

# Welcome to West Newcastle Academy

The key is .....not to standardise education, but to personalise it, to build achievement on discovering the individual talents of each child, to put students in an environment where they want to learn and where they can naturally discover their true passions.”

Ken Robinson,

Susan Percy (Headteacher)



# What makes us different:

- The Early Years Foundation Stage has provided an excellent environment for the under 5's to learn in, and we continue with this approach through to age 7, enabling children to learn from their play experiences rather than sit in more formal classroom settings at such an early age.
- WNA is a fun, happy, safe place for your child to learn in, but we are committed to ensuring that every child is challenged and supported, ensuring that they reach their full potential and become ready for a successful secondary education, and all that follows.
- Staff will be committed to observing every child, monitoring their progress, and through team working assessing and developing ideas and activities that will interest your child and lead them into deeper learning.



# Curiosity & creativity

The school is a place where children are encouraged to be curious, to ask questions, to learn from one another and to create their own theories and solutions. As much learning as possible is open-ended and enquiry-based and undertaken in rich and exciting learning environments, including the outdoors.

Our focus is to develop the children's learning skills, including communication, exploration, perception, imagination, invention and creativity. This is achieved through exciting environments and shared values of listening to and respecting children's ideas, which then form the basis of the work in the school.



# Curriculum

## Building on strong foundations

Our innovative approach to the curriculum is centred on both the needs of the individual child and a belief that true learning takes place only when a child is fully engaged in the activity.

From the Reception class through to Year 2, children will engage in the Foundation Phase, where learning takes place in a child-focussed, play-based environment. Much of the time in this phase will be spent outdoors, in local woodland, the beach and community. The Foundation Phase outcomes at age 7 are clearly aligned with the National Curriculum outcomes for that age: it is simply the method of achieving those outcomes that is different.

Our approach is to develop learning skills so that children have all the necessary building-blocks in place before we focus on more subject-based materials. During this phase children are developing important social skills: how to communicate effectively; the importance of listening; respect for others and their opinions.



# Collaboration & parent involvement

We believe that, for children to flourish, the educational opportunities provided at school must be supported by caring, knowledgeable adults in the home. Parents and carers will therefore be encouraged, welcomed and respected for the knowledge and experience that they bring to a child's education, and supported in their efforts to extend their own knowledge and to participate fully in their child's learning.

Dialogue with, and democratic decision-making between, children, staff, parents and the wider community will be central to the running of the school, with parents offered opportunities to be actively involved in school activities.

