

A
VISION
FOR
LIFE.

Harmonize Academy



“This is an outstanding school”
Ofsted, March 2015





Welcome to Harmonize Academy

We are an Outstanding Alternative Education School for students in Years 9 – 11. We have a Christian ethos based on our values of trust, respect, compassion and forgiveness which permeate every aspect of school life. It gives me great pleasure and pride to introduce you to the unique school of Harmonize Academy.

Our aim is to provide every student with a **Vision for Life** through a personalised curriculum enabling them to fulfil their potential in education, life and employment.

We opened in April 2013 as one of the first Alternative Provision Free Schools in the country and in **March 2015 we were rated an Outstanding School by Ofsted**. We recognise that mainstream education is not for everyone and, through our highly innovative curriculum and caring pastoral system, we offer students the chance to thrive, achieve and improve their life chances.

I hope this prospectus gives a flavour of who we are and what we offer but the best way to see the difference we make to young people's lives at Harmonize Academy is to come and visit the school.

We look forward to seeing you,



Marie McConville
Principal



Mrs Marie McConville, Principal

“ Students make rapid progress in their learning and this is maintained throughout their time at the Academy. ”

Ofsted, March 2015

Our Vision



Carl Parkinson, Vice Principal

Harmonize Academy is an exciting Alternative Provision (AP) Free School for 13 – 16 year olds on Merseyside.

Our vision is to provide outstanding alternative education with individualised learning pathways that radically improve the achievement and life chances of our students. We want every student on leaving us to progress to continuing education, training or employment.

The focus on the core academic subjects, English, Maths and Science, as well as the Urban Arts, Sports and Enterprise, not only engages and develops confidence in our students, but also prepares them for the world of work.



Formal opening ceremony, 1st May 2014

“*Liverpool Local Authority has worked closely with Harmonize to provide meaningful alternative education for excluded pupils, or those at risk of exclusion for a number of years.*”

Paul Dagnall, Head of Business Unit for Commissioning and Inclusion,
Children, Families and Adult Services, Liverpool City Council



Gerard Tiernan, Assistant Principal
and SENDCo



Harmonize Academy runs on the following principles:

1. **High value:** Harmonize Academy offers an environment where young people feel valued and in turn value themselves, others, their community and the wider world.
2. **More time for learning:** We operate an extended day curriculum where our students can learn in various ways and through exciting activities and projects.
3. **Broad career-focused curriculum:** The curriculum provides our students with opportunities to explore careers in three particular industries for which our region is renowned: arts and entertainment, football and equestrianism.
4. **World view:** We provide our students with opportunities to engage with and appreciate other young people in poorer nations.
5. **Learning in the community:** Our students enjoy learning in an environment that values the community and increases their empathy for other vulnerable groups.
6. **Christian ethos:** We have a Christian ethos underpinned by strong moral values and welcome young people from all backgrounds, whether faith or non-faith. Our students learn in a happy environment where four key words operate – trust, respect, compassion and forgiveness.
7. **Flexibility to progress:** We offer our students the flexibility to return to mainstream provision or complete their compulsory education with us.
8. **Something new:** Our Academy offers a different choice - something new.



“The curriculum provides students with the opportunities to develop their core skills in literacy and numeracy as well as an increasingly broad range of subjects and activities.”

Ofsted, March 2015

Our Learning Offer

- A broad and balanced curriculum offering GCSEs in English, Maths, Science, Performing Arts, Physical Education, Design Technology, Psychology and GCSE-equivalent qualifications in Music Technology, Food Technology, Childcare, Hair & Beauty, Performing Arts, Photography, Dance, PSHE, Speaking & Listening and Enterprise and Employability.
- A distinctive Urban Arts and Enterprise base.
- Global – connecting with young people in poorer nations to give a world view.
- Small groups of 9 students maximum.
- Flexible – individualised pathways tailored to the student.
- Personalised Literacy and Numeracy programmes for all students to improve achievement including support from the Liverpool Dyslexia Society and English, Maths and Science enrichment sessions delivered in partnership with local university students.
- Exciting enrichment activities and trips during and outside school hours.
- A strong link to real life in the world of work and enterprise.

“*The provision of the performing arts is outstanding.*”

Ofsted, March 2015





Wynn Ridge, Assistant Principal




Pastoral

The Harmonize experience is much more than teaching and learning; it aims to help each young person develop a vision for life that will continue to motivate him or her even after completing Harmonize Academy.

We offer a thorough induction to help the student to get to know the Academy and to allow us to get to know the student. Our strong pastoral care and support system links with the home and family, and includes individual personal learning guides and mentoring for the students. This builds upon Harmonize Academy's strengths of behaviour management.

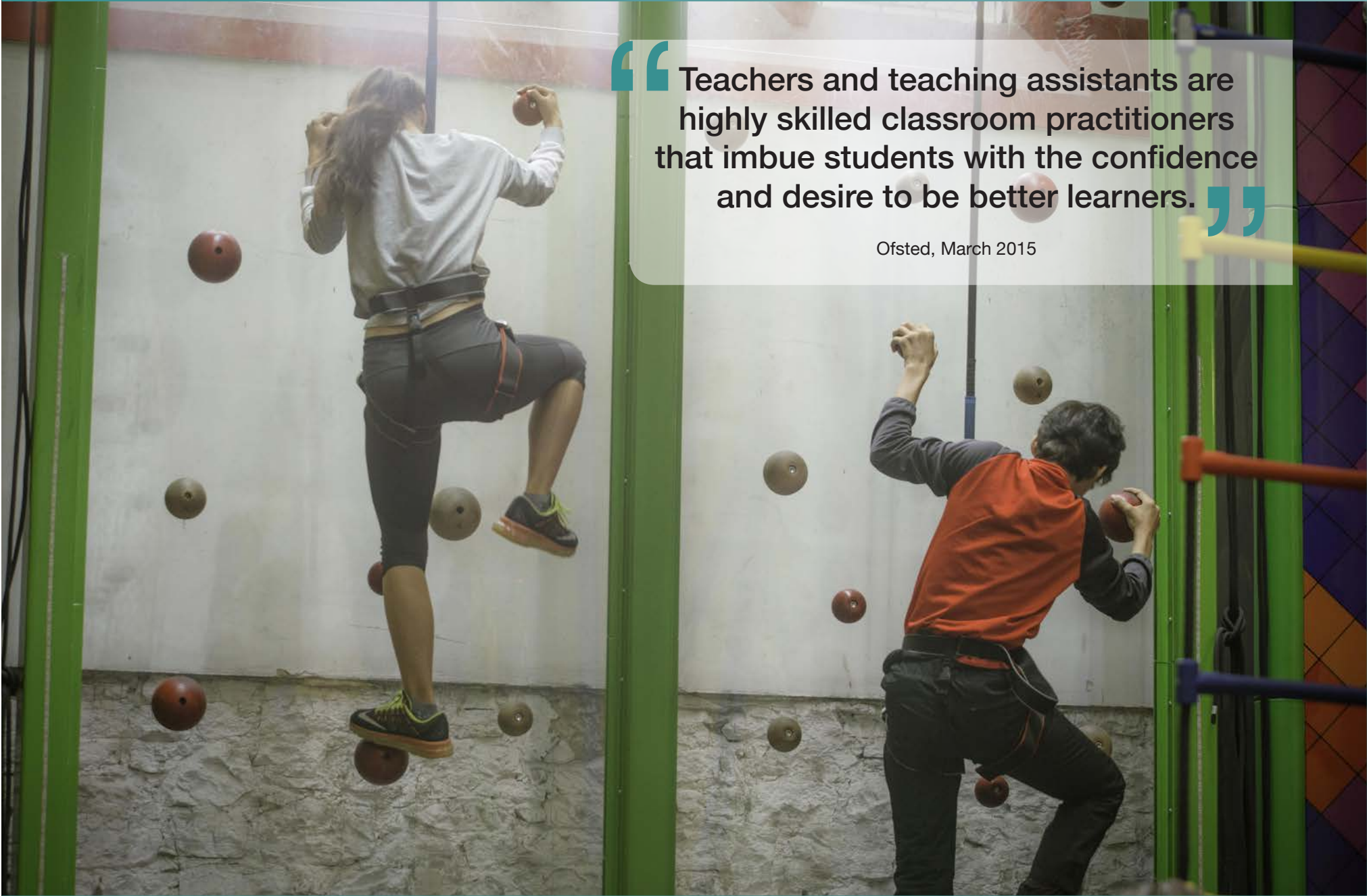
Our ethos:

- A Christian ethos with a focus on trust, respect, compassion and forgiveness.
- Provision which is open to children of all backgrounds.
- Small class sizes with a high level of pastoral support.
- A proven behaviour management system.
- Strong input into personal, social and emotional development.
- A community environment that encourages an appreciation of people with different backgrounds and abilities.
- High value – of self, others, community and environment.
- Flexibility to progress – the opportunity to reintegrate into mainstream provision or to complete with us.



“The promotion of spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is integral to the academy’s values and is interwoven throughout the curriculum.”

Ofsted, March 2015

A photograph of two students climbing a rock wall. The student on the left is a girl with long dark hair, wearing a white long-sleeved shirt, dark shorts, and a climbing harness. She is in a high position, reaching for a red ball. The student on the right is a boy wearing a red and black long-sleeved shirt and dark pants, also in a climbing harness. He is lower on the wall, also reaching for a red ball. The wall is white with several red and brown spherical handholds. The background is a green wall with some equipment. The floor is made of light-colored stones.

“ Teachers and teaching assistants are highly skilled classroom practitioners that imbue students with the confidence and desire to be better learners. ”

Ofsted, March 2015

Enrichment

Enrichment activities are an essential part of the curriculum and take place inside and outside the school environment. These include sports such as free-running, golf and horse-riding, music including band workshops and gospel singing, film and photography, catering, hair and beauty; as well as motivational trips to museums, galleries, theatres and city attractions; inspirational speakers; and links with young people in other, poorer parts of the world.

Our year 11 students receive regular careers advice from Career Connect.

These activities are designed to give all the students opportunities to:-

- explore careers in industries for which our region is renowned - arts and entertainment, football and equestrian activities;
- connect with different cultures and give them a world view;
- widen their life experience and instil in them the confidence to operate outside their normal environments;
- progress successfully to sixth form, FE, training or employment after year 11.

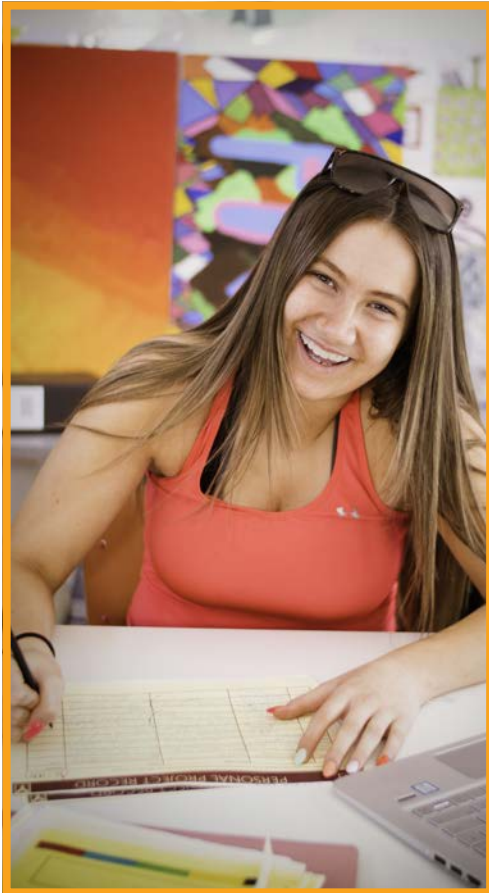
“*Enrichment activities provide an excellent supplement to the strong focus on the core subjects. They promote literacy, numeracy, enjoyment and the development of self-confidence. Above all, students enjoy these activities whether they are promoting footballing, circus, dramatic improvisation, music or cooking skills.*”

Ofsted, March 2015



Liz Cunningham, Assistant Principal

History



Harmonize Academy grew out of the successful Alternative Education Project run by Liverpool Lighthouse from 2004. It started as a pilot scheme taking young people who were struggling in mainstream school and using music, arts and personal development sessions to engage their interest, build their confidence, improve their ability to communicate, express themselves appropriately and relate to others.

From 2005, the project began to take in learners aged 13-16 on a longer-term basis and worked with them towards GCSE –level qualifications in Performing Arts, Music Technology, Literacy, Numeracy and Technical Theatre. From 2004 to 2013 the project worked with more than 500 young people.

The desire to provide even better outcomes for the learners encouraged the organisation to set up Harmonize Academy where students can complete their compulsory education.

We moved to our refurbished building in 2013 and Harmonize Academy Alternative Provision Free School was formally opened by The Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside, Dame Lorna Muirhead DBE and the playwright, Jimmy McGovern on 1st May 2014.

2013 – 2018: During the five year leadership of the first Principal, Mr Stephen Daley, over 500 young people were enrolled at Harmonize Academy. The curriculum was broadened to provide GCSEs and a wide range of vocational subjects resulting in over 1000 qualifications being achieved. He will continue to work with the Academy, as we hopefully become a small Alternative Provision Multi Academy Trust, to open other schools in the North West and North East.



Liverpool stair mural by local artist, Phil Garrett

“The academy’s work with external agencies to ensure the well-being and safety of its students is highly effective.”

Ofsted, March 2015

- Harmonize Academy has established its presence at the heart of the local community. Our location is ideal for engaging with and serving the Kensington and surrounding communities through access to our facilities.
- Harmonize offers a range of exciting project-based learning activities linked to local enterprise and the world of work that allow students to discover their strengths and enhance their skills, guiding them into further training or employment.
- Learning in an environment that values other groups, enables our students to increase their empathy and helps them to understand the importance of making a positive contribution to the community.
- We have worked successfully with Addaction, All Saints Liverpool, Blackburne House, Curious Minds, EBD schools football league, Fagends, Frontline Church, Liverpool Dyslexia Society, Liverpool Football Club, Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool Learning Partnership, Liverpool Lighthouse, Liverpool Youth Service, Merseyside Police, Resonate - Liverpool’s Music Hub, Rowan Garth Nursing Home, Young Everyman & Playhouse.
- The following local authorities have directly arranged places for students at Harmonize Academy: Liverpool Alternative Provision, Looked After Children and SEN teams; Sefton, Wirral, Knowsley, Cheshire West and Chester, Halton, London Borough Council Hackney and Blackpool Virtual School.
- Since opening, more than fifty schools, academies and colleges from across Merseyside, the Wirral and Cheshire have placed students at Harmonize Academy including: Alsop High School, Archbishop Blanch School, Bellerive FCJ Catholic College, Broadgreen International School, Broughton Hall High School, Cardinal Heenan Catholic School, Calderstones School, Clifford Holroyde Specialist SEN College, Finchwood Academy, Halewood Academy, The Hawthorne’s Free School, Hillside High School, Holly Lodge Girls’ College, Hugh Baird College, King David High School, King’s Leadership Academy Liverpool, Kirkby High School, Lord Derby Academy, Maghull High School, Meadow Park School, Neston High School, New Heights High School, North Liverpool Academy, Notre Dame Catholic College, Ormiston Bolingbroke Academy, Ormiston Chadwick Academy, The Prescott School, Rainford High Technology College, St Edmund Arrowsmith Catholic High School, St Edward’s College, The Academy of Saint Francis of Assisi, St Hilda’s CE High School, St John Bosco Arts College, St Julie’s Catholic High School, The Academy of St Nicholas, Studio@Deyes, Upton by Chester High School, West Derby School, The Whitby High School.

Admissions



- Harmonize Academy provides places for students who are outside of mainstream education in years 9 - 11.
- The school's capacity is 104 students.
- Students are referred by schools and local education authorities from across Merseyside.
- The full admissions policy can be downloaded from www.harmonizeacademy.org
- The Funding Agreement between Lighthouse Harmonize Education Trust and the Department for Education can be downloaded from www.harmonizeacademy.org

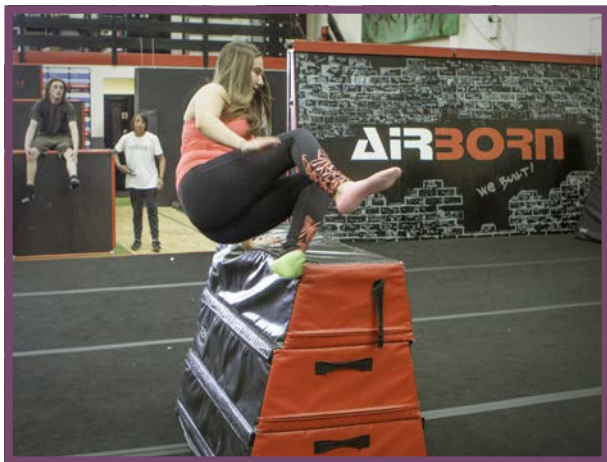
Commissioning a Place

Please contact Harmonize Academy for more details.

Telephone **0151 203 1934**

Email admissions@harmonizeacademy.org

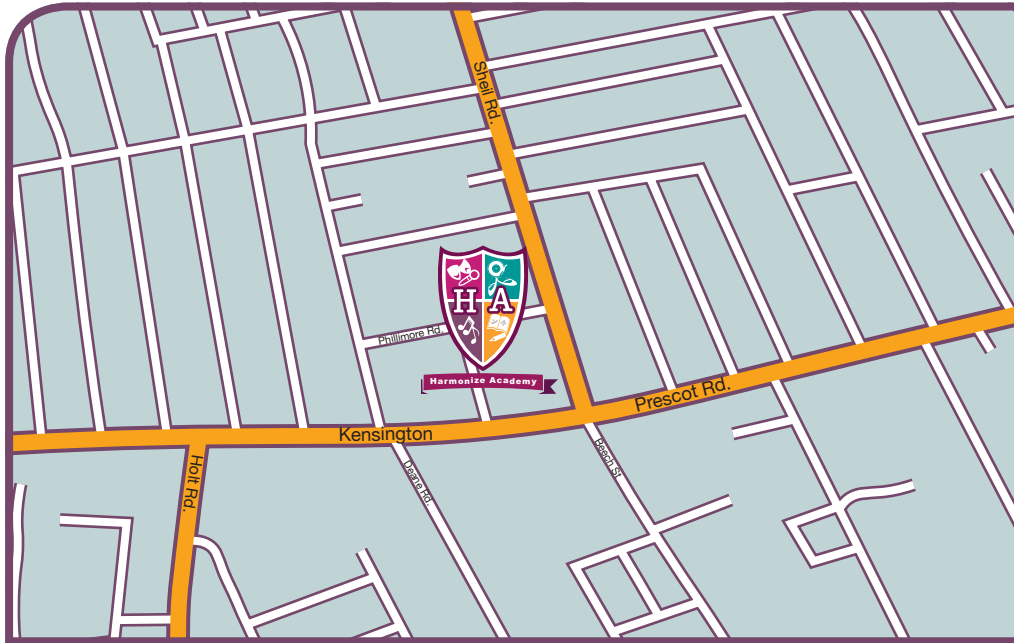
Alternatively, please consult our Commissioning Arrangements which are available at: www.harmonizeacademy.org



“ *Before Harmonize, I was not a model student, mainstream schools didn't provide me with the opportunities that Harmonize has and because of the focus on creative arts, I have become more confident and able to express myself.* ”

Shakeya, aged 16

Location and Directions



Harmonize Academy is located off Sheil Road near to the junction with Prescott Road.

The school's main entrance and visitor car park are on Phillimore Road.

There are excellent public transport routes which can be accessed from the City Centre and suburban areas.

By Bus:

Nos. **26 & 27** Sheil Road circulars.

Nos. **8, 9, 10, 10A, 10B** to Prescott Road, Kensington at the junction with Sheil Road.

To plan your travel contact Merseytravel on **0151 330 1000** or visit www.merseytravel.gov.uk

Contact us

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Harmonize Academy

*“ Pastoral care for students is outstanding
and is strongly focused on tackling
individual student needs. ”*

Ofsted, March 2015

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