




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, and we have been commended on our work in this area through our Anti-Bullying accreditation and the prestigious 'Diana Award'. 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. Our link to Rokana Primary School in Zambia, 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
Mrs Pam Bell - Chair of Governors

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."



AIMS



- 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.



Highfield Middle School, Highfield Lane, Prudhoe, Northumberland, NE42 6EY

☎ 01661 833922

✉ admin@highfield.northumberland.sch.uk

💻 www.highfield.northumberland.sch.uk

📘 www.facebook.com/Highfield-Middle-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

Reading is at the heart of the English curriculum at Highfield. Our curriculum offers many opportunities for children to develop their English skills through reading and discussing a range of, appropriately challenging, stories, poems and non-fiction. We recognise that encouraging a love of reading is vital and this is promoted across the school – with time available for student independent reading throughout the week. While we celebrate reading with regular events such as World Book Day, visiting authors and theatre visits.

Our library has been recently refurbished as part of our whole school initiative called Accelerated Reader, which is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice while promoting reading for pleasure.

We recognise that not everyone finds reading easy and sometimes pupils come to middle school with gaps in their ability to understand age appropriate texts. Therefore 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.

We aim to enable all children to become enthusiastic, independent and reflective readers in preparation for high school and beyond.





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
Dearne Valley Outdoor Education Centre 3 days	Ford Castle Team building and activities 3 days	Deneholme Team building and activities 3 days	London Cultural visit including sight-seeing, theatres, museums, drama, English and music 4 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 form 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.

EXTRA CURRICULAR 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

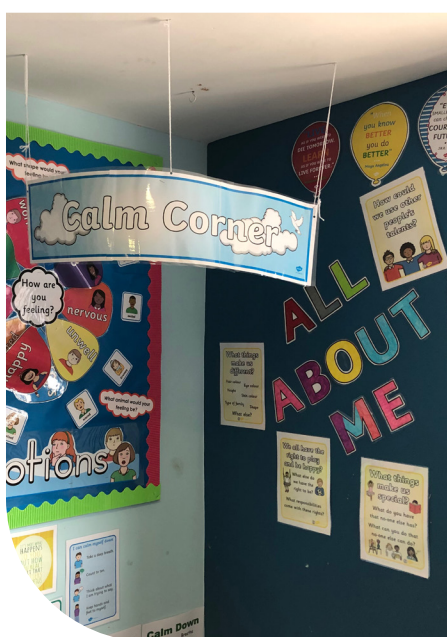


PASTORAL CARE AND SUPPORT



Pupil's welfare is at the heart of school life."

Ofsted July 2018



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.

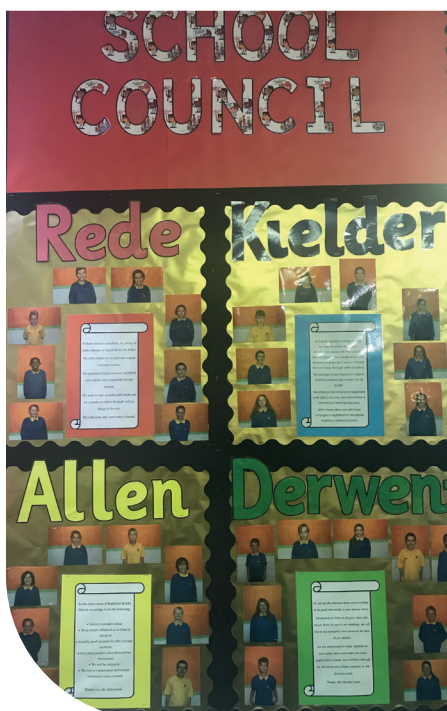
The team was created to promote an environment of mutual respect, tolerance and a greater understanding of individual beliefs and life choices, they do this fantastically well. We are very proud of them, and of the influence they have on our school community.

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 offer Intervention sessions on a one to one or small group basis and this can range from Literacy, Numeracy or support required for emotional/social matters.

There is a SENDCo for each Key Stage at Highfield Middle School and we aim to include all pupils in every aspect of school life.

FACILITIES

We have a wide range of specialist facilities at HMS. These include a well equipped, modern 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.

We have recently developed 'The Arc' which provides a quiet space for those that need it, and space for Intervention and small group work.

'The Butterfly Room' is a great space, where our Learning Mentors support pupils in weekly 1-to-1 sessions. They help our young people to overcome barriers to learning and support them through personal and emotional challenges.

We have developed our outdoor learning area over the last 2 years, incorporating an outdoor classroom, pond dipping area, fire circle, arbours and wildlife habitats and bug houses. We love this new space, it adds a new dimension to our curriculum provision and brings advantages in terms of 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. We participate in the annual Carol Concert to raise money for Clic Sargent Cancer Charity. These concerts are performed in the prestigious City Hall, Newcastle during the Winter Term.

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 (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) are actively promoted as we provide learning and career opportunities in STEM subjects. 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.

Our International Partnership with Rokana Primary School and Paradise School in Zambia has been established since 2011. The partnership has a vibrant history in both schools, with enriched learning experiences for pupils, centred around global citizenship and staff participating in reciprocal visits. For staff and pupils, teaching and learning has been developed in the form of joint projects between the two schools, using the same planning and resources to deliver input on various themes and topics, including conservation, recycling and sustainability.



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 house points for good behaviour, participation, kindness, effort and excellent work throughout the year.

Other competitions and incentives, such as Sports Day, also provide opportunities to contribute points to your house. Pupils monitor and manage the house points system. The 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 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 shorts: Royal blue and gold
- PE shirt: Royal blue and gold with school badge
- Socks: Royal blue/gold tops
- PE sweatshirt: Royal blue hoodie with school badge
- Trainers: Sports trainers with laces
- Football boots: No metal studs

Shin pads and gum shield required for some activities. All kit items should be clearly labelled and kept in a bag specifically for PE kit, separate from other personal and school items.

Optional extras (recommended in cold weather)

Plain black or navy track pants, plain black or navy jumper, warm hat and gloves, spare bag for muddy kit.

You can purchase uniform directly from:

SALTO, 3D Princess Court, Low Prudhoe, NE42 6PL

Or you can benefit from the local preloved uniform bank at:

Miners Lamp Cafe and Community Hub, Eastwoods Park, Eastwoods Road, Prudhoe.

For your child's safety jewellery, including earrings, and make-up are not allowed in school.



Highfield Middle School, Highfield Lane, Prudhoe, Northumberland, NE42 6EY

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