



SACRISTON  
**ACADEMY**

**Prospectus**



# WELCOME

## TO SACRISTON ACADEMY

**Sacriston Academy is a happy and welcoming primary school rooted in the heart of the community. Children here know they are valued and respected and that their teachers have high aspirations for them.**

Every day they reflect this knowledge through boundless enthusiasm and determination, pride in themselves and their work and by showing resilience, humour and creativity that are an ongoing inspiration to staff.

Our recent Ofsted inspection (October 2021) saw us rated as 'good', however, we are very proud to say that our school was awarded 'outstanding' in three out of five areas: behaviour and attitudes, personal development, and early years' provision. Inspectors said quite simply: "Pupils love attending this school."

Our vision is simple and shared by all schools in the North East Learning Trust (NELT) - that

every child experiences excellence every day. I am personally ambitious for every child and I know that we are giving our pupils the best chance to reach their full potential through a dynamic range of academic and extra-curricular opportunities.

These opportunities are supported through a robust pastoral support system and a rigorous approach to teaching and learning.

We are always looking for ways to make learning 'irresistible' and create as many opportunities as possible for children to engage in their learning. Making sure they adapt to new challenges, find inspiration, develop their curiosity and work creatively is key to our successful approach.

*Annalei Bartlett*

**Annalei Bartlett**  
**Executive Headteacher**



# OUTSTANDING EARLY YEARS

**Sorry about the mess, but we're learning here! Education for our youngest Sacriston Stars takes place in a completely unique world of colour, creativity and curiosity... where you might even come out covered in mud - welcome to early years!**

We are incredibly proud of the one-of-a-kind Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) kingdom we have created and the impact it has on our children. We know that children here are getting an early years education that's amongst the very best in the country.

We have exceptional facilities including an outdoor area, a make and create area, messy play, a finger gym, writing and maths areas, role play zones, an exploration station, construct and create zones and a real-life maths area. In October 2021, Ofsted rated our EYFS provision as 'outstanding'.

These innovative learning environments allow children a quiet space and safe areas to develop independence.

Our ambitious vocabulary approach includes 'weekly wondrous words' that introduces children to a high-level vocabulary in context that is used and practised throughout the week. Children as young as three retain the words and use them in their everyday play and experiences.

Our outside areas support development of all physical needs where children are challenged daily, leading to rapid progress.

Fine motor skills are honed through activities including 'dough disco' and our fundamental movement programme uses targeted and progressive intervention based on proven research.



**“In the early years, staff ensure all pupils remember what they have been taught, regardless of their starting points and any additional needs they may have.” - Ofsted**

# AT THE HEART OF THE COMMUNITY

**Sacriston Academy has been teaching generations of local children since 1910 and our place at the heart of the community is something that staff, pupils and families treasure.**

Our sponsors, NELT, respect and value our school's heritage and have helped us to evolve whilst nurturing the warmth, character and spirit that has defined our school and been so important to the local community across the years.

Communities are often defined through their pride and passion in their place, their people and their achievements. At Sacriston Academy we foster these community principles, and are grateful for the constant support and encouragement we experience from our families, friends and neighbours.

Pupils here want to learn and they understand our vision for excellence. They are keen and eager to discover new things and they know their teachers will do everything they can to help them do well.

Children are respectful and well behaved. They understand they are here to learn, to make the most of their talents and of course to have fun.

Day in, day out, children are filled with curiosity and enthusiasm for learning and it's infectious! It's an enthusiasm that keeps our committed staff motivated to work hard to help every child reach their potential.

Pupils are given a say in their education through our ambassador programme. Children feel valued and involved because they know their ideas and opinions count and that everyone's voice is equal.

**“Pupils love attending this school. They are happy and feel safe. Pupils are proud of their school. They think the staff are kind and helpful.” - Ofsted**



# SACRISTON STARS

**Sacriston Academy is one big family striving for the best for all children and we are not happy until every one of our children reaches the dizzying heights of becoming a 'Sacriston Star!'.**

As you may have guessed from our school badge, stars are a bit of a thing here and aiming high and reaching our Sacriston Star standards is something we expect of each and every child.

Our standards are simple - be **honest**, be **respectful**, **care** for others, **listen** to and **value** others and most importantly - **never give up!**

Children are encouraged to become a Sacriston Star throughout all aspects of school including in class work across the whole curriculum, as well as during extra-curricular activities and out of school trips.

**“To be a Sacriston Star you have to follow our school rules which help us every day.”**

# INSPIRATION & IMAGINATION

**At Sacriston Academy we listen to the way our children talk about the world to discover what matters to them and help them discover passions and interests that they didn't know they had.**

We encourage children to take risks to find their 'spark' by trying new things, pushing themselves physically or facing fears.

We get real with our projects and ensure pupils aspire to rewarding future careers with STEM, art, university, industry connections and career days.

We are ambitious for our pupils academically, but we also give children encouragement to excel in lots of other ways through an exciting range of clubs, trips and extra-curricular activities.

From getting glitter everywhere in arts and crafts club, to performing a balancing act in dance club (or construction club for that matter!), there is always something going on to spark young imaginations and inspire life-long interests and passions.

Educational visits are an important part of school life and we go out of our way to provide a mixture of out of school experiences that increase young people's learning and help them to develop a wide range of valuable personal and social skills.

By ensuring children are given a broad range of experiences, we are proud that children leave us with a rounded set of skills and with the positive attitude, resilience and confidence they need to become excellent young adults.

**“All involved in the school have the highest expectations for every child. Leaders have planned a curriculum to meet pupils' academic and personal development. This helps pupils to achieve successfully.” - Ofsted**





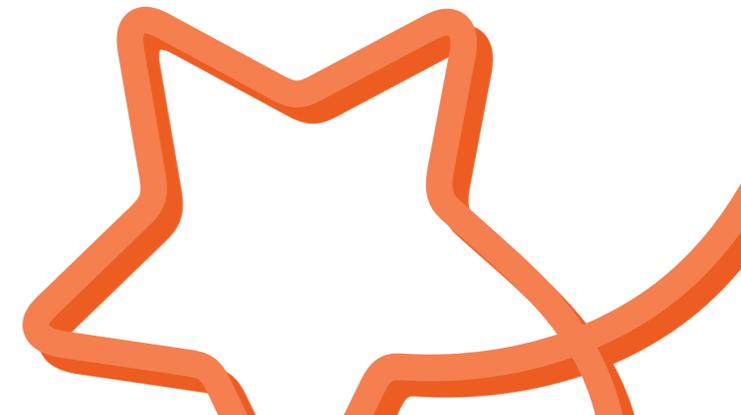
# HOW TO APPLY

We actively encourage anyone considering Sacriston Academy to visit us and see for yourself our wonderful school - please call to make an appointment on **0191 371 0777**

If you've already decided you would like your child to attend Sacriston Academy, you will need to complete an online application form by visiting: **[www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)**

If you do not have access to the internet, you can complete a paper application by contacting Durham County Council on **03000 265 896**.

The deadline for applications is in January (see admissions website for the exact date).





# Sponsored by North East Learning Trust

**Sacriston 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 Sacriston 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.



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