning more varied, more challenging and more fun
- Creating an ethos where attention is given to all aspects of development: academic, vocational, social, moral, spiritual, emotional and environmental
- Seeing rapid improvements in student attendance, behaviour and attitudes to learning
- Introducing a competency-based curriculum in Year 7, to complement the delivery of the National Curriculum and to ensure that our students develop the skills and attitudes for successful adult and working life
- Ensuring a better transition from primary to secondary school with more time for learning in 'home bases' and fewer teachers during Year 7
- Having longer periods for learning, using time more flexibly and encouraging independent learning so that students are motivated to become life long learners
- Implementing a curriculum that meets the needs of individual students more effectively, gives equal esteem to academic and vocational programmes and provides opportunities to enrich and extend learning
- Providing intensive support for literacy and numeracy where necessary, and for the full range of Special Educational Needs
- Using ICT to improve learning and teaching across the curriculum and to support independent learning



Oasis Academies are... (Continued)

- Making good use of Academy specialisms to raise standards for all students; developing strong links with the business community to support Business & Enterprise
- Introducing more flexible approaches to external assessment so that students can take national tests and external examinations when they are ready rather than at set times
- Providing support and guidance based on smaller groups of students and regular reviews of progress; working closely with parents and carers
- Developing rigorous approaches to self-evaluation, so that each Academy understands its strengths and weaknesses and has a clear strategy for improvement
- Making the performance management, training and development of staff an important priority so that more teaching is judged to be 'good' or 'outstanding' and student attainment improves rapidly
- Working collaboratively with the family of Oasis Academies and other schools and organisations to learn about and share best practice
- Planning the move into fit-for-purpose new facilities, designed for the 21st Century

In several of the above areas, Oasis Academies are already leading the way nationally.



Creating a network of excellent learning communities:

Collaboration between the Oasis Academies

The first three Oasis Academies opened in September 2007 and, in September 2008, a further nine opened:

London:

- **Enfield:** Specialism – Business & Enterprise
- **Coulsdon** (Croydon): Science & Technology with Business & Enterprise

Southampton:

- **Lord's Hill:** Arts with Business & Enterprise
- **Mayfield:** Global Communication with Business & Enterprise

Bristol:

- **Bristol:** Visual & Performing Arts with Business & Enterprise
- **Brightstowe:** Maths & ICT with Business & Enterprise

NE Lincolnshire

- **Immingham:** Engineering & Commerce with Business & Enterprise
- **Wintringham** (Grimsby): Sports & Health with Business & Enterprise

Salford

- **MediaCityUK:** Media & ICT with Business & Enterprise

Several more Oasis Academies will be opening in Sept. 09 and the DCSF has confirmed that Oasis Community Learning has the capacity to develop up to twenty-five Academies.

Please note that although each Oasis Academy has one or more 'specialisms', these are not used as the basis for student admissions. The specialisms are used to enhance a broad and balanced curriculum for all students of whatever interest.

The Education Team

Oasis Community Learning's Education Team, led by the Director of Education, includes the Academy Principals and Leadership Teams who will be working with a team of experienced consultants in the following areas:

- Standards and impact
- Innovation and transformation
- Shared learning
- Leadership

Oasis will also be providing support for the development of the Academy ethos and the community hubs.

Further references

Oasis Academies (DVD)
Our Mission, Purpose, Ethos and Values

These are available from Ruth Chalke at Oasis Community Learning: ruth.chalke@oasisuk.org

Oasis Academies: The Competency-based Curriculum
Oasis Community Learning Education Team, 2008/09
Key Educational Principles

These are available from Lucy Hopkins at Oasis Community Learning: lucy.hopkins@oasisuk.org

Contact details

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