



**Meadowdale**  
Academy





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

# Welcome to Meadowdale Academy

I am so fortunate to be Headteacher here at Meadowdale Academy and have the ambition for all of our children, along with our dedicated staff, that our school will be 'more than a primary'.

We work hard to plan and deliver exciting, fun and challenging learning for all of our children. We also aim to provide excellence every day with a broad and balanced curriculum that ensures that all children make fantastic progress both academically and socially.

Our school has so much outdoor space. Therefore our children are able to engage in 'active learning', which we believe is vital to support and encourage healthy young minds. We aim for all children to use the outdoor learning environment daily, no matter the weather - wellies and a coat are all that are needed to explore!

Our school has undergone a huge transformation recently and I know you will be impressed at our calm and bespoke learning environment where our amazing children and staff always make everyone feel welcome.

'Together we can' is our motto and we are always here to listen. Some people think a worry shared is a worry halved; at Meadowdale Academy it is a worry solved as we care and support each other to always ensure a positive outcome for all of our children.

*Amanda Allison*  
**Amanda Allison, 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.







**"The proportions of pupils who met and exceeded expected standards in reading, writing and mathematics were well above those seen nationally."**

- 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:

- L**ife skills for a life-long learning journey
- E**ngaging and ambitious
- A**ctive and interactive
- R**elevant and meaningful
- N**urtures everyone's individual potential
- I**nspiring
- N**eighbourhood and community-centred
- G**enerates 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.**

**“Leaders have a close understanding of pupils who have SEND. Effective systems are in place to diagnose pupils’ needs and staff have developed sound systems to continually monitor their progress.”**

- Ofsted

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.



A young boy with short brown hair, wearing a blue hoodie, is smiling and looking towards the camera. He is holding a sign that contains a quote. The background is slightly blurred, showing other people in a school setting. There are several heart shapes in various colors (green, blue, yellow) overlaid on the image.

# 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 bolognaise and garlic bread with *cake and custard for pudding!*"**

**– Year 5 pupil**





“Pupils appreciate the wider experiences on offer which add to their *self-esteem and confidence.*”

– Ofsted

# 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.







# 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



The background of the entire page is a photograph of two young boys in blue school uniforms standing in a forest. The boy on the right is shouting with his mouth wide open, while the boy on the left is smiling. They are surrounded by trees and a large pile of sticks, suggesting a forest school environment. Large green leaves are overlaid on the top and right sides of the image.

# 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 look around our school, you will see a place that celebrates achievement

and discovery in a safe and secure environment. We also believe that their time here should help them develop personally, try new experiences and become involved in a variety of activities which are both fun and stimulating.

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](http://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 open on 22 November 2022 and close on 15 January 2023.**





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