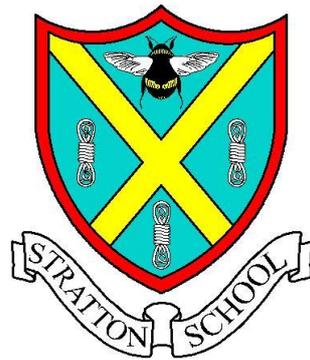


# STRATTON EDUCATION TRUST

Trust Details



## **Stratton Education Trust**

Stratton Education Trust was formed on 1<sup>st</sup> February 2012. Its key function is the provision of education to students aged 13 to 19 at Stratton Upper School, Biggleswade.

We are ambitious for our students. All our colleagues contribute to the development of the young people we serve regardless of their role:

### **One Team, One Mission**

**Our one team includes every student, every family and every Stratton colleague**

**Our one mission is to create the self-assured, successful citizens of tomorrow**

**We will achieve this through:**

**Achievement:** Providing outstanding education to all, ensuring our work is purposeful and planned, allowing our students to make rapid progress whatever their starting points.

**Challenge:** Giving our students confidence to embrace challenge, to be resilient and to own their future.

**Partnership:** Modelling an environment of strong relationships and positivity, based on mutual respect, trust and understanding of our shared commitment to continuous learning and development.

**Aspiration:** Linking access to our exciting world of possibilities through hard work and endeavour.

**Trust:** Our starting point is that everyone wants to achieve the best for themselves and each other.

## **Stratton Upper School**

Stratton Upper is a 13 to 19 school with a roll approaching 1,200 students. This includes just under 400 students in our Sixth Form. We are the only upper school serving Biggleswade and the surrounding villages. This has both advantages and responsibilities. An advantage is that any competition from neighbouring schools is minimal and this has enabled us to develop increasingly collaborative relationships with them. Our unequivocal responsibility however, is to ensure that we support the needs of all students within our catchment. It follows that we accommodate students from across the full spectrum of ability and that we are truly inclusive.

Detailed information concerning our 2017 exam outcomes for both KS4 and KS5 is included with this information. Over recent years we have been embarking on an ambitious programme to raise standards, transform our curriculum and help our students realise what they are truly capable of achieving. Our ambition for school improvement continues with even more purpose, driven by our commitment to open as many opportunities for our students as we possibly can. Our vision is to be 'outstanding' within two years.

To achieve our vision we guide our students to be self-motivated, enthusiastic learners who are equipped and inspired to love learning throughout life as much as we do.

In practice, our approach is based on high expectations, high aspirations and high levels of trust. Our starting point is our working assumption that staff and students alike are committed to personal fulfilment and expect to work in an environment of success and respect.

We find there is very little need for traditional lists of dogmatic school rules and attendant lists of sanctions and consequences. Our expectation is that our students will always “do the right thing” because we have inspired them to commit to our shared values which centre on aspiration, mutual support and of course, learning. When this is challenged (and it is, we’re a school with 1200 13 – 19 year olds!) we resolve the issue swiftly, but we also reflect the extent to which our own actions, as adults and professionals, contributed either positively or negatively to the situation.

We recruit professionals who share our vision, who focus on the long game, knowing that schools thrive on quality relationships between staff and students.

Candidates should be aware of our adherence and commitment to these values.

The holistic experience of being a Stratton student is of vital importance to us. Our staff are incredibly giving of their time, which means we can offer a vibrant, extracurricular range of activities. In 2014 we took part in a humanitarian expedition to Peru, in 2016 students returned from a similar expedition to Borneo. Our next humanitarian visit is planned for 2018 and will be to Costa Rica.

Performing and visual arts are a strength with regular multimedia exhibitions, drama, music and dance productions. Our debating and public speaking groups compete at a national level. Our sports facilities are excellent and support a full range of individual and team sports and our students have enjoyed particular success in racket sports over recent years.

An unusual feature of Stratton, of which we are enormously proud, is our Farm. Originally this was set up at the time when there were far more employment opportunities within agriculture. These days this is less relevant in the local job market, but the farm provides a wonderful learning resource in its own right. Each year we produce thousands of plants, as well as highly prized meat from rare breed pigs, lambs and poultry.

We have just completed a multi-million pound expansion of the Stratton Upper School site. This is because of demographic growth across our catchment that is predicted to add over 400 students to the school roll. The project consists of a large, dedicated Science suite of 12 laboratories and associated support services. In time, these new facilities will enable us to reconfigure areas of our school (for instance, the existing Science labs) to provide more versatile teaching and administrative accommodation.

## **General Information**

Our Stratton catchment area incorporates the town of Biggleswade and a number of small villages in the Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire countryside.

Biggleswade lies on the A1 and mainline railway, making it an ideal town for commuting into London (35 min to King's Cross). Other centres of employment include Cambridge, Bedford, Stevenage, Milton Keynes and Peterborough. Each of these towns and cities are accessible within 45 min travel time from Biggleswade. Employment in Biggleswade has traditionally been in market gardening and engineering. Both these industries still have a presence in the area, but are no longer the significant employers they once were.

Biggleswade is set to expand over the coming years. Population is expected to rise by at least 25% and we are already seeing significant economic investment in the town.

Biggleswade has been featured in a number of national newspapers as *the* place to live, combining with its strong communication links, reasonable house prices and of course, good schools!

The welfare and well-being of all members of our community is of central importance and we expect staff, pupils and students to give high priority to the needs of others and their development. In practice this means that the sometimes unfashionable term of "pastoral care" is given particularly high importance across.

To sum up our approach, we borrow the words of our colleague Headteacher Alan Brookes (Fulston Manor, Kent) "there is no contradiction between order and discipline and a belief that the school should be full of laughter and joy".

## **Staff Development**

Stratton Education Trust places a great deal of emphasis on the continual development of its colleagues. We are an outward facing school and play a significant role in the following organisations:

The Biggleswade Community Union of Schools (BCUS) an association of all education providers in our area dedicated to developing seamless education provision from ages 0 to 19;

Central Bedfordshire Upper Schools Heads Group;

Central Bedfordshire Teaching School;

The Academy of Central Bedfordshire, an alternative provision free school established by the Central Bedfordshire Upper Schools;

Cambridge University Department of Education;

Colleagues expect to engage in professional development through a mixture of school-based training, addressing holistic priorities and an individual assessment of needs.

## **Final Comments**

We are fastidious in our recruitment of new colleagues. Potential applicants must share our vision and commitment to providing the very best education to our students that we possibly can and promote our ethos. Applicants must be team players who are able to see how their contribution fits into the bigger picture. They must be dedicated, skilled, highly professional and we make no apology for also saying, fun to work with.

We are clear this is not an impossible ask as we already have a team of over 150 colleagues, both in teaching and non-teaching roles, who exhibit these attributes in abundance.

Choosing to apply for a job is potentially life changing. It is important that we assist you as much as we possibly can in assessing whether we are the right environment for you, as much as we assess whether you have the right skill set and attitude for us. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you require additional information, or would like to visit us as part of your application process.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Rob Watson  
Executive Headteacher  
Stratton Education Trust