



ASTREA ACADEMY DEARNE



FAMILY HANDBOOK



2026 - 2027



ASTREA ACADEMY
DEARNE

Astrea Academy Trust

LEARN, THRIVE, SUCCEED



[01709 892211](tel:01709892211)



info@astreadearne.org



#BestinBarnsley

HOW TO USE

This handbook is organised into four sections to help you quickly find the information you need throughout the year.

Section 1: Welcome (White Pages)

An introduction to Astrea Academy Dearne, including our mission, values, key priorities and the exciting developments being introduced from September 2026.

Section 2: Key Information (Blue Pages)

Essential information for scholars and families, including the academy day, attendance, communication, curriculum and assessment, year group pods, electives, safeguarding and uniform.

Section 3: Expectations (Burgundy Pages)

Everything you need to know about our standards and routines, including behaviour, punctuality, homework, equipment, mobile phones, rewards and the high expectations that help every scholar succeed.

Section 4: Getting Ready for September (Pink Pages)

A practical guide to starting the new academic year successfully, including key dates, first-day reminders and important information to help scholars and families prepare for September.

We recommend reading this handbook before the start of term and keeping it as a useful reference throughout the year.



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

A very warm welcome to Astrea Academy Dearne! We are delighted to have you as part of our academy community and look forward to working together throughout the 2026/27 academic year. Whether your family is joining us for the first time or has been part of our community for many years, we are proud to partner with you in supporting your child's learning, growth and success.

This handbook has been designed to provide families with the key information needed to navigate the new academic year with confidence. This year sees the introduction of our new KS3 Electives programme and Year Group Pod model, providing scholars with even greater support, consistency and opportunities to thrive.

We believe that strong partnerships between home and school are central to ensuring every scholar can achieve their full potential. By working together, maintaining high expectations and establishing clear routines, we can create an environment where all scholars feel safe, valued and inspired to excel.

Thank you for your continued support and commitment to our academy community. We look forward to celebrating the achievements, successes and milestones of our scholars with you over the coming year.

Emma Glover
Executive Principal



01709 892211



info@astreadearne.org

OUR MISSION

At Astrea Academy Dearne, we are proudly ambitious for every young person.

Our mission is to ensure every scholar

learns with confidence

thrives through a rich breadth of opportunities

succeeds with outstanding outcomes

so they are ready for university or an ambitious alternative.





ASTREA ACADEMY
DEARNE
Astrea Academy Trust
LEARN, THRIVE, SUCCEED

OUR SHARED VALUES



SCHOLARSHIP

**WORK
HARD**



RESPECT

**BE
KIND**



RESPONSIBILITY

**OWN
IT**

BestInBarnsley



Key Dates and Times

From Wednesday 2nd September, scholars will have a staggered start to the academic year:

Date	Y7	Y8	Y9	Y10	Y11
Tuesday 1 st September	INSET Day for all school staff				
Wednesday 2 nd September	In school By 8:28 am				In school By 8:28 am
Thursday 3 rd September	In school By 8:28 am				In school By 8:28 am
	Synergy scholars in school 8:45am – 2:45pm				
Friday 5 th September	In school By 8:28 am				In school By 8:28 am
	Synergy scholars in school 8:45am – 2:45pm				
Monday 7 th September	All scholars in school 8:28am – 3:00pm (Y11 session 6 until 3:55pm) Synergy 8:45am – 2:45pm				

Term Dates & Calendar

The most accurate up to date calendar can always be found on the school website here (click below)

Term Dates - Astrea Academy Dearne

Academy Day

THE GATES CLOSE AT 8:28am

Session	Start	End
Morning Line Up / Form Time / Assembly / Astrea Reads	8:30am	9:10am
Session 1	9:10am	10:05am
Break	10:05am	10:25am
Breaktime Line Up	10:25am	10:30am
Session 2	10:30am	11:25am
Session 3	11:25am	12:20pm
Lunch	12:20pm	1:05pm
Lunchtime Line Up	1:05pm	1:10pm
Session 4	1:10pm	2:05pm
Session 5	2:05pm	3:00pm
Session 6 (Monday, Wednesday & Thursday - Year 11 Only)	3:00pm	3:55pm

Year Group Leadership

Year 7

Senior Leader
Pastoral Year Lead
Pastoral Officer
Attendance Officer

Lauren Myers
Terry Simon
Chanelle Gasgoine
Gary Crew

Year 8

Senior Leader
Head of Year
Pastoral Year Leader
Attendance Officer

Adam Stead
Colm Atkinson
Kerry Lamont
Kelly Andrews

Year 9

Senior Leader
Head of Year
Pastoral Year Leader
Attendance Officer

Peter Richardson
Gary Oliver
Emma Bann
Julie Mason

Year 10

Senior Leader
Head of Year
Pastoral Year Leader
Attendance Officer

Luke Moreton
Sam Lloyd
Claire Lackenby
Keeley Dickinson

Year 11

Senior Leader
Head of Year
Pastoral Year Leader
Attendance Officer

Marcus Lindley
Ryan Kingston
Sasha Stables
Abigail Webster

Year Group Pods

New for September 2026, Key Stage 3 scholars will be based in dedicated year group pods. Each pod will be led by the year group's pastoral and leadership team, ensuring scholars have easy access to familiar staff who know them well and can provide support whenever needed.

Scholars will still access specialist facilities and teaching rooms for subjects such as Science, Art, Technology and PE. However, wherever possible, learning will be centred within their year group area. This reduces unnecessary movement around the academy, maximises learning time and creates a calmer, more consistent school experience.

Due to the layout of the academy, Year 10 and Year 11 scholars will also be broadly based within year group areas, although this arrangement is not as distinct as the dedicated KS3 pod model.

The pod system provides greater continuity, stronger relationships with staff and a clear sense of belonging for every scholar.

In line with our mission, it helps every scholar learn with confidence, thrive through a rich breadth of opportunities and succeed with outstanding outcomes.



How to Contact School

We understand it can be frustrating when you are unable to reach the school by phone. To ensure your query is dealt with as quickly as possible, please contact your child's Year Team using the email addresses below.

These inboxes are monitored throughout the day by multiple members of staff, making them the fastest way to get a response. We aim to reply as quickly as possible, often on the same day.

Please use the relevant Year Team email for all enquiries relating to your child and avoid emailing multiple staff members, as this may delay our response.

Year7@AstreaDearne.org

Year8@AstreaDearne.org

Year9@AstreaDearne.org

Year10@AstreaDearne.org

Year11@AstreaDearne.org

**To contact
safeguarding**

AAD-SafeguardingTeam@AstreaDearne.org

General queries

info@AstreaDearne.org

Meeting requests

Due to the nature of running a busy school, meetings will not happen on the same day or without advanced booking. Please email the year group email address above.

How School Will Communicate With Families



Email

Emails with key information will be sent regularly. Please ensure we hold the most up to date email address for you.



My Child at School (MCAS)

MCAS is our main communication app for parents and carers. Through the app you can:

- Receive academy updates and messages
- View your child's attendance
- Access key dates and events
- Update important information, including medical details

Please ensure you have downloaded the app and enabled notifications.



WhatsApp Channel

Follow @AstreaDearne on WhatsApp for academy news, subject spotlights, and weekly celebrations.

[Join our WhatsApp Channel](#)



ClassCharts

ClassCharts provides live updates on behaviour, rewards, and achievements.

All scholars and parents will receive login details. Please download the app and enable notifications. If you need a login code, contact your Year Team by email.



Weekly Newsletter

Every Friday, we email a link to the newsletter to families with important updates, events, opportunities, and celebrations. This is shared by email and through our WhatsApp channel.



Social Media

Follow us for the latest news and celebrations:

- Instagram: @astreaacademydearne
- Facebook: Astrea Academy Dearne



Breaks and Lunchtimes



At Astrea Academy Dearne, we are proud to operate our own in-house catering service, allowing us to provide high-quality meals and a varied menu that meets the needs of our scholars.

Our catering system is cashless. Families can add money to their child's catering account online, and scholars purchase food using fingerprint recognition at the till.

Lunchtime Arrangements

All scholars have lunch at the same time and queue by year group. The order of year groups changes each day to ensure fairness across the academy.

- Scholars purchasing a hot plated meal must eat it in the dining room.
- Scholars eating in the dining room are expected to remain seated while eating.
- Scholars purchasing non-plated food items may eat in the dining room or outside.
- Scholars bringing a packed lunch may choose to eat in the dining room or outside.

Breaktime Arrangements

All scholars have break at the same time. Scholars may join the food queue at any point during break and do not queue by year group.

Outdoor Facilities

The astro turf area is usually open during break and lunchtime, providing additional outdoor space for scholars. Availability is dependent on weather conditions and staffing levels.

Line Ups

To ensure a safe, calm and orderly return to lessons, all scholars take part in line ups at the end of breaktime and lunchtime.

At the designated time, scholars must line up promptly in their year group and tutor group.

This allows staff to account for all scholars, reinforce expectations and ensure a purposeful start to the next lesson.

Line ups are an important part of our daily routines and contribute to the high standards we maintain across the academy. All scholars are expected to participate in line ups every day and follow staff instructions respectfully and without delay.

KS3 Electives

From September 2026, all Key Stage 3 scholars will take part in our new Electives programme. Delivered during a double lesson once a fortnight, electives provide every scholar with the opportunity to explore new interests, develop skills and enjoy a rich breadth of opportunities beyond the classroom.

Aligned with our mission that every scholar learns with confidence, **thrives through a rich breadth of opportunities** and succeeds with outstanding outcomes, the programme encourages scholars to discover new talents, broaden their horizons and build character.

During the first few weeks of the academic year, scholars will learn about the available options before choosing an elective. Led by staff and supported by external partners where appropriate, electives span a wide range of areas including sport, the arts, STEM, culture, leadership and community engagement.



Curriculum & Assessment

To help scholars and families understand what will be taught and assessed throughout the year, every year group will receive a Curriculum and Assessment Guide in September. This guide will provide an overview of the knowledge and skills scholars will study in each subject, alongside key assessment information and assessment windows across the academic year.

It will also include details of our regular *Knowledge is Power* quizzes, which help scholars revisit and retain important learning over time. By providing clear information from the start of the year, we aim to support scholars in learning with confidence and achieving outstanding outcomes.

Safeguarding

Keeping our scholars safe is our highest priority.

At Astrea Academy Dearne, we are committed to working closely with families to ensure all scholars are safe, supported, and able to thrive.

Any safeguarding concerns shared with us are carefully managed by our dedicated Safeguarding Team and dealt with in line with the Astrea Academy Dearne Safeguarding Policy 2026-2027 and the latest Keeping Children Safe in Education 2026 guidance.

We encourage families to contact us if they have any concerns about the safety or wellbeing of a child, as early support can make a real difference.



MEET THE SAFEGUARDING TEAM

SEE SOMETHING? SAY SOMETHING!



Francesca Poppleton

Senior Leader for Attendance and
Safeguarding



Cesca Knight

Assistant Principal:
Attendance & Safeguarding



Anna Perkins

DDSL



Jess Woodcock

DSL



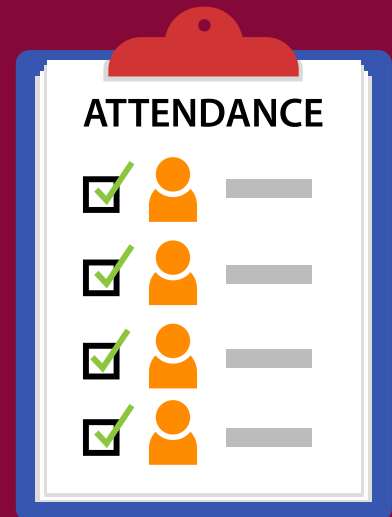
Colette Ellis

DDSL &
Family Support Worker

AAD-safeguardingteam@astreadearne.org

Attendance Matters

The single biggest factor in your child's success at school is attendance.



Simply put...the more scholars attend, the more they achieve!

We expect all scholars to attend every day and aim for **97%** attendance or above. Every lesson counts, and every day missed is learning that cannot be replaced.

Our expectation remains that scholars attend every day, and where barriers exist we will work with families to overcome them.

Our message is simple: ensure your child is at school whenever possible, and if something is getting in the way, talk to us. We will work with you to overcome barriers and support your child's attendance. Routine appointments should be made outside the school day.

Together, we can ensure every scholar has the best chance to learn, thrive, and succeed.

If your child is **unable to attend school**, it is important that you notify us **as early as possible** on the **first day** of absence.

Parents and carers should contact the school by **8:00am** by calling **01709 892211**, by **sending a message** through the **MCAS app** or by **emailing the Year Group**.

Please include: your child's full name, date of birth, tutor group and the reason for their absence.

Punctuality Matters



**Being on time is just as important
as being in school.**

Every minute counts!

THE GATE CLOSES AT 8:28am

Scholars should arrive by **8:15am** and must be through the gates before they close at **8:28am**.

Scholars who arrive late to school will receive an automatic breaktime detention.

Families can help by establishing strong morning routines, preparing the night before, and allowing plenty of time for the journey to school.

Getting to school on time every day is one of the simplest and most effective ways to support your child's success.

Behaviour Matters



We believe that excellent behaviour is the foundation of excellent learning.

We are committed to developing scholars of strong character who show respect and responsibility in everything they do.

Our expectation is simple: every scholar has the right to learn, and no scholar is entitled to disrupt the learning of others.

We will always protect disruption-free learning because every minute in the classroom matters.

We expect scholars to:

- Attend every lesson ready to learn.
- Follow staff instructions first time, every time.
- Treat others with respect and dignity.
- Take pride in their conduct, uniform, and the academy environment.
- Make positive choices, even when no one is watching.

These expectations apply everywhere: in lessons, on corridors, at social times, on educational visits, and when representing the academy in the community.

We believe that scholars thrive when expectations are clear and consistently applied. Positive behaviour is recognised and celebrated, while poor choices result in consequences. Where behaviour falls below our expectations, academy staff will work with scholars and families to help put things right and ensure every scholar can succeed.

Our aim is to create a calm, safe and purposeful academy where all scholars can learn without disruption, develop strong character, and achieve their full potential.

Success Matters



We believe that recognising and celebrating success is an important part of academy life. Praise helps to build confidence, encourage positive behaviour and inspire scholars to achieve their very best.

Scholars are recognised for excellent behaviour, effort, achievement, demonstrating our values and making a positive contribution to academy life. This may include verbal praise, positive points on ClassCharts and recognition of outstanding work.

Throughout the year, scholars also have opportunities to be celebrated through:

- Badges
- Hot Chocolate Friday
- Attendance and breakfast celebrations
- Celebration assemblies
- Praise phone calls and postcards
- End-of-term celebration events
- Zero Hero and Values badges
- Positive awards through ClassCharts

By celebrating success and recognising effort, we create a culture where every scholar feels valued, motivated and proud of their achievements.



Mobile Phones



Mobile phones and other smart devices may be brought to school but must be switched off and locked away in a phone pouch throughout the school day.

Astrea Academy Dearne is a mobile phone-free school. There are **no exceptions** to this policy unless agreed in advance by the Principal, with a specific storage plan in place.

What Happens Each Day?

Every scholar is issued with a phone pouch. This pouch must be brought to school every day and is considered part of the scholar's school equipment.

On arrival at school:

- Phones and smart devices must be switched off.
- Devices must be placed in the phone pouch and locked.
- The pouch must remain in the scholar's bag throughout the school day.

At the end of the school day:

- Pouches will be unlocked before scholars leave the site. (Orange box above)
- Scholars can then access and use their devices.

Lost or damaged pouches may incur a replacement charge.

Contact During the School Day

If you need to contact your child during the school day, please email the year group email address. Messages can be passed on where necessary.

Our mobile phone-free approach ensures scholars can learn in a calm, safe and distraction-free environment.

Uniform

Our uniform supplier is Vortex. You can access the Vortex website by clicking on the link below:

[Astrea Academy Dearne \(vortexschoolwear.co.uk\)](http://vortexschoolwear.co.uk)



On the following pages we have provided clear examples of what uniform is required, what will be provided by school, and what non-academy items are acceptable.

Please note that the Principal will make all final decisions on uniform, which items are deemed acceptable and in line with the expectations we have of scholars.

Scholars not complying with uniform expectations will be sanctioned until the uniform breach is rectified.

Uniform



Academy Black Blazer

Year 7 first blazer is free

Year 8 to 11, blazers are available from Vortex.

This is considered part of their uniform.



Academy Blue Tie

Year 7 first tie is free

Replacements £5 from Vortex.

This is considered part of their uniform.



Academy Bag

Year 7 first bag is free

Year 8 to 11, bags are available from Vortex.

This is considered part of their uniform.

Uniform



White Shirt

Long or short sleeved school shirt with stiff collar (not a polo shirt)

Can be bought at any good supermarket or department store

This is considered part of their uniform.



Plain black tailored trousers, tailored black shorts or academy knee length blue skirt

Can be bought at any good supermarket or department store

This is considered part of their uniform.



**OPTIONAL
Black V Neck Jumper**

Can be bought at any good supermarket or department store

Uniform



Hush Mobile Phone Pouch & Year Group Lanyard

All scholars must put their phone in the locked pouch each day and wear their allocated Year Group Lanyard.

This is considered part of their uniform.

Shoes - Accepted



Shoes - Not Accepted



- Religious headwear must be plain black with no embellishments.
- Belts must be black leather or leather-look with a plain buckle.
- Leggings worn under skirts are not permitted.
- Scholars may wear one pair of small stud earrings in the lower earlobes and a standard wristwatch. Smartwatches and all other jewellery are not permitted.
- Hair must be a natural colour and free from patterns, lines, or extensions.
- Makeup must not be visible.
- False eyelashes, eyelash extensions, false nails, and painted nails are not permitted.
- Headwear is only permitted for religious reasons.
- Facial piercings, including transparent retainers, are not permitted.

This list is not exhaustive. The Principal will make the final decision on the acceptability of any item.

Uniform - PE Kit



Academy Blue or Red PE Polo Top

Available to purchase from Vortex

This is considered part of their uniform.

PE Bottoms

- Black tracksuit bottoms
- Black sports leggings
- Knee Length shorts

Any sports trainers.

Optional ¼ Zip Jumper



Available to purchase from Vortex

Safety Information

- Long hair should be tied up
- Jewellery needs to be removed

Additional PE Items

- A black long sleeve t-shirt,
- A plain black hoodie or sweatshirt
- Or a ¼ zip jacket can be worn in addition to a PE top.

Equipment

All scholars should have the following equipment to prepare them in advance of the academic year ahead.

We will provide all scholars with each of the items listed below at the start of the academic year, free of charge.

- 1 x A4 zip folder to keep equipment in
 - 2 x black writing pens
 - 1 x green pen
 - 1 x blue pen
 - 1 x pencil
 - A ruler
 - A rubber
 - A mini whiteboard
 - A whiteboard pen and eraser
 - Knowledge Organiser folder
- Hush phone pouch
- Year Group Lanyard & Timetable
- Astrea Academy Dearne bag.

If scholars do not bring their equipment into school, this will be deemed as a breach of school expectations and policy and there will be a consequence for this.

Parents and scholars should be mindful of the appropriateness of the items that are brought into the academy.

Astrea Academy Dearne will not take responsibility for the loss or damage, however caused, to items of personal property.



Homework Matters



Homework matters. It reinforces learning, builds knowledge, and helps scholars achieve their full potential.

We expect all scholars to complete **every piece of homework, on time, every week.**

Parents and carers are expected to support this expectation by ensuring homework is completed every week. Please ensure your child completes their homework and meets deadlines. As support is available every day, all scholars are expected to complete homework on time.

Each year group will receive a Homework Guide in September outlining the specific requirements for that year.

Homework is set using Sparx, Seneca, and Carousel. All scholars receive login details and can access these platforms on a range of devices.

All homework must be completed by 8:00am on Friday.

Homework support is available every day at lunchtime and after school, with access to IT facilities and staff guidance. Every scholar has the opportunity to complete their work successfully.

Home and School Working Together

Homework completion is monitored closely and staff will follow up where work is missing. By working together and maintaining high expectations, we can help scholars develop the knowledge, habits, and self-discipline needed for success at school and beyond.

If your child requires login details for any platform, please contact your Year Team via email.

Session 6 for Year 11



Session 6 is a compulsory part of the Year 11 curriculum. Attendance is **compulsory**.

All Year 11 scholars are required to attend Session 6 every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3:00pm to 3:55pm, beginning on Monday 7th September and continuing until the end of the examination season.

Session 6 lessons appear on scholar timetables and carry the same status as any other lesson. These sessions provide vital teaching, revision, intervention, and examination preparation that will directly impact GCSE outcomes.

Parents and carers must ensure that transport arrangements, appointments, and other commitments do not prevent attendance.

Attendance is expected at every Session 6. Every session matters, and every scholar is expected to be there.

Day	Band A	Band B
Week A Monday	English	Maths
Week A Wednesday	Option A	Option A
Week A Thursday	Maths	Science
Week B Monday	Option B	Option B
Week B Wednesday	Science	English
Week B Thursday	Option C	Option C

Ready for the First Day!



Before your child starts the new academic year, please ensure they have the following ready:

- ✓ Full academy uniform, including correct footwear
- ✓ Academy bag (Y7 will be given these in September)
- ✓ A refillable water bottle
- ✓ MCAS downloaded and notifications enabled
- ✓ ClassCharts downloaded and notifications enabled
- ✓ Saved the correct Year Team email address
- ✓ You have discussed and enforced the academy's expectations around attendance, punctuality, behaviour, homework and mobile phones with your child
- ✓ Arrangements in place to arrive at school by 8:15am and through the gates before 8:28am

Our Top 5 Messages for Families

1

Attendance matters - every day counts.

2

Punctuality matters - the gates close at 8:28am.

3

Behaviour matters - every scholar has the right to learn and no scholar is entitled to disrupt the learning of others.

4

Homework matters - every piece, every week, on time.

5

Communication matters - use your child's Year Team email address whenever you need support.

Thank you for your support.

Together, we will ensure that every scholar learns with confidence, thrives through a rich breadth of opportunities, and succeeds with outstanding outcomes.



**ASTREA ACADEMY
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Astrea Academy Trust
INSPIRING BEYOND MEASURE