



WHITE
SPIRE
SCHOOL

School Prospectus







Welcome to White Spire School

Welcome to White Spire School. We are a proud school with strong family values where all pupils and their needs matter. Pupils, staff, and the wider community all support the school and its values. Pupils are always encouraged and supported to do their absolute best whilst being as independent as possible. This is individualised for each pupil thus supporting all in being a successful and happy member of the school and wider community in childhood to adulthood.

We as a school feel that it is important that all are happy and safe and that we prepare our pupils for everyday life, giving them the skills needed to take the next steps in whichever pathway they choose.

Michelle Bantle Headteacher



At White Spire School we take very seriously the important role the school plays in the development of all the young people in our care. We believe we should both champion and challenge them to achieve their absolute best in everything offered to them during their time here.

The governing body are extremely proud of the expertise, dedication, commitment and support offered by the whole staff team to the young people at White Spire School. The whole team contribute to creating a safe, caring, school community that provides the best learning environment for all its pupils. The governing body supports the school's active involvement in numerous community activities and the involvement of governors, staff, parents and external partners in ensuring the highest standards are maintained.

Through learning to independence - we believe that every young person will have the best chance to succeed here at White Spire School.

Shanie Jamieson 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 focuses 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 July 2024



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



Our aim in the first years of our curriculum is to make our pupils 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 pupils begin to develop more formal learning skills, alongside continued opportunities to experience the curriculum and develop their learning through play and practical experience. Our pupils 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 pupils' individual needs, including the formal phonics programme Read, Write, Inc.



Welcome to Upper Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3

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.



“Their growing
ability to read
unlocks a whole
new world”

Ofsted 2024



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.

“Pupils are
flourishing at
this school”

Ofsted 2024



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 school
is a motivating,
inclusive
environment”

Ofsted 2024





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."

"All through primary school our son was well loved but did not have a single person he could call a friend, and now he has a whole school full of them."

"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."

"The staff engagement with children is so personal that the children feel it."

"The friendliest staff and the most welcoming, caring and understanding setting I have ever encountered."

We are rated Outstanding



Summary of key findings from Ofsted September 2024



"White Spire School continues to be an outstanding school."

"Relationships between staff and pupils are highly positive. This helps pupils to feel safe and very well supported. Pupils are respectful and kind to others."

"There is high ambition for every pupil. Staff instil pupils with confidence, aspiration and a belief that they can succeed."

"Pupils are full of pride about their achievements. They are also immensely proud to be part of the 'White Spire Family.'"

"The impact of this school on many pupils' lives has been transformational. Pupils attend well because they want to be here and feel that they belong."

"Staff are knowledgeable and highly skilled. They adapt their approach and means of communication to cater for pupils' needs."



Through Learning to *Independence*

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