



WEST VALE
ACADEMY

Care, Share, Discover and
Learn

Principal's Welcome



West Vale Academy is a 'Good' school where pupils make good progress and achieve well.

We believe that children deserve the best possible chances in life and that they learn best when there are strong links between home and school. Everything we do at West Vale helps us to deliver our school motto of 'Care, share, discover and learn'. Success to us at West Vale means both academic and personal progress. It also means promoting an inclusive school culture, nurturing staff-pupil relationships and promoting the values that underpin our school – values of kindness, resilience, honesty, endeavour, curiosity and courage. The Academy's ethos is centred around positive behaviour management strategies with staff applying a fair and consistent approach. We endeavour to provide a calm and stimulating environment where good behaviour and mutual respect is modelled by everyone and where everyone is valued. We aim to ensure that our children leave West Vale fully prepared for Secondary school and beyond with the solid foundation of skills, knowledge and values they will need to become happy and responsible future citizens of the world!

We pride ourselves on working in partnership with parents and families as we know that a child's primary school years represent a very special journey – we're here throughout to celebrate their successes, solve problems and provide high quality education.

Laura Horsfall

Principal

"Pupils are making good progress and achieving well."

Ofsted 2022



VISION & VALUES

We are very proud of our school and aim for parents and carers to feel part of our community.

We believe that the partnership between home and school is crucially important. We aim to provide a **secure, happy** and **inspiring** environment at West Vale Academy with an ethos of achievement for all and this is captured in our strapline of 'Care, Share, Discover and Learn'. We emphasise positive behaviour and encourage all members of our community to be **ready, respectful** and **safe** towards one another. Our school values, chosen by children and parents, play a key part of daily school life. Our values of kindness, resilience, honesty, curiosity, endeavor and courage are weaved through our curriculum and are a key focus during our daily assemblies.



CURRICULUM & AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

We are proud to offer an ambitious curriculum which encourages our school values of resilience and curiosity.

At the centre of our work is the key aim to develop lifelong learners and to enable our children to thrive. At West Vale Academy we teach a broad and balanced curriculum and ensure that talents are recognised and developed. We strive to remove barriers to learning and to ensure that all groups of children make good progress throughout their time in our school. Areas of need are identified promptly and tailored support is provided.

Our curriculum is further enriched by our 'Forest Schools' programme, school trips that are well-matched to key topics and visitors are invited into school to enhance areas of learning. We also have an extensive extracurricular club offer which is

“We embed our school values throughout our curriculum to ensure that children are given the key skills for later life.” TEACHER

“The school celebrates achievements and talents.” PARENT

Our approach focuses on developing the following key aims in each curriculum area:



Reading: Read fluently and be able to comprehend what has been read.



Writing: Communicate ideas effectively.

Maths: Reason and think mathematically in order to solve problems.



Art & Design: Appreciate the work of a range of artists and build on key skills to create pieces in similar styles.



Computing: Solve problems, think computationally and embrace self-improvement.



Design & Technology: Create with purpose in mind, evaluate effectiveness and refine approaches.



Geography: Understand the world and the people and places within it.



History: Ask questions, think critically and justify views with evidence.



Music: Appreciate the work of others and express oneself with creativity.



PSHE: Develop emotional intelligence and well-roundedness.



PE: Promotes a healthy lifestyle, develops emotional stability and positive interaction with others.



RE: Understand the views of others and communicate own beliefs respectfully.



Science: Investigate, ask questions and think critically.



French: Develop understanding of the structure of language, and appreciate other cultures.

BEYOND THE CURRICULUM

Enrichment

The extensive range of extra-curricular activities offered to pupils continues to be a real success of our school. Our children have the opportunity to take part in a range of clubs like nature, music lessons, homework, art, Lego, archery, rounders, gymnastics and karate.



Sporting Activities

Pupils at West Vale Academy participate in a wide range of sports both within the curriculum and as extra-curricular clubs. We recognise that sport should be enjoyed by children at every level, but we also appreciate the value of nurturing a natural and friendly competitive spirit in our children. As part of the PE curriculum in Key Stage 2, our children enjoy attending swimming lessons.

Educational Visits

Your child's class will go on educational outings during the school year to places of interest linked to the curriculum. The trips might be to museums, farms and parks. These trips are of immense educational value and children build on the experience when they return to school.

Out of School Club

Our breakfast club and after school care club is run on site by our trained staff. Out of School Club runs from 7.30am until the start of the school day and breakfast is provided. After school care club runs from the end of the school day to 6.00pm and children are provided with a snack. The club provides parents and carers with wrap around care as required.



“I love forest schools! We learn so many skills and get to work as part of a team.”

YEAR 4 PUPIL

OUTDOOR LEARNING

West Vale Academy is proud to offer forest schools as part of our curriculum offer in Key Stage 2. Children are taught to safely use tools, build a shelter, cook on a fire, as well as developing our school values of endeavour, courage and resilience.

In addition, children across all year groups have regular sessions of outdoor learning, giving them opportunities to learn new skills and to use the space for activities to enhance their curriculum learning.

OUR SECRET GARDEN

At West Vale Academy, we are very proud of our Secret Garden. This is an area that is used for outdoor learning for classes across school.

A team of keen gardeners help to keep our secret garden area looking healthy throughout the changing seasons.



WELCOME TO EARLY YEARS

Reception is referred to as the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS). EYFS is a crucial stage in your child's development, as it is during this time that attitudes to learning are formed and social skills are established.

Research tells us that a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. We strive to provide quality, secure learning and development in EYFS to set the vital foundations for learning in Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. At West Vale Academy, we offer a distinctive approach to learning where children are provided with important opportunities for free play to help develop independent learning habits. This is balanced with children being taught directly by highly trained adults, and then provided with a variety of enhanced planned activities.

We have a dedicated and experienced staff team that support children in our Reception class. Our EYFS environment is warm and welcoming, with lots of high quality provision. EYFS at West Vale is spacious and open plan. The classroom space comprises of a classroom, conservatory and outdoor area. Our environment is a fantastic space, incorporating a vast range of areas of learning. Our unique area enables children to develop strengths; firm friendships; new interests; and to become more independent and curious about the world around them.

Outdoor

At West Vale Academy, we are passionate about learning outside the classroom alongside all those valuable learning experiences that take place within the classroom. Reception has its own outdoor area connected to our classroom and are extremely lucky that we can offer free-flow provision both indoors and outdoors to allow our children to make their own choices about where they would like to learn.



Curriculum

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework and use the revised Development Matters (2021) curriculum. This core curriculum is enhanced to provide fundamental pre-learning knowledge and skills to underpin Key Stage One topics. Therefore, we enable children to make good progress and transition smoothly into their next academic stage of learning. Our planning supports the children's needs, furthers their learning and extends their interests. We want all of our children to be independent and inquisitive learners. We place great emphasis on supporting children to develop their confidence and self-esteem. Children are encouraged to explore and investigate, to question and to develop their own ideas. Learning should be fun and learning through play is at the heart of the EYFS. We provide a safe, stimulating and inviting environment where children can experience a wide range of activities and learning opportunities both inside and outdoors.

We pride ourselves in establishing good partnerships with parents, carers and families to ensure the children's well-being now and success in the future. The revised EYFS curriculum uses the term Learning and Development to describe seven areas of learning. These are all related to each other; however they are divided into Prime and Specific Areas. We focus on the Prime and Specific areas of learning in Reception.

Prime areas

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

Specific areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design





KEY STAGE ONE & KEY STAGE TWO

Children in Years 1 to 6 enjoy an exciting curriculum which is planned to continually develop their subject knowledge during their time at West Vale Academy.

Our curriculum aims to *challenge our pupils and give them the knowledge that they require in order to succeed in later life*. The knowledge and skills from the whole curriculum reflect this vision. *Our curriculum is ambitious and has been tailored by our subject leaders to ensure that it is bespoke for West Vale*. Pupils learn English, Maths, Science, computing, History, Geography, Art, Design and Technology, RE, Personal, Social & Health Education, Music and PE and these subjects are all taught discreetly.

In Key Stage Two, the curriculum includes weekly French lessons which provides children with the opportunity to learn a language enabling them to communicate with people from all around the globe and understand different cultures, beliefs and a way of life that is different to our own. Children are provided with opportunities to develop confidence through annual productions, curriculum-based trips and in-school experiences from visitors, such as, authors, Fire Service, Police, local vets and banks and people from the wider community, which are used to enhance our curriculum.

“Leaders have developed an impressive curriculum for pupils’ personal development.” OFSTED 2022



“At West Vale Academy we are given the opportunity to learn new things and experience things for ourselves.”

YEAR 6 PUPIL



GREAT HEIGHTS ACADEMY TRUST

West Vale Academy is part of the Great Heights Academy Trust. Our Trust's strapline of 'Achieving Excellence Together' and this is highlighted in our shared vision.

The Great Heights Academy Trust strives to always provide an inspirational, positive and welcoming environment where everyone works together with confidence, enthusiasm and mutual respect. We aim to nurture academic, personal, spiritual and social development in a caring and professional manner so that all achieve their full potential and all can reach GREAT heights.

Our mantra across our partnerships embraces the themes:

Great teaching and learning opportunities for all in the partnership

Real life opportunities to develop an understanding of the wider world

Enthuse a love of learning and mutual respect

Academic development to nurture potential for all

Thorough accountability

ACHIEVING FULL POTENTIAL

West Vale Academy is very proud to be an inclusive school. Meeting the needs of all our pupils is a priority.

We are ambitious, always, for children to achieve their very best. Our high expectations of work and behaviour are shared by the children's parents and carers and together, we work in close partnership to ensure that standards are consistently high.

At West Vale Academy we want all of our pupils to experience the joy of success in and out of the classroom. There is a strong focus on individual learning through personalised learning plans. Academic progress is recorded and monitored regularly when targets are set to create an ethos of achievement so that every child realises their maximum potential.

We have an inclusive approach to meeting the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs/Disability and welcome pupils who need additional support with their learning.

We carefully monitor the progress of all pupils which allows us to identify needs and inform our provision. We provide support within the classroom as well as additional interventions where appropriate and work closely with outside agencies and families of children with additional needs to ensure that all children make good progress.



**"Leaders adapt the curriculum skillfully for pupils with SEND."
Ofsted 2022**

COMMUNICATION

The school keeps stakeholders informed and up to date through letters, newsletters, curriculum grids, text messages, emails and the school's website: <https://www.westvaleacademy.org.uk/>

The school's main office is open from 8.00am until 4pm each day and staff are available to help you on **01422 372804**. An answer phone service is available when the reception is closed for the day. Alternatively, you can contact the school via email: admin@westvaleacademy.org.uk



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West Vale Academy, Stainland Road, Halifax, HX4 8LS
T- 01422 372804 E- admin@westvaleacademy.org.uk
<https://www.westvaleacademy.org.uk/>