



Foreword: Mr Nick Turvey, **Headteacher says:**

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our wonderful school. I wish you and your child every happiness whilst you are part of our school community.



The school is at a very exciting time in its history as we expand to a five form entry primary based over two sites. Due to the high demand for primary school places Upton Cross has been operating from Churston Avenue and the new Orwell Road site. Upton Cross Primary School is a co-educational primary for children aged 5-11 and nursery classes for children aged 3-4.

Igniting an interest in the world

Our teaching is stimulating and creative and encourages our children to continue their education outside of school and become lifelong learners. We want to ignite an interest in the world around them and for that interest to lead to fulfilling and imaginative lives. Learning should be fun!

Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children also have the opportunity to enjoy a wide variety of sporting and musical opportunities, as well as regular visits and residential visits. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

Dedicated staff

I am very proud of our exceptionally experienced and dedicated staff, who ensure that all our children are well supported to achieve their true potential and work hard with families to overcome any barriers to learning.

Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here.

Raising standards

We firmly believe that children only get one chance at a quality education and are, therefore, a school that is committed to raising standards for children in all areas of their education. I promise you that, as Headteacher, I will do my very best to ensure that your children receive the very best whilst they are with us.

Get in touch

We would urge you to visit our school. I am truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff that listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask us a question, please email info@ uptoncross.newham.sch.uk



The school gates open for the start of the school day at 8.40am.

Reception, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 3 have lunch between 11.30am and 12.30pm. Years 4, 5 and 6 have lunch between 12.30pm and 1.30pm. School finishes at 3.15pm.

Morning sessions in Nursery start at 8.45am and finish at 11.45am and afternoon sessions start at 12.30pm and finish at 3.30pm.



Wraparound clubs

Breakfast Club

We run a daily Breakfast Club from 8:00. Our 'Breakfast Club' is a great way for children to have the most important meal of the day, interact with other children and get support with their learning.

Uniform

We expect to see all children in a school uniform. This ensures the children look smart, which in turn, encourages them to take pride in their school and approach learning in the right frame of mind. A school uniform helps promote a sense of belonging and community.

Our uniform consists of a red sweatshirt, black trousers, pinafore dress or skirt, a white polo shirt or shirt and black shoes. Items with the school logo such as sweatshirts, PE shirts, PE bags and book bags can be brought from the school office. Our PE uniform consists of black shorts or tracksuit bottoms and a red t-shirt with the school logo as well as plimsolls or trainers.

School meals and snacks

Children have the choice of either a hot nutritious meal or bringing a packed lunch into school. Newham Council offers every child at Upton Cross Primary a free school lunch every day. The offer of free school meals is a part of the Mayor's Promise.

Break-time and drinks

We encourage children to eat a healthy range of food and understand the need for variety in food.

Nursery: we have a Breakfast Club and a snack table. Here we provide the children with a range of healthy food choices throughout the nursery session. Throughout the session an adult encourages children to visit the table and develop their independence in feeding themselves. Our nursery has been awarded the Newham 3 Star Healthy Eating Award.

Reception: we have a snack table where the children have access to milk, water and a range of fruit and vegetables throughout the day.

Older children are encouraged to bring a named water bottle to school.

Ahmed and Safiya are really pleased with the progress their children are making since their move to Upton Cross Primary School

Ahmed and Safiya Suliaman live in East Ham with their four children, Hodan, in Year 3, Huda, in Year 2, Mohammed, in Reception, Abdirahman, in Nursery.

A very good school

Ahmed and Safiya moved from West London to East Ham in October 2015 and were offered school places for all four of their children at Upton Cross Primary School. "It's a very good school so we are very happy," says Ahmed.

Impressed with the teaching team

Both parents have been very impressed since their children started at Upton Cross. "We think the teachers are really good and we have been made to feel very welcome. The children all like their teachers, which is important too; it helps them to want to be at school and to want to learn. Having moved from another area, we are most impressed with the teaching team here."

Strong relationships

After only a few months at Upton Cross, Ahmed feels his children have all settled well and quickly. "It's a very warm and welcoming school. My children are content during their time at Upton Cross and I think they really enjoy their lessons, which is great. I think the friendly atmosphere has really helped them to feel a part of the school and the way the teachers communicate with the children and make lessons interesting is a big part of it too. There are good relationships between the teachers and the children."

Excellent communication

From a parent's perspective, Ahmed feels the teaching team very good at communicating with parents too. "We have felt part of the school from the beginning and involved in our children's education. If we ever have concerns about any of our children, we feel able to discuss them with the teachers. Likewise, if they have any concerns about our children, they will make contact to discuss them and will look at ways of working together to resolve them. They are really very good."

Originally from Somalia, English is not the Suliaman family's first language; Ahmed has been impressed with how the school has worked hard on progressing the children's English language. "Communication has really been key for them and the school has worked hard at progressing their language skills during lessons."

Good progress

Ahmed adds: "I feel my children have all progressed well in the short time they have been at Upton Cross Primary School. I can see lots of improvement already, especially in my daughter. Each of my children's knowledge has grown and I am really happy that they are doing so well now."

Rewarding good behaviour and hard work

Learning is encouraged through the school 'Stay on Green' scheme which Ahmed feels is a really good idea. It's a reward scheme that staff use with the children to show when they have behaved well or worked hard. "It's a great way to teach the children about the importance of good behaviour and for rewarding them for trying their best and for working hard. My children will often come home with a certificate for staying on the green, which they really like to receive."

Very happy

Ahmed adds: "We are all very happy our children were offered places at Upton Cross Primary School. It's a warm, welcoming school where staff are friendly and the teachers are excellent at forming good relationships with both children and parents."





Thematic teaching

Upton Cross Primary School follows the National Curriculum. Although the National Curriculum describes subject areas, we do not always teach the curriculum as individual subjects. It may be taught in an integrated or thematic way. Although the majority of teaching time will be given over to the three core subjects, English, Mathematics and Science, we ensure that the foundation subjects and RE receive emphasis.





Early Years Curriculum

A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right, and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up. When parents choose to use early years services they want to know that provision will keep their children safe and help them to thrive. We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework to provide this assurance.

The school curriculum is divided into three stages

- Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5
- Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7
- Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11

Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- English
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics
- English
- Science
- Computing
- Design Technology
- History
- Geography
- Art
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- Personal, Social and Health Education
- French (year 2-6)

Children's outcomes are consistently higher than the national average. If you would like to see our results please visit our website www.uptoncross.newham. sch.uk.

As a parent governor, Nnenna is confident that Upton Cross Primary School has the best interests of each child at heart

Nnenna Urum-Eke and MacDonald Nwojl live in East Ham with their children Nena, in Year 5 and Enyinnaya, in Nursery.

A positive environment

Of the schools closest to Nnenna and MacDonald, they were most impressed with Upton Cross Primary School. "Their learning ethic really appealed to me. I felt the school was friendly, the children were happy and content to be there and the environment was very much about life skills as well as learning. It was these things that really influenced our decision," says Nnenna.

"I actually joined as a community governor just before Nena started at Upton Cross. There was a vacancy and I really wanted to be involved with the school because I had been so impressed with what I had seen and so that I could become involved with Nena's education. That was more than five years ago now and it's given me great insight into the school."

Children more important than tests

"When I met the governing body, I knew I'd made the right decision in choosing Upton Cross. Attending the governors' meeting, I saw that the conversation amongst the governors around achievement and learning was focused on driving the idea that the school's main priority is around the children's attainment rather than around the school's placing on tests."

An outstanding school

Nnenna adds: "I think the school is not one that rests on its laurels. It's an outstanding school that constantly searches for opportunities to do better. The school has the two sites now which can be a challenge but the quality of teaching and learning at the school has not been compromised; if anything, it's improved. Whenever I've spoken to parents they are very happy with how their children are achieving."

Always striving to do the best for each child

Nnenna feels Upton Cross is a very forward thinking school; "The governors are all about holding the school to account for the achievement of every child. We look at the children who maybe aren't doing as well as expected and question what more can be done to help them."

"Any parent who is looking to come to Upton Cross can have full confidence that their children will thrive. Whatever their needs, they will be provided for. The school prides itself in understanding individual needs."

The next steps

"I've seen this in action with my own child and I think, as a parent, it's so important to feel that a school will work to do the best it can for your child. I can see Nena growing. The teachers knew where she was when she joined and understood where she needed to get to."

Nnenna feels Nena is doing very well at Upton Cross. "Even the things she doesn't particularly like she's doing well at. Teachers are aware of her strengths and weaknesses and are working on those which is really important to me."

Happy and content

Nnenna adds: "Upton Cross is an outstanding school which always puts the child's needs first; it's understanding of each child ensures they will achieve and will be both happy and content in their learning environment."







Visits

To further enrich our curriculum, all children are offered a range of visits which are connected with work in the classroom. We make visits locally and further afield and invite visitors into school from the wider community. Parents are encouraged to accompany us on these visits and all children should take part in them. Previous visits have included:

- Local businesses
- Central London
- Rural and coastal Essex
- Local Farm and Nature Reserve
- Theatre visits



Holidays and Visitors

Children have the opportunity to go on residential visits during the school year. These experiences can help to develop qualities of self-reliance and tolerance of others. Children learn independence and develop confidence. Additionally, we arrange visits to the school by theatre groups and those with professional expertise such as singers, artists and musicians.



Farzana really likes the family feel at Upton Cross Primary School and the many opportunities to get involved

Farzana Hussein and Wojed Ali live in Upton Park with their 3 children, Zain, in Year 6, Amelia, Year 1 and Sami, in Reception.

There are individual days organised too. "The father figure and mother figure day lovely! There's an assembly with a children in the control of the

Positive reviews

Farzana and Wojed moved to Upton Park so their children could start at Upton Cross Primary School. "It's a great area, with everything we need close by and the school is one we'd heard lots of positive reviews about, so sending our children to the primary school felt like the right thing to do."

A wonderful school

Farzana has recently returned to work now that all of her children are at school and is training to become a teaching assistant; she volunteers at Upton Cross Primary School in the Nursery. "I think it's a wonderful school! The beginning years of a child's education are really important and Upton Cross offers them the perfect start. I can see how hard the teachers work and how much the children enjoy being there. It's very rewarding to be involved with the school and there are lots of opportunities for parental involvement."

Family days

The school's family week provides an opportunity for parents to go into school, observe and get involved in themed activities within the classroom. "Family days are a good way of seeing our children in their school environment and the children really enjoy welcoming parents into school. I think everyone gets a lot from these opportunities."

There are individual days organised too.

"The father figure and mother figure days are lovely! There's an assembly with a children's performance especially for family members. I really enjoyed it this year; it always feels very special. The teachers are friendly and welcoming and the children make us little gifts. It's such a wonderful way of involving parents."

Brilliant school visits

Upton Cross offers lots of school visits to enrich the children's education and parents are always welcome to help out. "I try to get involved as much as possible. The visits are great and my children always enjoy the experiences they provide. As a parent, it's a really easy way to get involved and to share some school experiences with your children.

"Zain is about to go on his second residential visit. It was brilliant for his confidence in Year 5 and has really helped his personality to shine. He's really looking forward to going again this year."

A hard working teaching team

"We believe the teachers work incredibly hard and always in the best interests of the children. With the changes in the National Curriculum recently, we've been really impressed with the way teachers have managed those and communicated with parents. They do a really brilliant job.

"Zain has felt prepared for his SATS and whilst the school ensured they worked hard, they also encouraged and recognised the need to get the balance between hard work, rest, relaxation and family time too."

Exceeding expectations

Farzana had some initial concerns that Sami, as an August baby, may struggle to keep up with his older classmates; "I'm the kind of parent who will approach teachers whenever I have the slightest concern. I have always found the teachers have time to listen, which I think is really important. They have done such a good job with Sami, he is achieving over expectations. We couldn't be happier."







We are proud of our diverse community and are committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination and racism. We are an inclusive school and promote education for children with a range of Special Educational Needs.



Celebrating different cultures

At Upton Cross, nearly all of our children speak English as an additional language. We have staff and children from a huge range of cultures who regularly support parents and carers in translation. The English acquisition of our children is assessed on-entry and at regular intervals throughout the school year. This allows the school to provide intervention programmes for those at the earliest stages of English.



Special Educational Needs

Sometimes children with particular types of special educational needs can benefit from specialist help. This is given in small groups or one to one in the classroom or in other areas of the school, depending on the needs of the child/children. Parents are fully involved in any discussion and assessment of their child's needs.

Access

Our building's meet all existing requirements for children and adults with physical disabilities as laid down under the Disability Discrimination Act 1995.

Gifted and talented children

All of our children are challenged at a level appropriate to their attainment. For children identified as 'Gifted and Talented' in areas of the curriculum, differentiated targets and activities ensure their strengths are developed further. A range of outside specialists from the fields of writing, performing arts, music and sport support this work. Our 'Debating Society', an after-school club for Gifted and Talented speakers, recently debated in the national schools final.



Ahmer feels the excellent leadership team and the skilled teaching staff at Upton Cross Primary School work hard for both children and parents

Rifat and Ahmer Khan live in Upton Park with their five children, Imaan Khan, 10 in Year 5, Hadica Khan, eight in Year 4, Hiba Khan, seven, Year 3 and Huzaifah Khan, four in Reception and Adan Khan, 2.

Rifat and Ahmer chose Upton Cross for their family based on proximity to their home and because they had heard excellent reviews of the school from relatives and friends.

A strong leadership team

Ahmer feels one of the key strengths of Upton Cross is the leadership team and the way the staff ensure parents are involved throughout the child's education "Imaan started at the school in reception so we've lots of experience now and we feel the staff team are excellent," explains Ahmer. "Whenever there are changes, staff ensure parents are well-informed and feel included, which I really like."

Parents feel valued

Ahmer continues: "When the National Curriculum changed, they called a meeting and explained to parents how the school intended to manage its introduction into school. You're kept us in the picture and I like that side of their communication with parents."

"They offered suggestions of what we could do with the children at home to help smooth the introduction of the new curriculum and it felt very much like we were working as a team in the best interests of our children."

Excellent communication

Upton Cross use a variety of methods to communicate with parents. "Parent assemblies are a great way of bringing everyone together to provide lots of information and the opportunity to ask questions. We feel like parents matter to Upton Cross, like they want you to be involved and informed and contribute to your child's education and I think that's really good."

An open door policy

"There are also plenty of opportunities to meet with members of the leadership team on a one-to-one basis or directly with class teachers, which I think is excellent too. There's an open door policy and I think that's exactly as it should be."

"The leadership team are very visible on school grounds and you will often see them around after school. They feel very approachable; you feel like you can talk to them and that the teachers are well-informed about your child as an individual."

Working together

Ahmer adds: "When Hiba started at school, she was quite reserved and shy within the school environment. She's not like this at home so we weren't aware until her class teacher approached us. She suggested ways we could encourage Hiba and develop her confidence with little groups outside of school and the teacher offered lots of encouragement within the classroom.

As a result Hiba has really progressed and we really appreciated the teacher approaching us."

Helping children thrive

Ahmer believes all of his children have grown in confidence during their time at Upton Cross. "The children are eager to get involved in school activities. Imaan in particular will put his hand up to be involved in activities involving an audience. We believe this is thanks to the encouraging environment and the fact the teachers get to know the children as individuals and work with their strengths and weaknesses."







There are a wide variety of lunchtime and afterschool clubs for children to enjoy. Recent examples include:

- Book and Film
- Chess
- Cooking Cricket
- Footbal
- Guitar
- Golf
- Laptops



Sport

Children follow a programme which includes dance, gymnastics and games. Children in the Year 3/4 Phase follow a swimming programme. A variety of other sports are played at the school, which include cricket, football, netball and rounders. Where possible we organise specialist coaching and work regularly with the School Sports Coordinator at Cumberland Sports' College. Our curriculum is enhanced by a number of after-school sports clubs.

Music

For children interested in music we are part of the 'Every Child a Musician' scheme and encourage children to participate in musical instrument lessons.

Maria is grateful to Upton Cross Primary School for the dedicated support her daughter receives to meet her individual needs

Maria and Dumitru Bumbuc live in Canning Town with A tailored timetable their children, Maria Melania, in Year 4 and Andreea Eliza, in Year 2.

Couldn't be happier

Maria and Dumitru chose Upton Cross Primary School primarily because of its close proximity to their home. They couldn't be happier with their choice and are incredibly impressed with the dedicated support their children have received since joining the school.

"Eliza has a number of needs," explains Maria. "She has hearing and speech difficulties as well as global development delay (GDD) and significant speech delay. She is also dysmorphic and has some mobility needs due to a bone disorder.

Support to meet individual needs

When Eliza was due to start school. Maria spoke with staff at Upton Cross about her needs and was really encouraged by their responses. According to Maria, Eliza didn't speak at all until recently and she believes her progress has much to do with the support the school has offered. "Upton Cross has helped Eliza in every aspect of her condition. I've seen lots of positive progress in terms of her social skills and emotional development. She loves being around children and I can see that the way she communicates with other children has improved greatly."

Whilst Eliza is able to walk without support. she does struggle with her mobility and receives additional support during PE lessons. She also has some physio, which school has helped to organise. Maria adds: "I believe the improvement is thanks to the one-to-one support Eliza receives and the tailored timetable that has been created to meet her specific needs."

All children are equal

"One of the key strengths of the school for me is the way the children are all considered equal, no matter what their differences or their needs. If I ever have questions or concerns, I always feel able to approach the teachers and confident that they will do all they can to help."

Incredibly grateful

As English is not the Bumbuc family's first language Upton Cross have also put in place a Romanian interpreter who is able to support the family with understanding letters, forms and communication

during meetings. "The support we receive from Upton Cross is excellent and very much appreciated; it makes a big difference to us. Since Eliza has started school, I can honestly say that everything has improved in terms of her needs. We are very grateful to the school and really pleased with Eliza's progress."

Happy and settled

Maria is very obviously thrilled with Upton Cross Primary School; "Both of my girls are doing very well there. Maria is happy and settled and her English is now very good! Her confidence has grown across all areas. I know Eliza loves school because during the school holidays, whenever we pass by the school, she wants to go in! The school has helped both girls from the very first stage of them joining the school.

"I feel the teachers at Upton Cross Primary School are like parents and are teaching my children to become responsible teenagers."

Children say:

Maria Melania says: "School is a very important part of my life. I like my teacher and all of my classmates too.





Admission to Nursery

We accept names for the Nursery waiting list from the age of two. Children will be offered a place to start our Nursery from the age of 3, although we cannot guarantee every child a place. Full details of how to gain a school place can be found in the 'Starting School: The Primary Education Guide' which is available on line at www.newham.gov.uk

Admission into Reception

To help you in your choice of primary school please feel welcome to visit us. We are always happy to meet prospective parents but to make sure there is someone available it is best to telephone the school administration staff first. Children start in Reception Class during the year before they become five years old. Admissions are carried out in line with London Borough of Newham's policy which is available on line at www.newham.gov.uk

Admission into other year groups

If you are considering Upton Cross for your child, you may find it helpful to arrange an informal visit to the school. Please contact the office to arrange an appointment where we will be very happy to show around our school.

Applications

Please ask about applications at the school office. Entry to Reception will need to be made directly to the Council.

Tel: 020 8430 2000

Email: pupil.services@newham.gov.uk

Web: https://www.newham.gov.uk/ Pages/Services/Admissions-primaryschool.aspx



Links with Families

We actively encourage you to get involved with your child's school, be it through the Governing Body, the wide range of parents' classes or at our coffee afternoon.

Adult classes

We run Family Learning Sessions, where parents, carers and their children learn English, Mathematics and Computing together.

Coffee afternoon

Our informal coffee afternoon is held once a fortnight, and is run by parents for parents. It is an opportunity to come and share your ideas and raise queries about your child's learning or about the work of the school. It is a great way to meet other parents informally over a cup of coffee. School staff and community groups are also available to join the discussion and answer questions for you. The parents' group has been key in helping the school in raising money for good causes.

Carer and Toddler Group

The Carer and Toddler Group meet at the school on Wednesday at our Churston Avenue site and Thursday at our Orwell Road site. All children who can walk and are under five are very welcome with their carers.

Volunteers

We actively encourage parents to attend school activities and to help in the classroom and around the school. If you would like to help you will be made very welcome. We welcome parents' views and ideas and incorporate these in our School Development Plan, which is available for parents to view.

Governorship

We have a full and active Governing Body, which includes parent governors as well as representatives from staff, the local authority and the local community. The governing body has a range of duties and powers and a general responsibility for the conduct of the school with a view to promoting high

standards of educational achievement including setting targets for pupil achievement, managing the school's finances, making sure the curriculum is balanced and broadly based, appointing staff and reviewing staff performance and pay.

Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise.

Do you want to be a Governor?

Our Parent Governors give parents a voice in decision making. They are elected by parents through a ballot. If you are interested in becoming a Governor, please contact the school office.



VISION AND AIMS

Upton Cross Primary School is committed to enabling all pupils to achieve their best in a challenging, creative, stimulating and supportive learning environment.

As a school we aim to ...

- provide a purposeful environment where every child discovers their own potential and a love of learning
- equip our pupils with the ability to acquire the skills they need for the rapidly evolving world in which they live
- nurture bodies and minds so that our children are happy and safe with a real understanding of how to keep healthy
- build a community which makes connections with the larger community through the work we do, the problems we solve, and the experiences, strengths and hopes we share
- use technology to examine the past, make sense out of today and to be part of the future

As a team we strive to ...

- promote excellence pushing the boundaries of achievement
- work together, learn from each other, share resources and ideas
- value progress believing every child has an untapped potential rather than a fixed IQ
- hold high hopes and expectations, developing a hunger for improvement
- help learners lay the foundations of future success, raising the capability of all

As a school our key priorities are ...

- ensuring all children are given the best opportunities to make accelerated progress to ensure excellent attainment for reading, writing and mathematics.
- developing an approach to learning and teaching that enhances children's ability to be lifelong learners who are motivated, analytical and creative thinkers, problem-solvers and excellent communicators.
- delivering a curriculum rich in first-hand and real-life experiences that develops the basic skills of oracy, reading, writing and mathematics, through exposure to quality texts from a range of authors, extended opportunities to rehearse and recite writing across a range of subjects, the incremental progression of grammar, spelling and punctuation skills, the development of verbal and written explanations, problem-solving and the application of mathematics across a range of subjects and real life contexts.
- teaching in every classroom, every day is at least 'good'.
- to develop a model of inclusion where all children can achieve their full potential.
- to ensure parental and community involvement are at the heart of our school.



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