

WESTGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Striving for Excellence • Caring for Children



"This is a good school where everyone is valued and encouraged to have the highest of aspirations. Pupils thoroughly enjoy being in school." Ofsted 2012



My name is Helen Carpenter and I'm the Headteacher here at Westgate. All the staff and children at Westgate are very proud of their school and I'm extremely proud to be the headteacher of such a successful, happy school.

- We have very special children who work hard and who genuinely care about each other and other people.
- There is a real sense of parents, governors, staff and pupils working happily and successfully together.
- We are very much involved with the local community as well as linking to the wider world.
- We have very high standards of achievement and behaviour.
- The staff are highly skilled and committed to ensuring the best for every single pupil.



Our ethos can be summed up in the words of our mission statement:

Striving for Excellence

Caring For Children

It means that every child matters at Westgate and every decision we take is based on making sure that what we do is in the best interests of the children. We have consistently high standards as measured both by results in the National Tests (SATs) and the progress children make from different starting points, with very pleasing numbers of children making above average progress from different starting points and achieving at or above age-related expectations at the end of key stages one and two, but it is every bit as important to us that the children at Westgate feel happy and secure, that they respect each other and that they have the self-confidence and self-esteem to achieve their full potential. We don't just want them to be highly numerate and literate, we want them to have the opportunity to develop their talent in art, music and sport as well and understand how to be a force for good in the world.

In this prospectus, we have tried to give you a broad overview of the school. There is lot more information to download on our website – and we hope that it gives you a real feel for our school. We welcome visitors and want you to come and see the children, meet the staff and feel the happy atmosphere for yourself. There is a reason that 100% of our parents would recommend us to others. We would also be pleased to learn more about the school from former pupils. Don't hesitate to get in touch.

The Westgate Vision

At Westgate Primary School, we are committed to promoting the highest possible standards of teaching and learning, to enable everyone to fulfil their potential.

We will always put the best interests and well-being of the children at the heart of everything we do.

To develop self-esteem, we will respect the uniqueness of every member of the school community and value their contribution.

We will ensure that the learning environment we provide is safe and well-ordered to stimulate high standards of achievement and behaviour.

We will build strong collaborative partnerships with parents and the local community, and promote respect for and understanding of other communities with an appreciation of diversity.

We want to encourage innovation, so that all members of the Westgate community are able to develop the skills and confidence to cope with the demands of the twenty-first century.



Past, Present and Future



photograph by www.tjblackwell.co.uk



Westgate is an ambitious and forward looking school, with historic buildings and a sense of tradition, originally built as a Mill school in 1871.

We have two buildings and one class in every year group. One of the buildings is Grade 2 listed and houses our Foundation Unit, which is fully equipped to ensure the children get off to a flying start in their education. Our Year 1 and 2 classes are also based in this building. These classrooms are large, with exciting shared areas where groups can work on special aspects of the curriculum. You will find the Key Stage 2 (Years 3 to 6) classes in our other building, along with the main hall, up to date ICT suite and library. This building also houses our Nurture room, where children who need help with whatever aspect of school life can be supported. Above the main hall is our mezzanine floor, where activities such as music or maths breakout groups work, giving much more flexibility to our learning.

The playground areas have been designed to cater for all tastes and allow both the younger and older children to play together and separately, helping them to learn to play safely together and also give each age group space to let off steam. There is a lovely garden designed by the children, areas to get very active and quiet seating including a gazebo where children can sit and chat with friends.

"Finances have been used imaginatively to adapt the Grade 2 listed building to give more teaching space and for attractive improvements outdoors." Ofsted 2012

Striving for Excellence, Caring for Children

The children, parents, governors and staff chose this as our mission statement because we think it sums up what Westgate is about. We do our very best every day to show this. Our school logo also illustrates this and is a further reminder of who is at the heart of Westgate – the children.

Preparation for Life

We are very much involved with the local community of Otley and Leeds, so the children understand from an early age how they can contribute to society. Unusually for a primary school, we hold a Level 2 Stephen Lawrence Education Standard award, showing how this awareness of the wider community, and an appreciation of equality and diversity are embedded in our school. We extend that awareness to those less fortunate than ourselves, for example, through regular fund raising for Martin's House Children's Hospice, or for charities close to the hearts of families in our school.

It is important that we equip children with the skills they will need as adults to make healthy choices. We all follow the Westgate Way, which means together we focus on the values, principles and attitudes which we believe are important. This is discussed with the children in a thought for the week, which is shared in assemblies, circle time and displayed around the school. Being chosen as a 'Westgate Always' person for your attitude to your fellow pupils and to school, is one of the most exciting rewards the children enjoy. The behaviour at Westgate is of an extremely high standard, based on a policy which accentuates the positive and celebrates achievement. The result is a happy atmosphere with warm relationships between adults and children which are based on mutual respect and trust.

"I was struck by the energy and buzz throughout the school – in classes, assembly and at break times. There is clearly a high level of mutual respect between teacher and pupil and I was impressed by the excellent behaviour of the children." A new LA governor, on her first visit to school

"Pupils respond exceptionally well to the outstanding provision for their spiritual, moral, social and cultural development" Ofsted 2012



Learning Together

Home and School

Parents play an important role in the school's life; Ofsted said "Excellent links have been established with families, including those who find visiting school difficult." In our latest Parents' survey, 99% of parents said that Westgate kept them well-informed.

We have an Open Door policy, with teachers always available to speak to parents formally or informally. There are information evenings for parents, alongside more traditional parents' evenings. Parents are linked to special events, invited to assemblies, open classroom events and performances, and both take part in and run special initiatives such as our Toy Library or the Nursery bookshop – as well as volunteering in the classroom. Our Friends of Westgate are a highly successful group, fulfilling a fundraising and social function for the school community.

Teachers celebrate success or share concerns with parents at the earliest possible opportunity. Children are encouraged to consolidate at home what they have been learning at school so, from the day they take home their first reading book to the time they are preparing for their move to high school, we value the support given to us by parents. Our Inclusion Officer works with families to provide support across the school – whatever the issue is which is causing problems for your child, this is a very special role: along with their class teacher and our staff team, our Inclusion Officer can help you to work through it.

Responsibilities

As children move through the school, we ask them to take on responsibilities, appropriate to their ages and interests. It may mean something as simple as delivering messages to another class, selling cakes for Martin House or taking part in a class assembly. By the time the children arrive in Year 6, they are ready for greater responsibilities, such as being Buddies who care for the new Reception children. We have a School Council and, from Year 1, each class elects two councillors, who meet regularly with a member of staff and who have a real say in improving Westgate.

Curriculum

All children have an entitlement to an education which meets their needs as fully as possible and all schools have a huge responsibility to meet those needs. Our children have only one chance of a good education and we at Westgate do the best we possibly can for each and every child. Our inclusion team ensures that children with special needs have appropriate support, but are engaged in their learning; equally, we ensure that our high achievers are stretched and reach their full potential. All children experience a diverse curriculum, enriched in many ways, including learning Spanish, school trips, external visitors, international links with schools in Nepal, themed curriculum weeks and more. Philosophy for Children (P4C) is taught right across school and is a key part of the curriculum, developing thinking skills, enquiry and collaboration. We have a robust wireless network, with laptops and tablet PCs in use right across school. Basic skills, however, are important and SATs results show that children are well prepared for the stage of their education; they are highly numerate and literate and, very importantly, they demonstrate a real love of learning.

"The imaginative curriculum provides pupils with memorable experiences. Imaginative themes inspire and engage them. Furthermore, it has been successfully adapted to reflect the school and community." Ofsted 2012

Results

We are very proud of the diversity of the well-rounded education our children receive but we are also very proud of the results they achieve in both national and internal tests. The government requires that the majority of children demonstrate two levels of progress in attainment across Key Stage 2, as well as reaching the expected standards for 11 year-olds in English and mathematics. Over the last 5 years, results at Westgate have consistently been above or well above national results for all of these measures.

Collective Worship

We have assemblies every day, to further develop the moral and spiritual awareness of all the children and to celebrate children's achievements both in and out of school. Whilst these assemblies are of a "predominantly Christian nature" (DfE requirement), they are regularly led by the children and we also have a programme of visitors, who represent other faiths and the wider community.



Caring and sharing

Foundation

We have a morning and afternoon nursery class each day, which run alongside flexible provision, where parents can choose to send their children for either the start or end of the week. Together, Nursery and our Reception class make up our Foundation Stage. Children in Foundation Stage follow a nationally agreed curriculum and make exceptional progress across the 2 years. Foundation Stage is staffed by qualified teachers working with highly experienced and skilled assistant staff. Our foundation unit is well resourced and caters for the needs of all children. Outdoors, we have a large, safe playground, with a range of activities including a climbing frame and sand pit. The outdoor area has all-weather canopies and the children and play and work outside, whatever the season! We offer the children the opportunity to visit the school with a familiar adult prior to admission so that we can help them (and their carers) understand what to expect from school. We also have a full induction process, to help each child settle in.

Clubs

Education at Westgate extends beyond the basic curriculum throughout school and our range of clubs – both after school and at lunchtime builds on this! Staff, parents, trainee teachers and older pupils all give up their time to run a variety of clubs throughout the year. These have included football, ICT, art, drama, cookery, jewellery making, a variety of musical instruments from recorder to voice to xylophone, street or Bollywood dance and more! Children also have the opportunity to take part in inter-school competitions and activities based on these clubs.

Music

Music is very important at Westgate and every child gets the opportunity to be involved while they are at school. Whether it is their music lessons as part of the curriculum, joining clubs to learn recorder or enjoying singing assembly, they can all take part. And every child gets the chance to perform and build those important future skills – in class assemblies or special music assemblies. There is also the opportunity to learn a musical instrument with our peripatetic specialists and the children have the choice of woodwind, brass, guitars or strings. In Years 5 and 6 all the children learn to play the ukulele as part of our basic music curriculum. In 2012 Ofsted recognised the “excellent musical performance using a range of instruments” which children take part in here.

WOOSH (Westgate Out of School Hours)

We have an out of school club each day with two sessions, one from 7.55am until 8.55am and one after school from 3.15pm until 6.00pm. Parents find it reassuring that they can go off to work knowing that their child will be happy and well cared for all day by school staff. Children enjoy a variety of activities with staff who know them well and have hot snacks, such as pasta, after school. The costs are very reasonable and a registration form is available from the school office.

School Events and Communication

There is a great programme of school events across the year. From our regular Friends of Westgate social and fundraising events – a Beetle Drive, School Fair, Discos, Curry nights and more – to individual events based on special occasions such as the Jubilee or charity fundraising, there is always a way to become involved in the ‘Westgate family’. If you look at our website, you will find all our newsletters to read, as well as a gallery of all the most recent events which have taken place. Our website is also the first point of call to find out about dates for what’s going on in school. Families are kept up to date with regular newsletters, Next week at Westgate emails and texts for short notice reminders, as well as termly curriculum newsletters to let you know what your child will be doing in class.

Health and Safety

The two playgrounds at school help the children, whether at the start or end of their primary career, to feel secure and able to play and have their own space to explore. Governors regularly have health and safety checks of the school and school staff have regular training in all aspects of first aid, child protection and health and safety. Children are always supervised by staff. We have a perimeter fence around the school and gates are closed during the school day. There are security entry pads on every door and all visitors are directed through the school office. Parents can still bring their children to line up on the playground every day, to see them happily into school.



Looking Beyond

Local Links

Otley Carnival is one of the highlights of the year both for the school and the town. Each year, the Friends of Westgate work with the children to come up with a theme and produce wonderful costumes. Westgate also has a proud tradition of Maypole Dancing, and our May Day celebrations are not to be missed! It is important to us that the children give something back to the community in which they live, so we participate in many other local events, entertaining in residential homes, singing at the Victorian Fair or joining in events at The Courthouse to name but a few.

Our pupils have taken part in arts projects with the Woolpack Arts Centre which gave them the chance to work with senior citizens, young adults with learning difficulties and students from other schools, producing a fabulous performance together.



School Visits

We are so lucky that the school is located in an area rich in history and one that offers great contrasts in terms of its geography, as well as in the Arts. Our curriculum is organised with links between subjects and an important part of these are visits to places of interest and special visitors in school. We know that 'hands-on' experiences help make the children's learning more purposeful and helps us to provide the excellent education we are striving for. When cost for visits is involved, we make sure that parents' contributions are subsidised by the school.

This is yet another way in which parents are involved in school, as there is often the opportunity to come along on these visits, as a group helper. There is also a programme of visitors into school through the year and weeks such as 'Diversity Week' and 'Aspirations Week' give external visitors and parents the chance to share their expertise with the children.



Residential

We also organise a residential visit in the Summer term to Todmorden for Year 6 and to Whitby for Year 5. We believe that these visits provide opportunities for the children to develop self-confidence and independence, to challenge themselves and to understand the importance of teamwork. We follow DfES guidelines and carry out rigorous safety planning prior to all visits.



Links with other schools

We have close links with other local schools and prepare the older children well for the next phase of their education. Westgate is a member of the Otley 'Family of Schools' and staff meet to share good practice and the children take part in joint activities. Our Year 6 children enjoy their visits to Leeds/Bradford Airport ICT Suite and the teaching of Spanish is supported by staff from Prince Henry's Grammar School and Specialist Language College. Swimming lessons take place at the Chippendale Pool and we are lucky to have the use of Grove Hill Park for outdoor sports. Our partnership with St. Mary's Specialist Sports College in Menston helps us offer an extended range of P.E. activities.

Westgate is part of the Chevin Learning Partnership within our family of schools. This means Staff and Governors locally work together to share best practice, develop the curriculum and use resources across the schools to provide greater learning opportunities for all of our children.



“High quality professional development is driving the school forward”

“Teaching is good with many outstanding features. Teachers’ imaginative ideas for lessons enthuse pupils and make learning meaningful. Support staff are skills and contribute significantly to pupils’ learning.”

“All pupils make good progress, with some making outstanding progress, so by the end of Year 6, attainment is above average in writing, well above average in reading and even higher in mathematics.”

“The provision for pupils who are disabled or who have special educational needs is excellent.

Consequently, they thrive, as well as making remarkable progress.

Similarly, the school enables those who have a talent or gift to excel.”

“Pupils make good progress because adults are knowledgeable about the subjects they teach and how their pupils learn.”

“Pupils’ thirst for learning is boosted through activities designed to have them on the edge of their seats.”

“The ambitious leadership of the head teacher, deputy headteacher and leadership team has inspired all staff. As a result of extensive professional development and personal teacher targets focused on the school priorities, pupils’ learning is going from strength to strength.”

“Behaviour is outstanding.”

“The well-above average levels of attendance demonstrate pupils’ very positive attitude to all the school has to offer.”

“Pupils are courteous, articulate, and mature, and look out for each other.”

Ofsted 2012





We hope you will come to visit us. Please contact the school office at:



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