



School Prospectus





Welcome to White Spire School



Welcome to White Spire School. We are very proud of our school and all the staff and pupils connected with it. We like to think of ourselves as 'The White Spire Family' where we care for and support each other. Students are always encouraged to be the best that they can be by unlocking their full potential to be successful, happy and valued members of society.



At White Spire School we feel it is important to prepare our students for their next stage of education and life, and to help them to be as independent as possible in whichever role they choose for themselves as individuals.

Finlay Douglas Head Teacher

White Spire School plays a vital role in the development of the young people in its care, and this is embodied in the school motto "Through Learning to Independence". The Governing Body believes that the continued success of the school is due to the expertise and commitment of a loyal and dedicated staff, both teaching and non-teaching. The school recognises the role it has to play in the local community, relying on the involvement of Governors, Staff, Parents and the broader support of external partners, to ensure the highest standards are maintained. The Whole Governing Body is committed to playing a key role in helping and supporting the school to achieve its aims - to provide a safe, caring school community and to ensure the best learning environment for all its pupils.



Neil Griffiths Chair of Governors



The whole school curriculum

All the students follow the National Curriculum which is modified and differentiated to meet their needs. The school mission statement is 'Through Learning to Independence' and developing independence for the next stage of their life is a key focus of the curriculum. Whether it is changing for P.E. to remembering personal equipment to going on work experience, each stage of their learning prepares them for the next.

A large part of the learning is also done through practical activities including frequent trips and events. Throughout the year there are regular curriculum days when the whole school will focus on a particular theme. Recent themes have included British Values, keeping safe and healthy living. The school also uses a range of outside agencies to work with students including Terrence Higgins Trust, Compass and M & M Productions.

White Spire
School was rated
"Outstanding"

Ofsted January 2019



School organisation

Primary:

- Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and lower Key Stage 2.

Upper Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3:

- Transition groups of Years 6 and 7, and Years 8 and 9.

Key Stage 4:

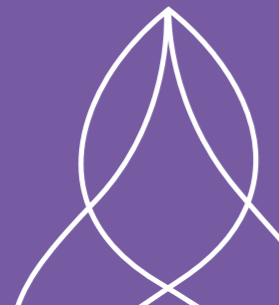
- Pupils from Years 10 and 11.

Key stage 5:

- Sixth Form - Years 12, 13 and 14.



Welcome to Primary



Welcome to Upper Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

Our aim in the first years of our curriculum is to make our learners comfortable and confident in their classes. There is a strong focus on developing communication and social skills so all pupils can engage with the learning environment and wider world.

Foundation Stage

In our Early Years Class we develop communication and personal skills through engaging and motivating opportunities for play and exploration. We follow the seven areas of learning of the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum - Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development, Literacy, Maths, Understanding the World and Expressive Arts and Design. Our experiential play and learning is developed around a weekly key shared text. Our curriculum allows our early learners

to revisit and build on prior learning every day across the areas of learning, with a key focus on Communication and Language (including sound awareness and early phonics), Personal, Social and Emotional Development and Physical Development.

Key Stage 1 and 2

In Key Stage 1 and 2 our learners begin to develop more formal learning skills, alongside continued opportunities to experience the curriculum and develop their learning through play and practical experience. Our learners are introduced to the National Curriculum subjects (English, Maths, PSHCE, Computing, History, Geography, PE, RE, Performing Arts, Food Technology, Art and Design. Cross-curricular links are made for Design and Technology where possible. The knowledge and skills taught are adapted to our learners' individual needs, including the formal phonics programme Read, Write, Inc.

In Upper Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, the classes are based on their stages of learning and not necessarily age related expectations. This allows our pupils to reach their milestones and full potential at their pace of learning whether they may be small or large steps.

All compulsory subjects of The National Curriculum are taught including continued focus on synthetic phonics to develop reading and writing. Our dedicated Life Skills and Food Technology lessons remain an integral part of the curriculum. Where appropriate, the curriculum is modified and adapted to ensure the learning is accessible to all pupils and the outcomes are personalised for individual progression. Pupils' communication and interaction needs lie at the heart of our curriculum. In addition, our school takes pride

in placing emphasis on lifelong learning and ensures our curriculum is flexible with a range of activities to help our pupils to develop and progress socially, emotionally and physically.

In Year 8 and 9, we aim to provide personalised quality careers education through focused themed careers' weeks. This helps pupils to think about their future and enhance their understanding of the world of work, careers available to them and explore possible pathways and opportunities of achieving their aspirations and contribute to the wider society.





Welcome to Key Stage 4



Key Stage 4 pupils continue following a modified curriculum and are split into three classes. These classes are based with a class tutor and grouped according to ability. Some lessons such as cooking, PE and science are delivered by specialist staff.

Within Key Stage 4, pupils also have the opportunity to select options and set projects. These are designed to develop skills and knowledge in independent and vocational learning. Externally accredited courses are also followed in line with set option choices.



Welcome to Key Stage 5



Key Stage 5 pupils are split into three classes. They have most of their lessons in these groups but also have subject specialist staff for cooking and PE.

As well as further developing their literacy, numeracy skills and knowledge, they also develop their independence in preparation for adult life.

Project work which incorporates enterprise features as a part of the curriculum thus encouraging teamwork and problem solving skills. As part of Sixth Form they have the use of the common room with a pool table, tea and coffee making facilities and no longer need to wear school uniform.

Their curriculum also includes the expectation to undertake work experience and work related activities which can include internships in Year 14.

“The school’s work to keep pupils safe is outstanding”

Ofsted 2019

“Teachers have high expectations of pupils”

Ofsted 2019





The White Spire School Council

The Student Council is a central part of our school. It is run by elected representatives from each class. The council meet twelve times a year to discuss ideas and initiatives to improve every aspect of school life. The ideas and opinions of each and every one of our students is important and, via their representatives, their voices are heard.

Our achievements are plentiful and varied. Through the Student Council we have recently organised fun charity events, raising over £1500.00 for our chosen charities. We have contributed to the development of the student lunches and identified which personal 'Character Strengths' should be a weekly focus across the school.

The White Spire School Council supports our students to be responsible, proactive young people and develop a real-life understanding of democracy and equality.



"The social and personal development of pupils is exceptional."

Ofsted 2019



White Spire School Meals



Sample Menu

Monday

Meal Option One

Roast Chicken
Roast Potatoes
Vegetables

Desert Option One

Flapjack

Meal Option Two

Jacket Potato
Tuna, Mayo and Cheese
Salad and Coleslaw

Desert Option Two

Yogurt

Meal Option Three

Sandwiches
Tuna, Ham or Cheese
Salad

Desert Option Three

Fruit



What the parent's say...



"We are grateful for all the help and support school and staff have been giving my child. I can see a lot of difference in his personality. Kindly accept our wholehearted gratitude and thanks."

"White Spire School was the best decision for my daughter. The school has been very supportive and we are happy."

"I feel that every teacher is teaching with all their heart for our son."

"My son loves coming to school. He is in a smaller class in which his needs can be met and his work is improving. The staff are lovely people and listen and help me as a parent."

"Since my child has moved to White Spire School he has progressed amazingly. Keep up the good work!"

"Excellent school that really looks after the pupils and their wellbeing and education."

"Since being at White Spire our son has thrived both socially and educationally."

"Our son has made amazing progress since joining and it shows at home how happy, confident and a new sense of independence he has. As a family we couldn't be happier with the school and for our son as an individual is always so happy and eager to attend."

We are rated Outstanding



Summary of key findings from Ofsted January 2019



"This is an outstanding school. Leaders and governors are uncompromising in their drive to deliver the very best education for all pupils."

"The social and personal development of pupils is exceptional. Pupils are very well cared for."

"Lessons are planned meticulously to ensure that pupils have exactly the right levels of work."

"Relationships between staff and pupils are excellent. Behaviour across the school is exemplary."

"Teaching, learning and assessment is outstanding."

"Post-16 students make excellent progress. They receive first rate careers advice and guidance."



Through Learning to *Independence*

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