



Meadowdale
Academy



"We are dedicated to ensuring that every child experiences excellence every day."

Welcome to Meadowdale Academy

Welcome to Meadowdale Academy a place where we believe in doing things a bit differently and where we see our school as 'more than a primary'.

Our main goal is simple: to provide exciting, engaging, and challenging learning experiences for all our students. We're dedicated to offering a rich and varied curriculum that balances academic growth with personal development. It's important to us that our students make great progress, both in their studies and as young individuals.

We're big believers in the power of active learning and one of the best aspects of Meadowdale is our amazing outdoor space where students are outside every day, exploring and learning in the fresh air – no matter the weather - a pair of wellies and a coat are all they need to turn any day into an adventure.

Our learning environment is calm and welcoming and is a place where everyone, staff and students alike, feels valued and part of our tight-knit community.

Our motto is 'Together we can', and we really mean it. We take pride in making sure that every child feels cared for and that their concerns are addressed.

So, welcome to Meadowdale Academy. We're more than just a primary school – we're a family and we can't wait to show you everything that makes our school a special place to learn and grow.

Lindsay Coates

Lindsay Coates, Headteacher



Early years – a time to blossom

The early years of a child's education are crucial for their life chances. That is why children at Meadowdale Academy are given a safe and happy foundation to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

We offer a broad and balanced Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum that promotes children's emotional, social, physical and intellectual needs.

We believe that children learn best through playing and exploring, being active, and through creative and critical thinking which takes place both indoors and outside.

We have created an inviting and stimulating learning environment where children's interests and learning are built upon through play-based learning.


Both our indoor and outdoor learning environments are high quality and well

considered. They are informed by how young children play and learn and what they like and need. This underpins the development of qualities which empower children with the sense that they can progress and achieve.

Building self-confidence, independence, self-esteem and eagerness to learn are at the core of our early years offer and we work in partnership with you as parents and carers to build strong relationships that support learning.

Our EYFS approach allows children to take ownership of their play, find answers on their own and become leaders in their own unique learning adventures.





"Leaders have designed a curriculum that is
ambitious for all pupils.
From Nursery to Year 6, leaders have ensured that pupils' knowledge builds over time. This means that pupils, including children in the early years, are well prepared for future."

– Ofsted

Teaching & learning

Excellent teaching and learning helps children to lead happy and rewarding lives and is an investment for future communities. At Meadowdale Academy we believe that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience... and it should be fun!

Through our teaching we aim to equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their current lives. We also enable them to be 'active citizens' (people who feel inspired, motivated and empowered to make a difference) now and in the future.

At Meadowdale Academy we follow the National Curriculum where our dedicated team have worked incredibly hard planning progressive learning for every year group in every subject.

We work alongside other primary schools in the North East Learning Trust to develop and share the best teaching and learning techniques, underpinned by the latest evidence-based research about what makes the biggest impact on children's learning.

Play-based learning is important to us and we believe very strongly in allowing children to direct their own learning. Staff play alongside the children, observing, modelling and stepping into their play to provide challenge and constant learning opportunities.



Our Vision & values

At Meadowdale Academy we have a simple shared vision with all schools in the North East Learning Trust - that every child experiences excellence every day.


We work hard to ensure that every learning journey is memorable and happy, and that each individual's potential is recognised and nurtured.

As a school we aim to develop:

- Enthusiastic and successful learners
- A curriculum that will inspire and challenge all learners
- Responsible, active citizens of current and future communities
- A learning environment that is safe, stimulating and that fully supports learning

We believe effective teaching and learning is:

Life skills for a life-long learning journey
Engaging and ambitious
Active and interactive
Relevant and meaningful
Nurtures everyone's individual potential
Inspiring
Neighbourhood and community-centred
Generates challenge, equality & opportunity



"We are super proud of our daughter and that's down to the dedicated teaching staff. She has been truly inspired and feels valued and well supported in school."

– Year 6 parent



Extra support & SEND

Making learning inclusive and enjoyable for each individual pupil is a way of life here where we understand that some pupils may need extra support to make the best possible progress in school.

Our staff have the skills, energy and commitment to give every child the best learning experiences and make sure that parents are fully informed and connected to their child's learning.

Our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) supports small targeted groups of pupils who work with our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. These sessions are designed to build confidence, develop social and emotional skills and raise attainment through a variety of activities targeted at the individuals involved.

Our school environment is fully inclusive having been altered to accommodate pupils with physical disabilities. We also continually strive to make

further improvements wherever possible. Outside agencies and professionals are also used where necessary to enable students to make the best possible progress.

For children who need additional help in the classroom and around school, we have a fantastic team of learning support assistants who go above and beyond to make them feel more comfortable in their learning environment and support them so that they continue to make progress.

In addition to this our Attendance Officers, SENDCo and Play Therapist work with families to improve attendance as well as with individuals and nurture groups to build a positive outlook to school.

Through regular monitoring, our able and talented students are identified and provided with extra opportunities to 'shine', whether it is through additional visits, master classes, leadership experience or peer mentoring in the class room.

NACE Award

At Meadowdale Academy there are no limits on learning. We believe that our purpose is to work together to provide high quality education that develops all children to their full potential.

We are a NACE (National Association for More Able Children in Education) member school and are currently working towards achieving the NACE Award to demonstrate our commitment to this.

" Pupils with SEND are well supported. Staff use a range of resources to meet the needs of individual pupils."

- Ofsted



Wraparound care and activities

Here at Meadowdale Academy we offer flexible, affordable and fun care before and after school to support working parents manage their childcare arrangements.

Wraparound care is delivered by qualified staff for pupils in reception to Year 6 in a safe and stimulating indoor and outdoor environment, where children can enjoy their out of school time.

Both before and after school, children are offered healthy, nutritious snacks that meet the government's Healthy School Standards - a monthly menu can be requested from the Academy office and is displayed on our Facebook page.

A variety of fun and stimulating activities are available every day with children placed into age appropriate groups.

Children are encouraged to spend plenty of time outside in the fresh air whenever possible. They can also complete their homework or read their book in a calm, relaxing environment.

Our Breakfast Club runs from 7.30am to 8.45am and After School Club is from 3.10pm through to 5.00pm.

"The *school dinners* at Meadowdale Academy are absolutely spectacular! My favourite meal is the bolognise and garlic bread with *cake and custard for pudding!*"

– Year 5 pupil



Facilities, extra-curricular activities & trips

Exploring their talents and trying new things is an important part of childhood. With excellent facilities and staff who are enthusiastic about helping children discover their own passions, Meadowdale Academy is the perfect place for children to spread their wings beyond the classroom.

Children here are lucky to have extensive school grounds to enjoy including: football pitches, two forest school sites and two designated playing areas. Inside we have specially equipped areas for computing, technology, art, science, music and PE. We even have our own school radio station capable of broadcasting to every classroom!

There are a variety of clubs on offer both after school and during the school day including, to name a few: Storytelling Club, French,

drama, choir, mini-band, football, netball and wellbeing walks. We also welcome outside guests into school to teach basketball and family fitness.

We love getting out and about to bring the topics children are learning about to life with an exciting range of trips. We have previously visited Jarrow Hall while studying the Anglo Saxons and Holy Island to support our work on the Vikings. Residential visits have seen children venture further afield including to the

Robinwood Activity Centre in Alston, Dukeshouse Wood in Hexham and Ford Castle in Northumberland. These have offered pupils the exciting opportunity to learn new skills in the great outdoors with activities ranging from archery to climbing.

We also use the Commando Joe's programme which teaches children about British values and the core character traits of resilience, enthusiasm, self-awareness, positivity, excellence, communication and teamwork.

"The school provides lots of opportunities for pupils to *learn to be respectful and responsible citizens. They are proud of their roles as mini police and wellbeing champions.*"

– Ofsted





What our parents say...

We received an amazing, detailed report which shows that teachers really take care to understand each child individually. Our son's progress is apparent and his love of Meadowdale Academy, the teachers and the learning shows.

– Year 5 parent

A big thank you for all your support. Team Meadowdale are a fantastic committed team!

– Year 6 parent

A big thank you to all the staff who teach my son and continue to challenge him every day. Wonderful teachers, fantastic school.

– Year 6 parent

My child makes positive comments about his subjects and is enthusiastic about school and enjoys participating. I am sure with your guidance and efforts he will continue to grow.

– Year 5 parent

Great to see my child is making good progress in lessons. We are super proud parents and would like to thank all of the teachers and staff at Meadowdale for their hard work and commitment.

– Year 6 parent

Our son does lots of creative activities where he gets to learn about different things in an exciting way.

– Year 6 parent

Thank you to the staff for the time and effort put in at school. The comments on my child's work are extremely encouraging! THANK YOU!

– Year 6 parent

Thank you so much for everything you have done to help my daughter while she has been at your school. Thank you for ALL your hard work.

—Year 5 parent



Introducing Forest School

**If you go down to the woods today you're sure of a big surprise...
by discovering our inquisitive youngsters foraging, building and
creating their own outdoor adventures in our Forest School!**

Learning within nature enriches children's lives and enhances their education. After all, what better way to learn about the world around you than by grabbing hold of it with two (muddy) hands!

We aim for as many children as possible to join Forest School across our two distinctly different sites. Our top site, which is open and sheltered by the tree canopy, offers a variety of different spaces to explore. In contrast, our second site is more of a wild space that children can freely explore.

Our Forest School is child-led, with no predetermined criteria with which to measure them against. This means all children can participate equally, gaining a

sense of achievement and boosting their self-esteem - a truly holistic approach to child development.

Forest School is proven to support the development of many life skills and personal qualities including: resilience, team work, responsibility, communication, self-confidence, concentration, strength and coordination, the ability to understand and evaluate risk, using initiative, building positive relationships, positive physical and mental wellbeing and fostering creativity.

Above all else however, you can tell by the smiles on their faces that Forest School is fun!

**"Young people develop most when they are
learning by doing.
when they are given responsibility,
work in teams, take acceptable risks
*and think for themselves."***

– Forest School Association



Partnered with North East Learning Trust

Meadowdale Academy is part of the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of 12 schools across the North East.

NELT has a proven track record of school improvement with all schools under their wing having sustained or improved their Ofsted gradings at their first inspection following sponsorship.

NELT is widely regarded as providing some of the best education in the county, and indeed the country, with children making significant progress from their starting points, achieving impressive exam results, and going on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities including courses at some of the UK's most elite universities.

The Trust is also heavily involved with teacher development. It boasts its very own teacher training arm, North East SCITT, that trains the next generation of teachers and ensures the highest standards of teaching are instilled from the outset. It is a National Teaching School Hub,

one of 87 centres of excellence across England that provide high quality training and development to teachers throughout their careers. Not only that, but the Trust's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is a National Research School, one of just 23 in England, that up-skill teachers using cutting-edge research.

Joining the Trust has given Meadowdale Academy access to outstanding leaders who are involved in the regional and national development of education. The Trust CEO, Lesley Powell CBE, is a member of many regional and national education boards and advisory groups. The CEO and Deputy CEOs are National Leaders of Education and the Trust also employs a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools on their paths to becoming outstanding.



A final word from our Chair of Governors...

On behalf of the governors, staff and pupils I'd like to thank you for considering our school and reading our prospectus. I believe it will give you a flavour of the exciting, supportive and friendly environment that Meadowdale Academy is.

Here at Meadowdale Academy we are committed to an ethos that puts your son or daughter at the centre of everything we do. We want them to give their best academically and to develop their potential in a stimulating and creative learning environment.

As you explore our school, you'll find a welcoming place where we celebrate achievement and discovery. It's a safe and secure environment where children grow

by trying new things and participating in lots of fun and exciting activities.

We are fortunate at Meadowdale Academy to have a dedicated team of staff, working together with pupils and governors, to take the school forward. I hope that your child will join us in this endeavour.

Mr D Alcraft
Chair of Governors

How to apply...

If you would like your child to attend Meadowdale Academy you will need to complete an online application form by visiting: **www.northumberland.gov.uk**

If you do not have access to the internet, you can complete an application by contacting Northumberland County Council on **0345 600 6400**

Applications for Sept 2026 admissions open autumn 2024 and close Jan 2025.



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Learning Trust**