



Overthorpe
C of E Academy

Believe • Enjoy • Achieve

Welcome to Overthorpe Cof E Academy



Trust, Friendship, Endurance, Hope and Forgiveness



Foreword: Headteacher

It is with great pride that we welcome you to our wonderful school, which is at the heart of our local community. Overthorpe is a school that prides itself on providing the very best for our pupils, our philosophy on education is simple; we aim to inspire a passion and enjoyment for learning in our children, through engaging, exciting learning opportunities.

We believe in all our children and are committed to ensuring that our children are always ready and well prepared for the next step of their development.

Parents and visitors often comment on the welcoming and friendly atmosphere of the school, which we are careful to nurture. We are very proud of our school, particularly the achievements of our children. This is largely due to the way our staff work in close partnership with parents. We believe that children learn best when school and home work closely together.

We cater for children from 3 years to 11 years old, we also provide an excellent Wraparound care with our own onsite

'Owls club' open from 7:30am in the morning and providing after school care until 6pm.

We would urge you to visit our amazing school. We are truly confident you will find this a welcoming and supportive school, with staff who listen, consult and actively encourage your involvement. We know that you will be impressed by the quality of education we can offer your child.

To make an appointment to visit, or to simply ask a question, please contact the school office on 01924 325300

Christian values

Our school's Christian values are Trust, Friendship, Endurance, Hope and Forgiveness. We aim to instil these in everything that we do in school and believe that these represent our fantastic pupils, Christian beliefs and the local community.

Encouraged and nurtured

We invite children, their parents, carers and families into a friendly, happy and hardworking school...where respect for others, positive attitudes towards work and behaviour are encouraged and nurtured.

Igniting a spark for learning

As a school, we aim to ignite a spark for learning in all young minds that inspires and creates independence for life within an environment that is safe, stable and caring for all. Our staff, governors, parents and pupils are determined to provide the very best for our children so that they learn in school and for life

Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, we recognise that it is essential to support the whole child. Pastoral support and well-being is at the heart of our school ethos. It underpins everything that we do and along with the quality of teaching and learning, it is what our community is all about.

Parent partnership

Overthorpe also values the home-school partnership as essential in helping pupils achieve their best. By working and communicating effectively with parents and carers, we ensure students' achievements and needs are recognised, celebrated and met in a positive, inclusive learning environment. We have established an environment that is welcoming and accepting of parents and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here at Overthorpe, to increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

Get in touch

We welcome visits from families so that you can find out for yourself whether this is the place for you and your child. Please contact us to arrange a visit on 01924 325300. We look forward to meeting you.

School day: settling in

School times

Our school day starts at 8.50am (School doors open at 8.40am), and the school day ends at 3.20pm for children in Reception through to Year 6.

Wraparound Care - Owls Club

To support our working parents, at Overthorpe we provide our very own before and after school wraparound care with the Owls club. This is an excellent facility open from 7:30am in the morning until 6pm after school. The children who attend are encouraged to start the day with a healthy breakfast which includes cereal, toast, fruit, hot and cold drinks. They also receive a hot meal in the evening, whilst being able to access a wide range of exciting art, craft, sports and outdoor activities.

Uniform

It is our school policy that all children wear school uniform. Our policy on school uniform is based on the notion that school uniform gives the children a sense of belonging to the school community. The school uniform is kept as simple and practical as possible and the colours are Navy blue logo sweatshirts, yellow polo shirts and grey or black skirt/trousers.

Further details can be found on our school website.

Where to buy?

Our uniform can be obtained from 'Rawcliffes' in Dewsbury, who accept Kirklees clothing vouchers. Parents can also order logoed uniform online with Tesco. It is also acceptable to buy uniform in the correct school colours from any supermarket chain.

School meals and snacks

Children have the choice of either a hot nutritious school dinner or bringing a healthy packed lunch into school. Menus for school dinners are available from the school office.

Free school meals

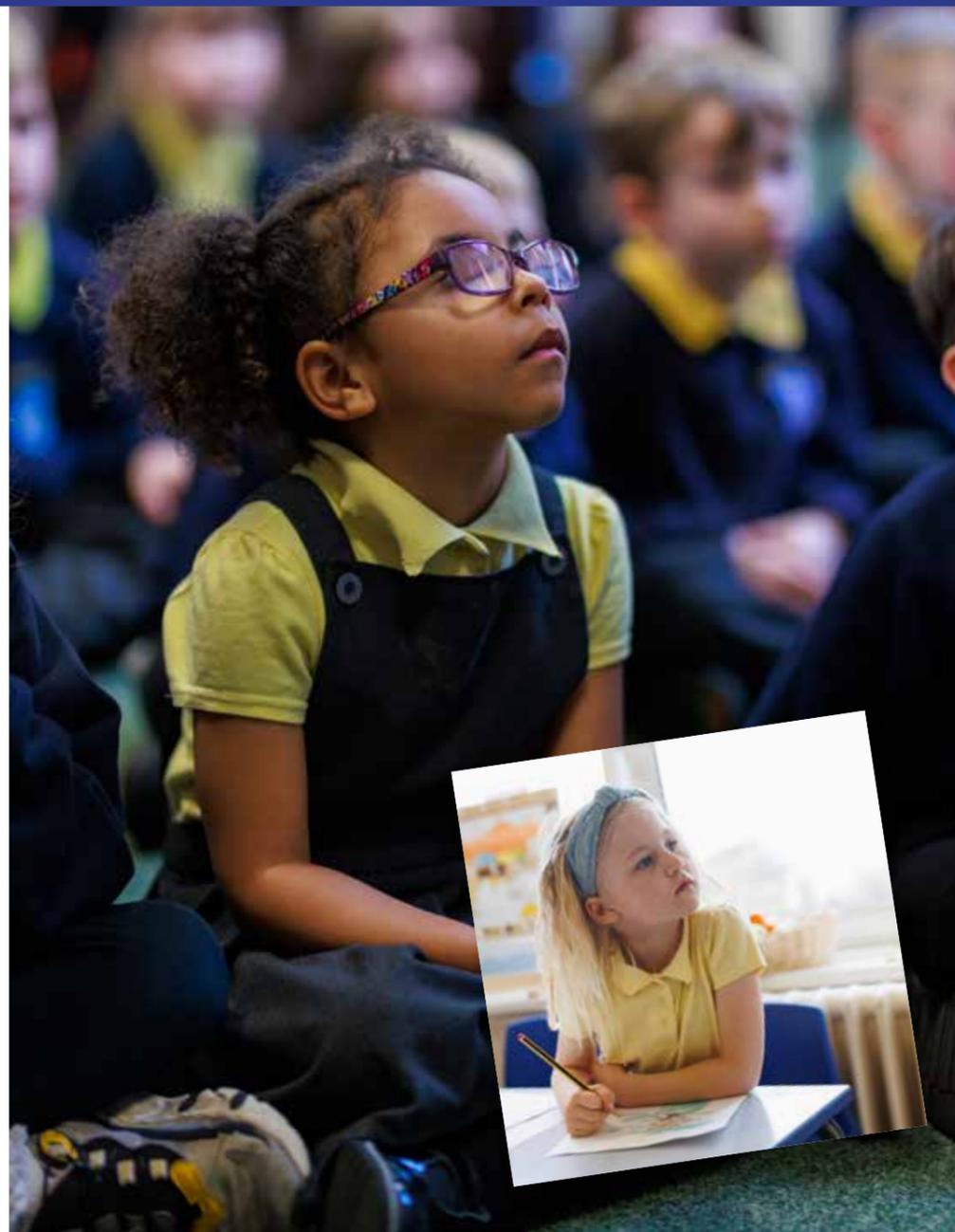
For children in the Reception, and Years 1 and 2, the government provides free school meals. Children in Year 3 and above can qualify for free school meals if their family are in receipt of certain income related benefits.

How to apply

If you think your child may be eligible for free school meals please do not hesitate to apply. An application form is available on request from the school office and they can assist you with applying.

Break-time and drinks

All Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classes have a morning break time snack of fresh fruit or vegetables. Older children may bring fruit or another healthy snack to eat at break time. Chewing gum, sweets, crisps and chocolate bars are not allowed in school. We encourage children to drink water regularly during the day.



Our fantastic facilities

Supporting learning and the school experience

We are extremely fortunate at Overthorpe to have some amazing facilities and superb grounds that the children are able to access on a daily basis, to further support their learning and experience of school.

Outdoor Learning

The school has an incredible outdoor space where the children have the opportunity to access a variety of outdoor learning. We believe outdoor learning is incredibly beneficial to the children and incorporate it in the curriculum as much as possible throughout each year group.

- We have our own pond, wildlife and woodland areas, where children access the different habitats throughout the year. The benefit of having these areas on the children's learning in all areas of the curriculum from Science, English, and Maths to Arts and Crafts is incredible.

Library

Our library offers the pupils the opportunity to read for pleasure in a relaxing and stimulating environment. We have a wide range of fiction, non-fiction and poetry books from a selection of popular authors, to capture our children's interests.

Computing

Our school has invested heavily in ensuring that the pupils have access to all aspects of computing technology. Laptops and iPads are readily available to all classes to access in all curriculum subjects to develop both their digital literacy and coding skills. We believe a strong computing curriculum is essential for our pupil's ability to thrive in the digital world we live in.

Early Years Outdoor Area

To support our little Outdoor Adventurers, we have developed our Early Years outdoor play area for the Nursery and Reception classes. Children have the opportunity to access provision in the mud kitchen, sand pit, digging area, music area, climbing frame, water play, construction and the playhouse in a safe and challenging environment. This helps to develop their characteristics of effective learning.



Curriculum: inspires, motivates, challenges and excites

Confident learners

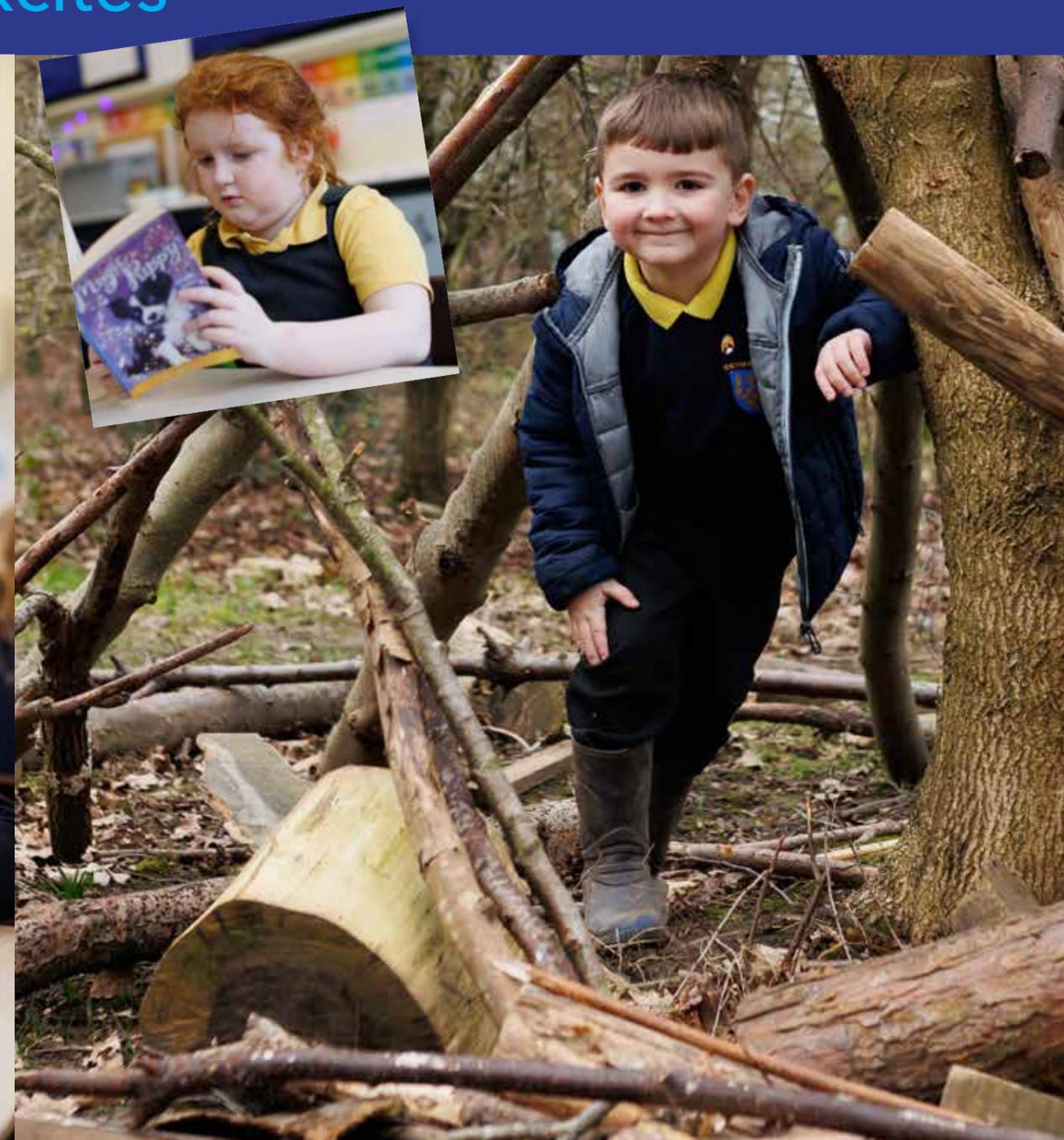
At Overthorpe C of E Academy, we aim to provide all our children with an engaging, purposeful curriculum that inspires, motivates, challenges and excites our pupils. We believe that providing our pupils with key experiences will enhance their learning and personal development to help them become successful, confident learners.

Classes

Children are allocated to classes according to their ages or specific need. Children are taught in single age group classes. Whatever class your child is in they will be taught according to their stage of development and work will be planned to meet their needs.

How we deliver the curriculum

Our curriculum provides our children with the opportunity to learn across a wide range of subjects and topics. These develop their basic skills and they enjoy exciting real-life experiences and make good progress. This curriculum prepares all of our children for the next stage of their education, whether that is their transition into Key Stage 1, into Key Stage 2 or into Key Stage 3.



The curriculum is divided into three stages

1. Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 0-5

2. Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7

3. Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11

Early Years Foundation Stage

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

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
2. Communication and Language.
3. Physical Development.
4. Literacy.
5. Mathematics.
6. Understanding the World.
7. Expressive Arts and Design.

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics.
- English.
- Science.
- Humanities-History and Geography.
- Creative Arts (Art, Music) and Design Technology.
- Music.
- Physical Education.
- Religious Education.
- Computing.
- SMSC, RSE, PHSE and British Values.
- Modern Foreign Languages.

Enriched curriculum: trips and visits



Trips

We constantly strive to make the learning in our school interesting, relevant and, above all, exciting for our pupils. In order to achieve this we take children on regular school visits to a range of venues in order to supplement our curriculum.

Local visits too!

Children often participate in local visits too. Recently these have included visits to local schools, churches, care homes, farms etc.

Visitors

Visitors to school have included:

- Local Police Officers.
- Local Fire Service.
- Visiting theatre groups/artists/musicians.
- Local MP.
- Local Magistrate.
- Local Church officials.
- Kirklees Musica Orchestra.
- An Ancient Greek Warrior.
- Songwriter.
- Poet.
- Author.

Life experience

Visitors provide our learners with real life experiences that can help them relate what they learn at school to the world around them and develop their confidence.



Behaviour and self-development: foundations for the future



What are the aims of the Behaviour for Learning Policy?

- To encourage children whilst learning and developing in a Christian environment, to celebrate their uniqueness and develop respect for each other.
- To help children to develop a social responsibility within the community, as they increase their understanding of the world we live in, so that in future, they will be active, responsible citizens.

- To help children recognise their achievements, uniqueness and to have high aspirations for the future.
- To enable each child to develop skills for life so they become increasingly independent personally, socially and in their learning.

Encouraging good behaviour

We have a clear set of school rules and a behaviour system that is displayed in every classroom. There is a whole school positive reward system of DOJOS which celebrates pupil's achievements linked to our Christian Values of Trust, Endurance, Friendship, Hope and forgiveness.

Home School Agreement

On entry to school all parents are asked to read, agree and sign a Home School Agreement to ensure effective partnership and trust between home and school.

Rewards

Rewards or incentives enable us to celebrate children's personal, social and academic development. They are designed to give children a sense of maintaining their effort and working towards a goal through following the rules and being aware of their behaviour.

They include:

- Class DOJOS for individuals.
- Class DOJO communication with Parents/Carers.
- Positive comments/private/public praise.
- Stickers and badges.
- Class jobs/additional responsibilities.
- Weekly Achievement assembly and certificates.

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Special Educational Needs

At Overthorpe we acknowledge that many children have 'special needs' at one time or another throughout their education and that some children come to school with a disability. We believe in a whole school approach to supporting SEND children. We see this as a way of utilising all the resources of our school to foster the developments of our children. We feel this approach to special educational needs and disability ensures early and effective identification

of difficulties, a coherent and cohesive system understood by all staff, access to appropriate resources and the reduction of helplessness or isolation.

Inclusion

Children with special educational needs and disabilities are fully integrated into all aspects of school life. Where children require individual programmes these are, wherever possible, provided in a fully integrated mainstream classroom setting. Children with special needs more complex than those which can be

met by increased differentiation (work planned by the Teacher at an appropriate level) may be considered for further assessment and a possible Education Healthcare Plan. This is undertaken with close co-operation between the school and the parents.

How accessible is the school environment?

Adaptations have been made to the school environment to ensure it is accessible for anyone with a disability.



Your child's achievements



Ongoing assessments

Teachers make ongoing assessments of all children in order to help them better plan the next unit of work. Children are also formally assessed for Reading, Writing, Grammar, Punctuation, Spelling and Maths each term to ensure they are making progress. Teachers have termly Progress Review meetings to identify children who may need additional support or interventions to help their learning.

National Assessments

Children are assessed in the core subjects by their teachers, and at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2, by Standard Assessment tests (SATs) against the levels in the National Curriculum. At the end of the academic year, parents of these children will receive their level as well as school results.

At the end of their Reception year, children are assessed against national measures in order to determine if they have met a 'Good Level of Development.'

In Year 1, children are assessed in their phonics knowledge through national phonics screening checks. In Year 4, children are assessed in the national Multiplications screening check.

At the end of Key Stage 2, children are assessed in the core subjects by Standard Assessment Tests (SATs)

School reports

All parents receive an annual report from the Class Teacher which provides information about your child's academic achievement and summarises their personal and social development.



Sport and music

Sport and P.E.

Physical Education develops the children's knowledge, skills and understanding so that they can perform with increasing competence and confidence in a range of physical activities. These include dance, games, gymnastics, swimming and water safety, athletics and outdoor adventure activities.

The school staff have received specialised sports training as part of the sports premium funding to enhance their own PE skills when teaching the children.

Tournaments and rallies

School teams play in tournaments and competitions with other schools in the local area. These opportunities promote collaboration, teamwork, resilience and endurance. This involves professionals from outside agencies coming into school to train and work with our pupils.

Music

Music is an important part of school life. We often find it easier to learn through songs, sounds and rhythms and music forms an integral part of our Curriculum. We also teach music as a discrete subject which has many of benefits for our pupils.

Singing

The children enjoy singing sessions where hymns, carols, traditional and new songs are learnt and enjoyed by all. The children provide regular performances for school, parents and the wider community.



Clubs

We provide a wide variety of lunchtime and after school clubs, which are on offer at various times throughout the year.

- Examples of our recent clubs include:
- Choir.
- Football.
- Drama.
- Art.
- Craft.
- Dance.
- Gardening
- Games.
- Creative Colouring.
- Fun and Fitness.
- Multisport.



Admissions

Admissions arrangements

Nursery

Currently the Government offers 15 hours a week free education and care for all children of nursery age (3 years and up). In addition to this the government offers an additional 15 hours childcare, for parents who qualify. We also offer a fee paying education and care service from 7:30am to 6pm, term time only. Nursery application forms are available from our school office or via our school website.

Admission into Reception

The Local Authority (LA) co-ordinates admissions to Primary Schools in Kirklees. Although there is no right to choose a child's school, you do have the right to state a preference for the schools that you would like your child to attend. The LA recommends that you list at least three different schools in case your first preference cannot be offered. You can apply online or contact the LA if you prefer to complete a paper application form.

Transfer during the academic year

Some families move during the academic year and seek a new school. When this happens we welcome a visit before you make an application to Kirklees Admissions Team. The Kirklees In-Year Common Application Form (ICAF) is available from the school office or Kirklees LA. When a place has been allocated, we then invite both pupil and parents/carers into school to meet with the Headteacher so that transition can be arranged from the old school to here.

Application Process

- The closing date for September applications is in mid January of that year.
- You will be notified of your child's placement by the following April.

Contact details for the Kirklees Council School Admissions Team

- Children and Young People Service, School Admissions, Ground Floor, Civic Centre 1 North High Street, Huddersfield, HD1 2NF.
- **Telephone:** 01484 225007
- **Email:** pupiladmissions@kirklees.gov.uk
- **Web:** www.kirklees.gov.uk/admissions



Getting involved

PTA

At Overthorpe Academy we have an active and enthusiastic PTA who co-ordinate and build a social community amongst parents, children and staff. They also raise funds for the school through fun activities and social events. If you would like to know more, or are interested in becoming a member, please speak to school office staff who will be delighted to introduce you to existing members.

Governance

We have a full and active Governing Body, which includes parent governors as well as representatives from staff and the local community. The governing body has a range of duties and powers and a general responsibility the school with a view to promoting high standards of educational achievement including approving targets for pupil achievement, making sure the curriculum is balanced and broadly based, recruiting staff and reviewing staff performance and pay.

Vacancies for Parent Governors are advertised as they arise.



Overthorpe C of E Academy's Aims

As a Christian community we believe in the potential of every child enabling all to succeed. We provide a creative, inclusive, challenging learning experience for every child to enjoy. We aspire to achieve the highest standards in all that we do.

Our school vision

'Overthorpe is more than a school-
We are the heart of our community,
In our family, we nurture the courage,
And skills to fly higher than the flock,
Whilst always providing a nest,
To come home to.'

Our Christian Values

- Friendship
- Hope
- Trust
- Forgiveness
- Endurance

We all show
these values

Every Day in
Every Way.



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