



WEST HERTS COMMUNITY FREE SCHOOLS

WATFORD TOWN • ASCOT ROAD • HEMEL HEMPSTEAD


... for a better future



West Herts Community Free Schools

- for you, your children and the local community
- where children expect to reach high academic standards
- where every child is on the way to college, university or a good job
- developing the whole child, their confidence with language and their determination to succeed
- specialising in science, technology and sport

We aim to improve the current and future lives of local children and families and be amongst the highest performing schools nationally and in Hertfordshire.

Two stylized hands, one blue and one green, reaching upwards. The blue hand is on the left and the green hand is on the right. Both hands are open with fingers spread, and their arms extend upwards. The background is white.

These free schools are founded on a common approach to learning, tailored to the needs of the local community. They have a distinctive ethos and a distinctive uniform. They are inclusive schools that welcome all children and families from their local communities. From the moment that you walk into the school buildings you can tell that these are communities where the adults care about the children, where the children love to be in school and where everyone is focused on achieving a set of common goals. The environments are clean, attractive and well-ordered with constantly changing exhibitions of children's work which celebrate their success and demonstrate their progress and achievement.

Expectations are relentlessly high and staff work tirelessly to ensure success for every child. Children are working hard because they enjoy it and because they know that they are heading for college, university or a good job, even if they are the first member of their family to do so.

Parents and other community members are visible in the schools making a valuable contribution to children's achievements and engaging in community activities. The school communities have a clear sense of purpose and drive and are committed to continuous improvement.

Parents are clear that the free schools place their children's achievement at the top of the list. We expect them to do the same and ask both they and their children to sign 'The Contract' which commits them to behaving well, treating everyone with respect and coming to school every day, on time, in uniform and ready to learn. We are strict about attendance because every minute of learning counts. We are also strict about uniform because we want our children to take a pride in their appearance and their school and to focus on their performance rather than their clothes.

The schools and their communities have strong partnerships with West Herts College, local primary and secondary schools and the University of Hertfordshire. This helps to set high aspirations and benefits children and families through the use of specialist facilities and access to specialist activities and subject expertise.

... for a better future

High quality early learning

To build a strong foundation for learning our schools have small classes in reception and year one with a strong focus on developing language skills.

Squirrels Day Nurseries, a private provider, works in partnership with our free schools to ensure high quality childcare provision and nursery education.

Specialisms

Our free schools specialise in science, technology and sport. In addition, Spanish is taught from the time children enter school and there is a strong emphasis on music with every child being treated as a developing musician.

Leadership

Our leaders have outstanding track records and a clear commitment to the success of the schools' local communities, children and families.

Teaching

Our staff are dedicated to serving the needs of the community and the teachers are, or have the potential to be, excellent practitioners. They care deeply about the children and their success and know how to make learning enjoyable so that school is not only hard work but also fun.

The curriculum

Our schools do not follow the national curriculum in total but have a rigorous, comprehensive curriculum with an academic and social approach to education. It is designed to develop the character, mind and resilience of the whole child and will incorporate our core beliefs and values. Because we want all our children to be technologically advanced, IT is woven through the whole curriculum.

English, mathematics and science are at the heart of the curriculum and are taught each morning. Afternoons are planned to provide a broad range of curriculum enrichment activities.

Special educational needs and disabilities

Our schools welcome children with special educational needs and disabilities and make sure that none in the school communities let a child's special needs get in the way of high expectations of social and academic achievement.

Behaviour

Our schools have the highest expectations of behaviour for adults and children alike. Our policies, procedures and practice have been developed in partnership with the local communities and are built upon respect and ethical behaviour. Everyone is clear about their rights and responsibilities and also the consequences of poor behaviour.

Determination to succeed

A priority for our school is to develop in children and their families confidence and determination so that they all know they can succeed, even in the face of adversity.

Beyond the school day and year

We are particularly aware of the needs of working parents and run an 8am to 6pm day in our schools for those who require it. The year is also extended with opportunities for children and their families to participate in a range of activities.

Children also have the opportunity to work as volunteers on improvement projects and in the wider community to help build their sense of citizenship.

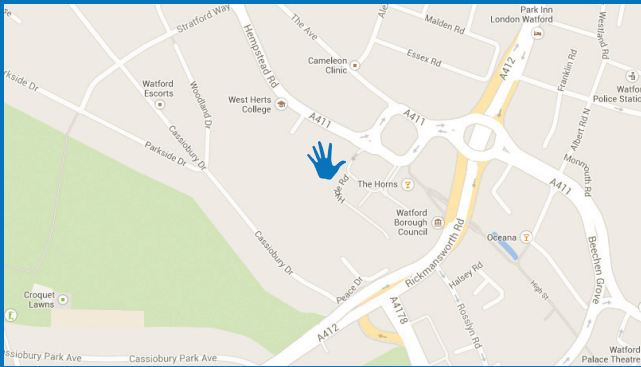
Admissions

Our schools abide by the Hertfordshire admissions criteria and admit children with special educational needs, children in care, siblings and those living closest to the school in that order of priority.

If you would like to get involved, would like this document translated into a different language or would like further information please email us at: westhertscommunityfreeschools@live.co.uk or telephone: 07951 056534.

For further information on how to apply for a place at one of our schools, please visit the website, www.westhertscommunityfreeschools.org.uk, or email westhertscommunityfreeschools@live.co.uk

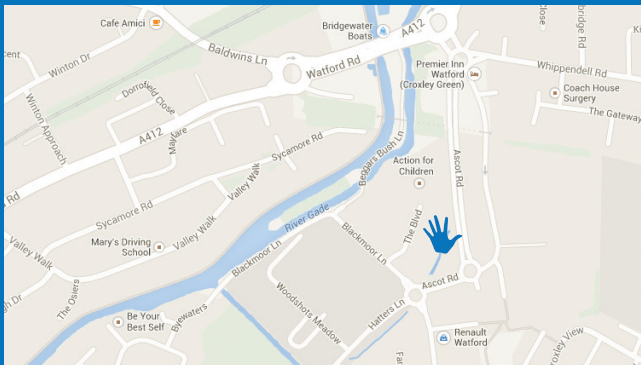
Our schools



Watford Town Community Free School

Hempstead Road, Watford, WD17 3EZ

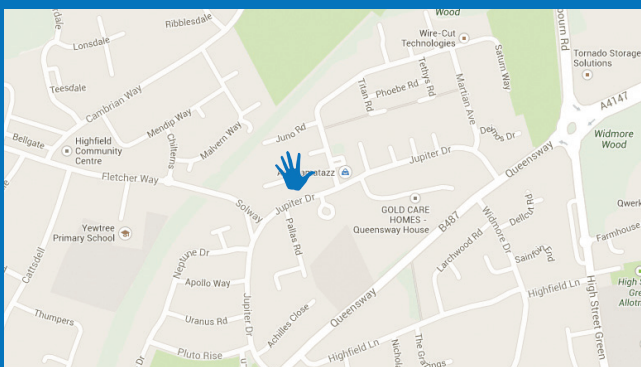
Watford Town CFS is located in the Lanchester Building, next to West Herts College. A sympathetic refurbishment project has adapted the site for our school.



Ascot Road Community Free School

Ascot Road, Watford, WDxx xxx

Ascot Road CFS is a newly built school, built to meet the flexible needs of our curriculum.



Hemel Hempstead Community Free School

Jupiter Drive, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 5NT

Hemel Hempstead CFS is also a newly built school, continuing the history of education on the site.

Who we are

The Chief Executive for the West Herts Free School Trust is **Gill Jones**. Gill is an educationalist and has been a primary headteacher, an education adviser and inspector and a senior county council officer.

Other members of the West Herts Community Free School Trust are:

- John Harris**, Chair Education and Children Services
- Ross Renton** and **Emma Greening**, University of Hertfordshire
- Gill Worgan** and **Cath Gunn**, West Herts College
- Kate Ma** and **Catherine Tallis**, Hertfordshire County Council
- Jo Kavakeb** and **Clare Beckham**, Squirrels Day Nurseries
- Graham Cunningham**, Longdean School
- Debs Warwick-Wilson**, Francis Combe Academy
- Andy Nightingale**, Business and Finance

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