

Prospectus





Our Trust Mission

Nurturing ambition, delivering excellence and enriching children's lives.



Our Trust Values



Collaboration

We pull together to deliver the best outcomes for every child in every school, working with professional generosity and openness for the common good. We share joy in our achievements - personal and collective.



Integrity

We put ethical leadership and excellent governance at the heart of our Trust, serving our schools and communities with fairness, honesty and transparency and a hunger for social justice.



Respect

We champion equity, equality and diversity. We treat our children, families, staff and partners with respect and kindness - modelling our values and wanting the very best for each other.

Our Trust Goals



We champion learning

Learning together creatively with a rich and broad curriculum, where great teaching and confident reading are fundamental to enriching children's lives.



We promote wellbeing

Ensuring the wellbeing of every child and member of staff in our Trust.



We invest in our people

Supporting every member of staff throughout their career to be the best that they can be.



We innovate with technology

Enabling all learners to harness technology, ensuring all have access at home, and innovating with technology for learning.



We are our Trust

Growing together collaboratively we will strengthen our Trust for the benefit of our children, our staff, our communities and our environment.

Whitkirk Primary School is part of Red Kite Learning Trust, a multi academy trust made up of 14 schools in North and West Yorkshire, serving over 9,750 children and young people, and their families.

Our shared Trust mission of nurturing ambition, delivering excellence and enriching children's lives is at the heart of all we do. As part of Red Kite Learning Trust, Whitkirk Primary School benefits from shared knowledge across schools and a central team of experts for School Improvement, Finance, Human Resources, Estate Management and additional operational support.

Within the framework of this supportive structure, Whitkirk Primary School works collaboratively with all the schools in our Trust to continually deliver the best outcomes for every child in its care.

Whilst our Trustees are ultimately responsible for all the schools in our Trust, each one, including Whitkirk Primary School, is managed locally by the Headteachers/Principals and their Local Governing Body, retaining their own identity.

When your child joins Whitkirk Primary School you can be reassured that the future strength and success of our school is further assured by being part of a strong, effective and successful Trust.

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Red Kite Education



Welcome From the Headteacher



Welcome to Whitkirk Primary

At Whitkirk Primary School, we take pride in being a school with a big heart. It is a place where happiness, kindness, and respect are at the core of everything we do, ensuring that each child feels nurtured, safe, and valued. Our dedicated and passionate staff are committed to fostering positive relationships that support every child's development, and we believe that by working together, we can create the best possible environment for your child to thrive.

Every child is unique, and we celebrate their individuality by helping them become the very best version of themselves. Through a broad and ambitious curriculum, we strive to inspire a lifelong love of learning, encouraging children to be confident, independent thinkers, ready to embrace the next step in their educational journey. Our curriculum is designed to ignite curiosity, promote diversity, and make meaningful connections to our local community, all while placing a special emphasis on developing a love of reading.

We are proud to have been recognised by OFSTED, in March 2023, for the outstanding behaviour and attitudes of our pupils, as well as the exceptional provision in our Early Years, which gives children a strong foundation for success throughout their time with us and beyond.

Whitkirk Primary School is more than just a school - it's a vibrant community where every child is encouraged to be 'the best that they can be.' We are deeply committed to working in partnership with parents, carers, and the wider community to ensure each child reaches their full potential.



Miss Gemma Quarmby **Headteacher**

We would love you to visit us to experience our wonderful school first-hand, and become a part of our Whitkirk family.

Enthusiastic, caring teachers make Whitkirk such a positive place to be...I love being part of the Whitkirk family! Parent, 2024

"Your support, values and school ethos is inspiring. You make the whole family be involved, Whitkirk simply is where the magic happens!" Grandparent, 2024

"We have been so impressed with the opportunities offered to the children. There is constantly something to be excited about. The buzz around school is just wonderful - it's truly an amazing community to be a part of" Parent 2024

About Our School





We are proud to offer a nurturing environment where all children can learn, grow, and thrive.

As a welcoming, two-form entry school with nearly 400 pupils, we strive to meet the needs of our community by providing high-quality care both during and outside of school hours. Our Wake Up and Wind Down wraparound provision offers convenient on-site breakfast and after-school care, run by our dedicated staff, from 7:30 am to 6:00 pm each day. Additionally, we hold Holiday Clubs throughout the year, giving children the chance to enjoy a wide range of trips, visits, and activities. These include outings to Temple Newsam, Whitkirk Tennis Club and Halton Library, as well as engaging craft, cooking, and sporting events.

In March 2023, we were delighted to be rated a Good school in our OFSTED inspection, with OUTSTANDING recognition for Behaviour and Attitudes and our Early Years provision.

We are very fortunate that our school looks out onto the grounds of Temple Newsam and this offers fantastic opportunities to take learning outdoors. From nature walks to local area explorations, we extend learning beyond the classroom to enrich our pupils' experiences. We also have strong community connections with St. Mary's Church, Whitkirk Tennis and Cricket Club, and Halton Library, further enriching our children's experiences.

Our classrooms are bright, spacious, and designed to be calm yet stimulating environments that support every child's learning. Both our Reception and Year 1 classrooms benefit from their own outdoor areas, allowing children to explore and play in a safe, natural setting.

Reading is at the heart of what we do at Whitkirk. Each class has its own well-stocked library, and we are fortunate to have Whitkirk Waterstones, our very own school library. Pupils are encouraged to enjoy reading as we work towards our mission of sparking a love of books that lasts a lifetime.

To promote active and healthy lifestyles, we encourage children to come to school on their bikes and scooters. For children in Reception through Year 3, we hold scooter days at lunchtime, giving each class time to safely enjoy our school scooter track.

Our after-school programme is full of exciting and varied activities. From multi-skills sports to Nerf club, creating Whitkirk News Reports, earning a Blue Peter Badge, and developing leadership skills through our Young Leaders club, we offer something to ignite every child's interest and passion.



We understand that at times, families and children may need additional support. At Whitkirk, we are proud of our strong pastoral care delivered by our two dedicated Learning Mentors, who are based in The Haven. They are always available to provide support and guidance and ensure that children and families have access to the support they need.

Whitkirk is a very special place, where children can learn, play, and grow. We are committed to ensuring that every child is able to become the very best they can be, and we will continue to work tirelessly towards that goal.



Our Vision And Our Values



Vision

To be the best that we can be

Values



Our Whitkirk Rules

- We always try our best
- We take care of our resources and move around school safely
- We respect and value the opinion of each other
- ▶ We actively listen to our friends, family and teachers
- ▶ We are always honest with ourselves and others
- We forgive ourselves and others for mistakes that are made



Transition Into School (





Transition Into School

We understand what an important decision it is to choose your child's primary school. At Whitkirk, we put great care into making sure the transition into Reception is as smooth and positive as possible for both you and your child. We believe that a strong start sets the foundation for a happy and successful school experience, and we are here to support you every step of the way. No question is ever too small, and we're always available to offer guidance and reassurance.

To help your child feel confident and excited about starting school, we offer a range of transition activities designed to familiarise them with their new surroundings and teachers. In the summer term, before your child begins Reception, we invite all families to a Welcome Evening. This provides a chance to meet our staff, hear more about the day-to-day life at Whitkirk, ask any questions you might have, and most importantly, for children to begin to explore their new classroom.

Following the Welcome Evening, we host Stay and Play sessions, where you and your child can visit the classroom together, explore the learning environment, and begin to build relationships with teachers and other children. We then invite children to our Teddy Bears Picnic.

When September arrives, we continue the transition with a Family Visit. This one-on-one meeting with your child's class teacher allows you and your child to

explore their new classroom, find their peg and tray, and share any final thoughts or questions before the first day of school.

We are always amazed by how quickly and confidently our children settle into school life. It is a joy to see how eager and enthusiastic they are to begin their learning journey at Whitkirk.

We know that starting school is a big moment for the whole family, and we take great pride in making it a positive and memorable experience for everyone involved. Our door is always open if you have any concerns, and we will be there to support you and your child every step of the way.





Parental Engagement



Parental Engagement

At Whitkirk, we believe that strong partnerships with parents are essential to a child's success, particularly in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). Parental relationships are at the heart of our learning culture, and we actively involve parents in every aspect of their child's development.

From the very start of the Reception year, we invite parents to participate in our weekly 'Stay & Play' sessions. These sessions provide a wonderful opportunity for parents to share in their child's learning, engage in conversations about their progress, and explore ways to support learning at home. This regular interaction helps build a bridge between home and school, creating a strong foundation for your child's educational journey.

We value open and continuous communication, and to support this, we use Class Dojo from Reception all the way through to Year 6 to share photographs, learning, announcements, and information. It is a fantastic way to keep up to date with all things Whitkirk. We are proud to have 100% parental engagement with Class Dojo in Reception, where it serves as a platform for sharing daily class activities, celebrating individual achievements, and keeping parents informed about their child's learning.

To help parents feel confident in supporting their child at home, we send weekly homework, often including videos of our Read Write Inc. (RWI) sessions. This gives parents practical guidance on how to support their child's reading and writing development.

Our commitment to fostering a love of reading extends to our popular weekly 'Secret Reader' event, where a surprise adult – often a parent or relative – joins the class to read a story. This highly anticipated event sparks excitement and creates a positive, joyful connection with reading for our children.

Most importantly, we are always here for you. Class teachers are available each morning and afternoon to discuss any concerns, ensuring that your child feels happy, safe, and enjoys their time at school.

If you would like to visit our EYFS unit or speak with any member of our team about admissions, preparing your child for school, or ongoing support throughout the Reception year, please don't hesitate to contact the main school office. We are here to help in any way we can!



Our Curriculum



Whitkirk Curriculum

Our Whitkirk Curriculum: for you and me to be the best that we can be.

Our curriculum has been designed to ensure that all of our pupils are given opportunities to excel, regardless of their starting points or background. We place high value on children leaving with the self-belief and confidence to follow their dreams and aspirations. We want them to be equipped with the knowledge and skills they need to live happy and successful lives; a life-long desire to learn and feelings of pride in each achievement.

Our curriculum is broad and ambitious, with a focus on developing confident, independent learners, who have a passion for learning and are ready for the next step in their education. We engage our pupils through "Big Idea" enquiry questions, with subject-specific knowledge and skills that build theme on theme, year on year. All of our subjects are taught within their own right, and children's passions as Artists, Scientists, or Historians (to name a few) are nurtured. This knowledge-rich approach to learning takes our pupils beyond their own contexts and experiences, allowing them to gain a deep understanding of the world around them. By maximising real life opportunities and links

between learning, we provide all children with a creative and wide-ranging learning experience.

The Early Years Curriculum

At Whitkirk, we are passionate about giving every child the best possible start to their educational journey. Our EYFS classroom and curriculum are thoughtfully designed to equip children with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to understand their place within both the local community and the wider world. Just as in the rest of the school, reading sits at the heart of our curriculum. We carefully select rich, vocabulary-filled texts that inspire curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning, all while fostering essential language development.

Play is central to everything we do in the Early Years. We believe that children learn best through a balance of adult-led activities and child-initiated play. Our experienced and passionate staff guide and support children as they explore their surroundings, using play-based learning to build essential communication, language, and social skills. By working within carefully planned areas of provision, children are encouraged to learn at their own pace in a way that is meaningful and engaging to them.



Our Curriculum



Reception Curriculum Overview

Our Reception year is filled with exciting and engaging topics that support children's development across a range of areas. Each half term, we focus on a different theme, allowing children to explore new ideas and concepts while making meaningful connections to the world around them.

Autumn 1 - What Makes Me, Me?

In this topic, children explore what makes them unique and special. We learn about our talents, emotions, body parts, and senses. This is also a time when we look at our homes and communities, comparing toys and life today with those from the past.

Autumn 2 - How Do We Celebrate?

A highlight of this half term is Tim the Travelling Turtle, our class mascot, who joins us throughout the year. In this topic, we take a multicultural journey around the world, exploring how and why people celebrate special occasions. Children reflect on their own experiences, making comparisons between different cultures and traditions.

Spring 1 - Who Can Help Us?

This topic is all about learning how to keep ourselves and others safe. We welcome visits from the Emergency Services, which includes the excitement of sitting in a real fire engine! We also participate in the Leeds University Teddy Bears' Hospital, where children learn about health and wellness in a fun and interactive way.

Spring 2 - Was It a Happily Ever After?

Our love of stories, rhymes, and songs takes centre stage this term as we dive into the magical world of fairytales. Children listen to, talk about, and act out stories using props to support their retellings, bringing classic tales to life in the classroom.

Summer 1 - From Tiny Seeds to Big Adventures!

At Whitkirk, we are lucky to have our very own school allotment, Whitkirk's Little Lot. During this half term, we learn about habitats, life cycles, and how plants grow. The children spend time in the local environment, planting seeds and watching them grow. We also welcome two new members to our class to observe as they develop!

Summer 2 - Where Can We Travel?

As we prepare to move into Year 1, we look at travel and transport, comparing how people travelled in the past to how we do today. This topic helps children reflect on their own learning journey and gets them excited for the new adventures that await in Year 1.

Each of these topics is carefully designed to engage children's curiosity, foster a love of learning, and build the skills they need for the next stage of their education.



Our Curriculum





Read, Write, Inc

We follow the Read Write Inc. (RWI) programme as our phonics and reading scheme. Through daily tailored sessions, children learn to recognise and identify sounds, enabling them to read fluently and accurately. The RWI programme not only helps children become confident readers but also supports their development as writers. They are encouraged to spell and write their own compositions while also engaging in regular writing for pleasure sessions, allowing them to express themselves creatively.



Maths

We teach maths both through daily maths sessions and well-planned continuous provision, ensuring that mathematical concepts are embedded in everything we do.

Maths is all around us—whether it's spotting numbers in the environment, noticing the shapes of ceiling tiles, or counting pairs of shoes. To harness this, all areas of provision within our classroom are linked to early mathematical skills. Children are encouraged to explore and explain their ideas using symbols, diagrams, and eventually, written representation, building a solid foundation for future learning.

Throughout the year, children learn to read, recognise, and order numbers to 10, while also developing a deep understanding of number composition. We focus on practical and engaging ways to explore concepts such as subitising, doubling, sharing, and number bonds to 10. These hands-on sessions make learning fun and accessible, helping children develop confidence with numbers.

We place a strong emphasis on developing mathematical vocabulary, ensuring children can articulate their ideas and reasoning. Our goal is to nurture a love for maths and to help children build the skills they need to think like mathematicians.

By combining structured phonics teaching with joyful, play-based learning, our Early Years curriculum ensures that children leave Reception as confident, independent learners, ready for the next step in their education.



Key Information



Our School Day

School starts at 8:45am. Children can begin entering school from 8:40am. The school day ends at 3:15pm. There are many after school clubs for children to choose from. We also run daily wrap around care (Wake Up and Wind Down); breakfast club is open from 7:30am. and after school until 6:00pm.

Uniform

We believe that a school uniform is an important part of school life.

It contributes to good order within the classroom, health and safety while out of school on visits, and it provides children with a sense of identity of belonging to the school community.

We ask that children wear a white or pale blue shirt or blouse with a royal blue sweatshirt or cardigan. These should be worn with either grey trousers, pinafore dress, or a skirt. In summer, girls may wear a gingham blue and white checked dress. The sweatshirts and cardigans can be bought online either with or without the school logo.

For PE, we ask that pupils wear a white polo shirt and a pair of black shorts. Outdoor PE will require suitable outdoor sports clothing and footwear, especially during the winter months. This may include black jogging bottoms or black leggings.

Cycling shorts are only permitted during PE lessons and not as part of general school uniform.

Shoes: Children should wear black shoes or trainers.

Nail Varnish and Makeup: Regular day-to-day wearing of nail varnish and makeup is not permitted. However, on special occasions like PTA dress down day and charity fancy dress days, face paints may be allowed for specific purposes (e.g. dots for Pudsey Bear).

Jewellery: No jewellery apart from a watch, which should be removed during physical education (P.E.) classes. A single pair of stud earrings is allowed, but these must also be removed during P.E.

By following these guidelines, our children develop pride, responsibility, and discipline. We aim to create a harmonious environment where all pupils can focus on learning without distractions.

We appreciate the support of parents/carers in ensuring that these guidelines are followed.

School uniform can be purchased from the following suppliers:

MyClothing (Website)

View and Place orders via the MyClothing link Click Here **②**

The School Uniform Shop

69-371 Harehills Lane, Harehills, Leeds LS9 6AP Click Here •

Rawcliffes Schoolwear

617 Roundhay Road, Roundhay, Leeds LS8 4AR Click Here •



Key Information





Attendance

Whitkirk Primary School promotes strong attendance and will always support if there any problems or concerns getting a child to school.

Please contact **wpsattendance@wps.rklt.co.uk** or call us on **01132 606203**. We know that academic achievement is linked to attendance; and this can only be achieved through a strong relationship between school and parents and carers.

Our school has an attendance target of 97%.



School Meals

Children have a choice of a healthy packed lunch from home or one of our freshly cooked school meals. Our food provider is Hutchison's, who prepare meals on site every day. Options include a hot main meal or vegetarian option, jacket potatoes or a sandwich. A well-stocked salad bar is available every day and children get a pudding each day as well. Children with special dietary requirements and allergies or food intolerances are catered for by Hutchison's. All of this is information gathered at our Welcome meetings.





Special Educational Needs and Disability

At Whitkirk Primary School we work hard with staff, Governors, and parents and carers to meet the needs of all our pupils, as we recognise that each child is an important member of our school community.

We ensure that this support is initially implemented through quality first teaching, where our teachers plan, deliver and evaluate lessons which allow pupils with all SEND needs to meet their potential and succeed. We ensure that every child is treated as an individual and personalise teaching and resources where necessary.

The school carefully monitors children's progress to ensure that individuals receive the appropriate curriculum support when they need it. This is monitored through regular pupil progress reviews as well as termly reviews with our SENDCo.

If your child is identified as having special educational needs or a disability (SEND), you will be invited to talk to the class teacher and the Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo). You may also have your own concerns regarding your child's progress or wellbeing, and this should first be discussed with your child's class teacher. You may also wish to contact our SENDCo, Mrs Downes. This process may involve observation and assessment in school, additional support within the classroom or

referral to external agencies such as the Complex Needs Team, SENSAP (Special Educational Needs Statutory Assessment and Provision), Speech and Language Therapy, Behaviour Support Workers, Educational Psychologists, Visual or Hearing Impairment Team or our Cluster Team.

If there are any outside agencies involved with your child when they start school, please let us know as soon as possible so that we can work with them to provide the best support for your child.





Local Offer

As part of the new SEND Code of Practice and legislation, Local Authorities have a duty to publish a Local Offer. This offer sets out information about the provision that they expect to be available in their local area across education, health and social care for children and young people who have SEND or who are disabled. This offer also includes pupils who do not have Education, Health and Care plans (EHC) plans.

Safeguarding

We are all trained designated staff for child protection. We follow safeguarding and child protection policies and procedures to ensure that our children are kept safe. If you require any support from a member of our team, please call 0113 2606203.

The Whitkirk Way





The Whitkirk Way

Within our curriculum we include events and experiences which we aim for all of our children to have an opportunity to experience before they leave us. These complement and enhance our curriculum.







Quick Guide

Applying for a school place for your child can seem a bit daunting so we want to help support you as best we can. This is a quick guide to our admissions policy and process.

More information is available via **www.whitkirk.org/admissions/** and we are happy to answer any questions you may have, so please contact us should you need to.

Red Kite Learning Trust is the Admission Authority for all our Trust schools and works in partnership with Leeds City Council to administer the school application process fairly and effectively.

Applying for a Place in Reception

- The national deadline for application for September 2026 Reception places is 15 January 2026
- To apply you need to complete the Leeds City Council (LCC) online form which you can find here: www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions
- ► It is important that you read the 2026/27 admissions policies for the schools of interest to you. These can be found on each individual school website. Ours can be found here: www.whitkirk.org/admissions/
- Please ensure you provide any extra information that is relevant to support your application, as detailed in the 2026/27 admissions policy for Whitkirk Primary School.
- To see how places were allocated in previous years, you can use the LCC tool below: www.leeds.gov.uk/schools-and-education/school-admissions/check-school-details
- If you need further advice or have questions about the process, please contact the school office

Continued over





- It is recommended to name 5 preferred schools on your application form
- Living in the catchment area does not guarantee a place at a school
- Your child's or a sibling's attendance at the nursery at Whitkirk Primary School is not a priority group for admission and does not secure an offer of a Reception place
- ► If you require help with completing your application form, contact LCC by calling **0113 222 4414** or e-mailing **startingprimary@leeds.gov.uk**
- If you are applying to a school from outside Leeds, you must submit your application via your own local authority, instead of via LCC
- Inform your local authority of any changes to your circumstances as soon as possible (for example, if you are moving house)
- Places will be offered in writing by LCC on National Offer Day which is 16 April 2026
- You will be offered a place at your highest preference school, for which your application meets the school's admissions policy priority criteria



Whilst Red Kite Learning Trust is the admission authority for its schools, Leeds City Council (LCC) as the local authority, have a duty to administer the admissions process on the Trust's behalf. Applications and offers for school places are co-ordinated by LCC in line with the selection criteria set out in each school policy.

Applications for places are ranked in priority order when a school is oversubscribed. For Whitkirk Primary School, the criteria are as follows:



After the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) naming the school

- 1. Looked after children and all previously looked after children
- 2. Children without an EHCP but who have special educational needs, or with exceptional medical, mobility or social needs, which can only be met at the school
- 3. Children with a sibling who is on the school admission register on National Offer Day and is living at the same address
- **4.** Children who have a parent or carer employed by Red Kite Learning Trust as an established staff team member within the school at the time of application
- 5. Children living in the catchment area of the school
- 6. Any other children, by distance from the school

Please refer to our 2026/27 admissions policy for notes for each priority: Click Here

Please note - this guidance does not replace the Red Kite Learning Trust school admissions policies. This guidance must be read in conjunction with the admissions policy for each individual school. These can be found at www.rklt.co.uk/our-schools



Red Kite Education



Supporting the Wider Education Community

Whitkirk Primary School is committed to train and develop school colleagues at every stage of their careers, from initial teacher training through to a full range of school leadership programmes. Our pupils benefit from this wider work as it impacts directly on the quality of teaching they receive.

Red Kite Education

Red Kite Education is a team of experienced and talented colleagues who lead and support Red Kite Alliance, Red Kite Teacher Training and Red Kite Teaching School Hub, serving a community of schools who work across all these strands. Whitkirk Primary School is an active member of this community.



Red Kite Alliance is a partnership of over 50 schools working collaboratively to be 'stronger together'. Whitkirk Primary School attends 22 Primary Subject Network Meetings a year, as well as Headteacher briefings and Primary Leaders meetings. In total there have been 58 in-person events and 64 online events with the Alliance in the past academic year.

Red Kite Teacher Training is one of the largest school centred initial teacher training providers in the country and Red Kite Teaching School Hub is one of 87 Teaching School Hubs nationally supporting teacher development.



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www.whitkirk.org





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Headteacher: Gemma Quarmby Chair of Governors: Nichola Welsh SENDCO: Mrs Afua Downes

