



# HIGHFIELD MIDDLE SCHOOL



# WELCOME

Welcome to Highfield Middle School. We are a proud school serving the equally proud community of Prudhoe in Northumberland. Our school has a very positive ethos where all individuals are respected and valued, regardless of age, background or beliefs. We are determined that all pupils will be given equal opportunities to thrive and succeed, and we will challenge and support them to overcome all potential barriers to learning. We aim to provide the highest standards of education and value academic excellence, pupil well-being and personal development in equal measure.

As Headteacher, I am a great supporter of middle schools and a 3-tier education system. I firmly believe that we provide a fantastic school where pupils can grow from children to young adults in a safe, supportive and encouraging environment. Our school takes the best of primary and secondary models, providing a caring and nurturing ethos alongside academic drive, specialist teaching and high-quality facilities. Our pupils are given a wealth of opportunities to develop into confident young people, through our school council, prefect system, buddy initiatives, peer mentor programme and equality and diversity team, to name just a few. We believe that we have an excellent pastoral system with very high expectations of our pupils in terms of behaviour and self-awareness.

Our pupils are confident, articulate and mature and are aware of how to keep themselves safe in modern Britain. E-safety and Anti-bullying have a high profile in our school, we are proud of our heritage and promote high moral standards and the core British Values throughout our rich and well-balanced curriculum. Our curriculum

strives for excellence in all subjects but we also place high value on providing stimulating, deep learning experiences which embed learning across the curriculum. STEM activities and Enterprise initiatives provide excellent opportunities for pupils to broaden horizons and raise aspirations. We also provide a wealth of extra-curricular activities and residential trips. All of these experiences help our pupils to develop into well rounded young citizens, who make a positive contribution to the wider community.

I hope you will find a wealth of information within these pages. Of course, if you wish to see our school for yourself or ask any questions, please call our school office and arrange to visit us. We are always happy to see you.

Best regards,

Mr Richard Oades - Headteacher  
Mr Colin Harwood - Chair of Governors  
Miss Caroline Gibbs - Deputy Headteacher

# ETHOS AND VALUES



*"We are determined that all pupils will be given equal opportunities to thrive and succeed and we will challenge and support them to overcome all barriers to learning."*





- 1 To educate our pupils in a way which will encourage them to be hardworking, to achieve, and to have a chance to be successful.
- 2 To encourage our pupils to be honest, trustworthy and responsible for their actions.
- 3 To strive to achieve good standards of literacy and numeracy in all our pupils.
- 4 To encourage a respect for learning, self-discipline, and sound personal management.
- 5 To try and give all our pupils a sense of belonging to a community with shared values and to have pride in themselves and their school.
- 6 To encourage our pupils to respect the needs and rights of others, and to be tolerant to different beliefs and points of view.
- 7 To give our pupils opportunities which help them to build self-esteem, self-confidence, striving to be more independent?
- 8 To prepare our pupils for life in the adult world by helping them to mature, to develop socially, to face the challenges of a competitive society, and to live a healthy lifestyle.
- 9 To provide a safe, healthy and stimulating environment where our pupils can feel secure, happy and valued as individuals.
- 10 To encourage co-operative ways of working which support the learning process and the caring ethos of the school.

## CURRICULUM

*Highfielders make good progress at school, feel safe and leave Year 8 with a wide range of skills that prepare them well for the next stage in their education."*

*Ofsted July 2018*

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum which provides a wealth of rich learning opportunities for our children.

The school curriculum is designed to cater for the developing interests and abilities of the pupils in Year 5 to 8 inclusive. Two key stages of the National Curriculum are covered at HMS and strong links exist between ourselves, our partnership first schools and the High School to ensure continuity and progression. Key Stage 2 is completed in Year 6 and pupils take National Tests in the Summer Term of that year (SATs).

All pupils have a common curriculum of: Maths, Science, English, Modern Foreign Languages (MFL), Technology, History, Music, Geography, Art, Physical Education, Religious Education, Computing and Citizenship. We sequence lessons so that topics in different subject areas are cohesive and cross-curricular links are embedded to make learning relevant and memorable. Pupils are taught by skilled subject specialist teachers throughout the school.

The majority of lessons are taught in mixed ability groups, but pupils are set by their ability for Maths and English (and Science in Key Stage 3). This enables us to provide targeted personalised learning to all pupils and maximise rates of progress.

### MATHS

Here at Highfield we firmly believe that everyone can achieve in mathematics. We teach a mastery approach in which all students are given the time to gain a deep understanding of the topics covered. Students are given the opportunities and support to develop their skills and confidence to become fluent mathematicians and are challenged to apply their knowledge to solve a variety of problems.

There is an emphasis on reasoning and pupils are encouraged to justify and explain their thinking while exploring and unlocking links across the different areas of mathematics. We aim to teach mathematics in a way which challenges, engages and motivates our pupils, inspiring them to enjoy mathematics and appreciate its importance and relevance in the real world.

We aim to provide a positive learning environment where pupils can challenge themselves and each other, to make mistakes and have the resilience to learn from them.

### ENGLISH

At Highfield Middle School, we are determined that every pupil is given the opportunity to become an enthusiastic, independent and reflective student of English. We recognise that English has a direct effect upon success in all other areas of the curriculum; is crucial in a child's overall development and success later in life. Therefore, the overarching aim is to promote high standards of language and literacy by equipping pupils with a strong command of the spoken and written language.

We recognise that encouraging a love of reading is vital in promoting a deep and rich understanding of the English language and literature. This ethos is promoted across the school - with time available for student and teacher led reading throughout the week. While we celebrate reading with regular events such as World Book Day, visiting authors and theatre visits. Pupils have daily access to a dedicated and well-resourced library on site, which is the heart of our independent reading programme.

We understand that not everyone finds learning English easy and sometimes pupils come to middle school with gaps in their ability to understand age-appropriate texts. To ensure our curriculum is fully inclusive, all pupils are exposed to core learning which is adapted to take account of their needs as learners. Furthermore, we use a phonics programme called Read Write Inc. Fresh Start, which rescues older readers aged 9 and above who are below expected standards in reading and writing.

When pupils leave Highfield, we are determined that they will be fully prepared for the next step in their education and success in their local community and the world beyond.



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**//** This is a great school that takes a holistic approach to teaching by encouraging social and artistic development as well as academic achievements.”

Ofsted July 2018

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR OPPORTUNITIES

We are very proud of our range of residential visits provided for all four year groups across the school year.

YEAR 5	YEAR 6	YEAR 7	YEAR 8
Kingswood Dearne Valley Outdoor activity Centre 3 days	Newby Wiske Adventure Centre 3 Days	Edinburgh Cultural visit including Edinburgh Castle, Edinburgh Zoo and much more 4 Days	London Cultural visit including sight-seeing, theatres, museums, drama, English and music 5 days

We also offer a 7 day Ski adventure to the French Alps in the spring term for our Key Stage 3 pupils

We recognise the social and emotional benefits from pupils attending these visits and we witness great developments in both pupils' self-confidence and in their independence.

### ENTERPRISE

Highfield Middle School is committed to raising aspirations and developing skills for life in the modern world. We teach children about money, and in particular, how to be an enterprising citizen.

Children take part in a variety of enterprise initiatives during their time at Highfield. For example, Year 5 children take part in the 'Make £5 grow' project alongside Virgin money, which teaches children about how to run a small business. The children are given £5 to invest in making or buying products that they then sell in a marketplace. We run stalls in the Grainger Market in Newcastle twice a year and this

gives the children a real insight into how small businesses are run, and how they can be successful in business. They learn key business skills such as working together, creativity and financial literacy.

### CLUBS AND ACTIVITIES

Here at Highfield we offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities for all year groups. We try to cater for as many pupil interests as possible and we are led by demand, evolving to meet the needs and interests of our pupils. Pupils may sign up for as many clubs as they wish. Chess, Lego, maths, rugby, computing, gaming, gardening ... the list is almost endless.

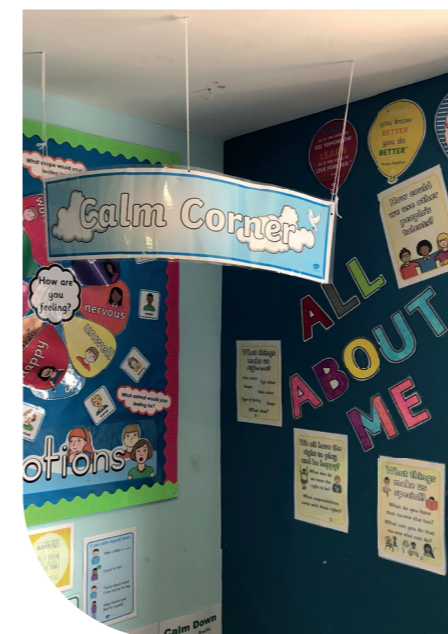
**//** Extra-curricular opportunities are strikingly strong at Highfield.”

Ofsted July 2018

## PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT

**//** Pupil's welfare is at the heart of school life.”

Ofsted July 2018



### LEARNING MENTORS

The Arc provides a quiet space for those that need it - and a base for our Learning Mentors, who provide support for pupils in weekly 1-to-1 or small group sessions. They help our young people to overcome barriers to learning and support them through personal and emotional challenges.

### PEER MENTORS

The Peer Mentoring Programme aims to provide support for all of our students - individually and as a group, to help them settle in, make progress and to achieve their full potential within Highfield Middle School.

Mentors provide individual and group support. They are selected and given training to ensure that they have the skills necessary to support young people who might be daunted by some of the obstacles they face during their transition from First to Middle school.

The Peer Mentoring Programme encourages our Year 8 pupils to play a responsible role in the school community and ensures that new students are secure in the knowledge that there are always older pupils available and willing to help them.

### E-Stars

Our E-Stars are a team of Year 8 pupils who wish to make a difference - focusing on all aspects of Equality and Diversity.

The team was created to promote an environment of mutual respect, tolerance and a greater understanding of individual beliefs and life choices, they do this fantastically well. We are very proud of them, and of the influence they have on our school community.

Our school has been recognised nationally for the excellent work we do around Equality and Diversity and the climate we have created.

### SCHOOL COUNCIL

Highfield School Council work to ensure that Highfield is a happy place where everybody's views are considered and decisions are made in the best interest of pupils at all times. They listen to the views of their class members and share these ideas with senior staff.

The School Council gives pupils a voice and allows them to have an opinion which is heard and considered. In recent times they have influenced change to school policy around recycling and have designed our outdoor learning area.





# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

We pride ourselves in being an inclusive school that supports all pupils and helps them to achieve. Regardless of the barriers and difficulties a young person might face, we will make every effort to provide a curriculum and facilities which enables all pupils to succeed.

The key to supporting pupils with additional needs is communication. When we work together in partnership it always leads to positive outcomes for children. We employ a dedicated team of skilled teaching assistants and offer Intervention sessions on a one to one or small group basis. We can provide support for a wide range of needs, including Literacy, Numeracy, physical needs or emotional/social matters.

Our school SENDCO works closely with pupils and families to ensure we include all pupils in every aspect of school life.

# SPECIAL SPACES

We have a wide range of specialist facilities at HMS. These include a well-equipped, spacious library - found alongside our modern IT suite in our fantastic 'Pod' building. We also have 2 specialist science labs, enabling a wealth of wonderful scientific experiments and discoveries.

The Bungalow is a multi-functional facility, providing an alternative learning environment for those that need it. If a child needs a quieter place at break and lunchtimes, a kitchen to learn life-skills and cook for their parents, a group space for one of our resilience workshops or a cosy corner, just to feel calm - it all happens in the bungalow!

Our outdoor learning area has been developed over recent years, incorporating an outdoor classroom, pond dipping area, fire circle, arbours, wildlife habitats and bug houses. We love this space, it adds a new dimension to our curriculum provision and brings advantages in terms of both academic progress and wellbeing.

# ENRICHMENT

Highfield Middle School celebrates the talents of all our pupils in all aspects of school life.

We really value the arts and recognise the impact that art, music and drama can have on young people. We produce a show of epic proportions each year and pupils from across all year groups are encouraged to take part, either on stage or behind the scenes as part of the production team. Past shows include: Aladdin, Beauty and the Beast, The Lion King and Mary Poppins.

Sport at Highfield is widely appreciated and well celebrated. We have fantastic teams in all areas: Rugby, Football and Netball to name a few. We regularly enjoy success on the sports field, having won several regional competitions in recent years. We are extremely proud of our Sports Leader programme, which encourages our young people to develop leadership skills and take a greater role in the physical education of their peers by working closely with our PE staff.

STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) are actively promoted as we provide learning and career opportunities. Each year, during STEM week, all Highfield pupils engage in hands on activities designed to develop curiosity, ingenuity, resourcefulness, problem solving and life skills. Pupils work with peers from other year groups on exciting activities, both on and off the school site. Recent examples have included crime scene forensics, racing car maintenance and bridge building.

We actively seek out and welcome professionals from outside school on a regular basis. We have enjoyed visits from a variety of sources - including authors, musicians, sports advocates, politicians, community leaders and religious ambassadors - some of whom are ex-pupils, making fantastic role models and inspiring the next generation.





# REWARDS

We have high behavioural expectations of our pupils and demand hard work, respect, courtesy and maturity at all times. To promote and encourage this in a positive way, we run a healthy, competitive school house system for all year groups.

Pupils are placed in one of four houses: Rede, Kielder, Allen or Derwent. They can earn 'Highfield Points' for Effort, Achievement, Contribution, Respect and Readiness to learn. Other competitions and incentives, such as Sports Day, also provide opportunities to contribute points to your house.

Points can be exchanged in our prize shop for a variety of rewards, ranging from stationery to fun experiences, such as a campfire marshmallow roast. Parents and carers can track their child's reward points on the MCAS parent app, we also send home Praise Postcards to recognise excellent work and attitudes.

The overall winning house receives the prestigious end of year trophy and has their house listed in the 'Hall of Fame'.



# UNIFORM CHECKLIST

We have a colourful, comfortable and affordable uniform comprising:

- School sweatshirt: Royal Blue with school badge
- School polo shirt: Gold with school badge
- Trousers: Black school trousers
- Skirt: Black pleated school skirt (just above knee length).
- Shorts: Black tailored school shorts - only permitted in the summer term and the first half of autumn term (April - October)
- Socks: Plain black only (calf or knee length)
- Tights: Plain black only
- Shoes: Black school shoes (not trainers)

PE and Games Kit:

- PE shirt: Royal blue and gold with school badge
- PE shorts: Royal blue and gold, royal blue, navy or black
- Football Socks: Royal blue with gold tops or plain royal blue
- PE hoodie: Royal blue with school badge or plain royal blue, navy or black
- Tracksuit bottoms/leggings: Plain navy or black
- Trainers: Sports trainers with laces

Trainers are essential, Football boots and shin pads recommended. Gum shield required for some activities – available in school at a discounted price. All kit items should be clearly labelled and kept in a bag specifically for PE kit, separate from other personal and school items.

You can purchase many uniform items from high street stores. Badged items are ordered directly from:

SALTO, 3D Princess Court, Low Prudhoe, NE42 6PL [www.saltouk.com](http://www.saltouk.com)

Alternatively, we are happy to provide preloved uniform at little or no cost, just contact the school for more information.



For your child's safety - Jewellery, including earrings, and make-up are not permitted in school





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