

## History of The Sweyne Park School

The Sweyne Park School is a mixed 11-16 community comprehensive school in Rayleigh, Essex. It was an amalgamation of two secondary schools, The Sweyne School and The Park School, located on the Sweyne School site. Both schools had a history of surplus places and so the Local Authority decided to combine the two schools to improve resources for pupils in the local area. Kate Spiller was appointed Headteacher Designate in 1996 and under her outstanding and visionary leadership, the new school opened in 1997. To support the new school, a major building project was initiated, funded by the LA/DFE, and completed in 1999. This comprised a number of new buildings, including a block of four classrooms, a new music suite and a sports hall. The Lord Lieutenant of Essex, The Lord Braybrooke JP, opened the new building on 4<sup>th</sup> November 1999 and Rio Ferdinand opened the new Sports Hall on 14<sup>th</sup> May 1999.

From the outset, the staff and governors of Sweyne Park were determined to establish a school committed to “Securing Pupil Success” which valued all individuals within a strong culture of respect. Through engaging with the local community, listening to the views of our pupils (Pupil Voice) and investing in the highest quality Continuing Professional Development to recruit and retain the best possible staff, the school became increasingly successful. Our work on Pupil Voice has been recognised at National Level and we were one of the very first schools to obtain Investors in People status in 1999. In 2010, we became one of the first schools in the country to obtain the Investors in People Gold standard, and the high quality of our staff remains a key strength of the school. Throughout the history of the school we have engaged in national initiatives to ensure we continue to secure pupil success. Consequently, in 2003, we became a Specialist Science School and a Training School and, in 2004, a Leading Edge school.

As a result of our drive to secure pupil success, in 2001 the school achieved a very good OFSTED Report and appeared on the Chief Inspector’s list of Outstanding Schools for 2002. In 2006 the school achieved another excellent OFSTED Report (“Very good with outstanding features”) and, in May 2010, OFSTED graded the school as “Outstanding”. The combined results of the two amalgamating schools had previously been in the region of 43-45% of pupils achieving five A\*-C GCSE grades. In 2011, 86% of pupils reached this benchmark.

To find out more about Kate Spiller, former Headteacher, please see the Sweyne Park Times issue 348 and to find out more of the school’s notable achievements, please click on the icon below.

The current Headteacher is Andy Hodgkinson, who was appointed in 2006.

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