



Fairfield Primary is part of the Learning for Life Trust

FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

...at the heart of the community

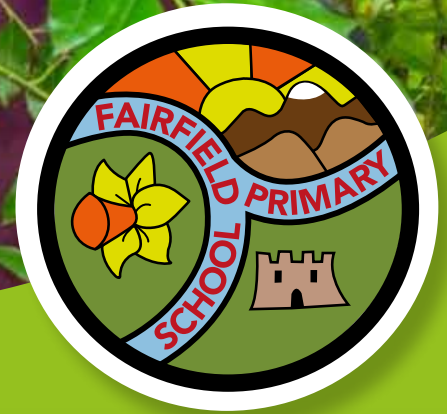


“Welcome to Fairfield Primary School. You are joining an energetic and lively school where we are passionate about providing all pupils with the very best education. The Governing Body is very ambitious for Fairfield Primary School. Our vision is clear: pupils will receive the highest standard of education and we will set and monitor targets accordingly. But targets are not just about academic performance. We believe pupils should feel happy and safe and develop a love of learning which they can apply to all areas of their life.”

Chair of Governors

A photograph of three young children (two boys and one girl) smiling and holding onto tree branches in a lush green forest. The children are wearing colorful clothing. The background is filled with vibrant green leaves and tree trunks.

Welcome to Fairfield Primary School



Fairfield Primary is a school that is truly at the heart of its community. It is a school where individuals are valued and helped to achieve their very best in all areas of development. Children are supported in becoming confident and independent young people, who thrive on challenge, and are motivated to learn.

I am extremely proud to lead a team that is committed to children's well-being, achieving high standards and providing the very best opportunities for all in our care. Staff, supported by governors, work hard to deliver a rich and challenging curriculum; to help them acquire the skills and enthusiasm needed to embrace the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. We believe in helping our learners to become 'learners for life'.

The excellent start begins in our nursery and continues through the school with staff providing a happy, supportive and purposeful environment, and

a curriculum that excites and stimulates children's imaginations and creative thinking. The curriculum is delivered through a strong cross-curricular approach which is further enhanced by whole-school themed days and numerous other events. We believe strongly in 'Learning Outside the Classroom' and have a well-established Forest School programme and numerous outdoor field trips.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school, and to a happy and successful partnership with all our new children and families.

Chris Steele, Headteacher

**TOP
4%
IN THE UK**

THE SUNDAY TIMES
**TOP
500**
PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Listed within
the Sunday
Times' Top
500 primary
schools.



22:1
TEACHER:
PUPIL RATIO



TYPE:
ACADEMY



AGES
3-11

NUMBER OF
PUPILS:
370

**BROAD &
BALANCED
CURRICULUM**



Our Values

We believe every child should have the best possible start to their education and should be given a wide range of opportunities and the skills to fulfill their potential. Our school is committed to providing a challenging and stimulating environment where everyone's success is important. We aspire to put our values into practice everyday.

Academic Excellence

- **Courageous, inspiring and innovative teaching**
Creating an exciting and challenging curriculum and environment which encourages a desire to learn in both staff and pupils.
- **Continuous improvement**
A shared belief by the school and its community that learning should be an evolving and progressive process.
- **Everyone achieving their full potential**
Ensuring opportunities, support and motivation which enable pupils and staff to be the best they can possibly be.

Lifelong Learners

- **Effective learners**
Confident pupils with a range of skills; enabling them to adapt and succeed both inside and outside the classroom.
- **The wider world**
Self-aware outward looking pupils who are knowledgeable about the environment, engaged with the community and interested in global issues.
- **Skills for success**
Laying firm foundations to equip pupils with a full range of practical and emotional abilities; enabling successful life choices.

Safe and Nurturing Environment

- **Mutual trust and respect**
A secure place where individual voices are encouraged and valued.
- **Equal partnerships**
Respectful, tolerant and understanding relationships which celebrate diversity.
- **Collaborative community**
A community of pupils, staff, parents and governors who work together to achieve the best possible outcomes for all.



Music

Music is both an integral part of the creative curriculum taught at Fairfield and a key part of our extra-curricular provision.

Through regular music lessons children are taught to appreciate a wide variety of musical styles through listening, singing and playing instruments. Music is woven throughout the Early Years curriculum giving children a base for more formal teaching to continue throughout Key Stages One and Two.

Opportunities are provided to listen to live music wherever possible with performances by local musical groups throughout the year. Emphasis is also given to performing within school and by sharing talent with the wider community.

Children are encouraged to take up the school's offer of musical instrument tuition and links are maintained with community groups and orchestras. Choir is a popular extra-curricular activity for children in Key Stage Two with performances throughout the year. We have also benefitted from First Access, through which a whole year group are introduced to instrumental tuition with a professional music teacher.

Curriculum

Fairfield Primary School has developed a curriculum to fit the needs of its learners. Using the 'Learning Challenge' concept, we have designed it around the principle of giving children greater learner involvement in their work. Topics studied require deep thinking and encourage learners to work using a question as the starting point.

In designing the curriculum, teachers and learners use a prime learning challenge, expressed as a question, as the starting point. Using the information gained from pre-learning tasks and the school's context, a series of subsidiary challenges are then planned. Each subsidiary learning challenge is also expressed as a question.

Pre-learning

Pre-learning tasks ensure that learners are directly involved in the planning process. Well planned pre-learning tasks help to bring out what learners already know; what misconceptions they may have and what really interests them. Teachers take account of the outcomes from the pre-learning tasks to plan the subsidiary learning challenges for each major area of study.

Progression

Continuity and progression in the curriculum are built around a set of matrices known as essential knowledge, understanding and key skills within subject disciplines. These are broken into year group expectations and have additional challenges for able learners. The 'Essential Knowledge, Skills and Understanding' matrices within the Learning Challenge Curriculum allow school to guarantee that the learners' essential skills are being developed, alongside National Curriculum requirements, whilst allowing individual schools to have a great deal of autonomy with their methodology.

Cross-curricular

In addition, teachers apply English, mathematics and ICT skills throughout the curriculum where it is appropriate to do

so. The main idea is to use the knowledge, skills and understanding matrices for each subject to bring to teachers' attention the level of work expected around each learning challenge. In addition, there is careful consideration given to the quality of work produced by learners in the core subject areas. This is something we are very proud of here at Fairfield Primary.

Time for learners to reflect or review their learning is central to the whole process. This is in keeping with the 'Learning to Learn' principles where reflection is seen as a very important part of individuals' learning programme.

We have found that this approach to curriculum design has allowed to not only develop the learning skills of our pupils but also provide them with a thoroughly broad, balanced and engaging curriculum that they all enjoy.

Outdoor Learning

Forest School is an innovative educational approach to outdoor play and learning. Learning outside the classroom is about raising achievement and allowing the most fulsome personal development possible for all the students involved. It is an approach which uses the pupils' and students' experience in new environments as a stimulus so that they learn about themselves and the world around them more effectively and faster than ever before.

Through our Forest School learning, children will develop: self-awareness; self-regulation; empathy; good social communication skills; independence; a positive mental attitude, self-esteem and confidence.

In addition to this we provide many opportunities to enjoy the beautiful lakes, mountains and coastlines that surround us through trips and residential.

A group of children, seen from behind, are hiking up a rocky trail in a dense forest. They are wearing orange caps and blue backpacks. The forest is lush with green trees and foliage, and the ground is covered in rocks and fallen logs.

**Forest School
is an innovative,
educational
approach to
outdoor play
and learning.**

Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

At Fairfield Primary School we strongly believe that parents are the first educators of their children and we will be building upon the strengths and skills which each child brings with them when they start school.

As a result of this we strongly encourage the children to share their interests, enthusiasms and knowledge which will reflect each child's individual communities and cultures.

From this we then have a starting point for an area of investigation from which we can include all areas of Learning and Development and encourage children to develop the Characteristics of Effective Learning. Therefore, we do not publish a list of topics that will be covered over the year as every group of children will bring with them different interests and enquiries.

Extra-Curricular Activity

We are very proud of the extra-curricular opportunities on offer here at Fairfield Primary School. Having such a wide range of diverse extra-curricular activities is very important as it encourages children to become independent, confident and successful members of the community. Many of our clubs are run by external providers and take place after school but we also run clubs at lunchtime. In addition to clubs we have a very wide range of school trips as well as whole school fell walking days and our Forest Schools Programme.

STEM

We are continually developing the STEM opportunities in school both within the curriculum and beyond and are incredibly proud of our growing provision. The combination of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths is so important in school as it allows children to consider potential future careers and gives them experiences of the technology they are likely to encounter in the future as they move through primary school, on to secondary and beyond.

We run clubs including Lego League and Maths in Motion in which the children compete at both a national and international level using a range of programming, mathematical and team working skills. There are school-wide competitions such as film making, engineering events in school including the Invention Convention and trips to see engineering and science in the real world, such as the Big Bang Science Fair and the REACT science event. We endeavour to work with local companies and have fantastic involvement from STEM ambassadors who support our clubs and events. The children have the opportunity to chat to real scientists and engineers through the 'I'm a scientist, get me out of here!' programme and we have our own 3D printer, giving the children a head start in the world of modern engineering.

The STEM experiences in school are ever evolving as is the increasingly technological world in which we live.

Activity, Sport and Healthy Living

This is promoted through:

- **Providing staff with professional development**, training and resources to help them teach PE and sport more effectively.
- **Offering a wide variety of sports** for all age groups to encourage more pupils to participate in sport and physical activities.
- **Offering daily lunchtime and afterschool clubs** selected by our sports council.
- **An extensive Sports Leaders Programme** to all year 6 who support sport and physical activity within the school.
- **Additional swimming provision** targeted to pupils not able to meet the swimming requirements of the national curriculum.
- **Embedding physical activity into the school day** through active travel to and from school, active playgrounds and active teaching.
- **Promotion of healthy lifestyles though physical exercise and healthy eating**, making important cross-curricular links with science.

Wraparound Service

We understand that for many working parents, wraparound day care is an important consideration and often a necessity. Here at Fairfield Primary School, we offer on-site care from 7.50am - 5.45pm each day with experienced staff who are familiar to your children. Children are provided with healthy snacks and drinks as well as access to lots of engaging and constructive activities within our well-resourced provision.

Nursery

Our nursery currently offers 30 hours care as well as part time provision for children aged 3 or 4.

We are very proud to offer such a vibrant and well organised facility which is much loved by pupils who clearly enjoy exploring and learning from the activities and thrive in their development.

Pupils are taught through fun and engaging age appropriate activities, in small groups and these are led by fully qualified practitioners and teachers. It is a fantastic opportunity for your child to join the school – getting to know their surroundings and staff.

Through our nursery, children begin to build brilliant relationships and are introduced to our school ethos and have many opportunities to engage in our whole-school initiatives such as Forest School and outdoor learning events.



Safeguarding

Fairfield Primary School is committed to safeguarding the welfare of children. All schools have a legal duty to look for signs of abuse (physical, emotional, sexual or neglect) and report suspected cases to social services which will then carry out any necessary investigation. At Fairfield we take this matter very seriously, using Cumbria's Local Safeguarding Children Board guidelines when carrying out our duty of care towards our children. Schools are also required by law to provide relevant information on children to social services as part of any investigation and to share that information at multi-agency child protection meetings, to which parents are usually invited. While the school always aims to work in partnership with parents in relation to children's welfare, the safety and protection of the children are always paramount.

Pastoral Support

This team exists to support all our children and those families who require assistance. They are trained in all aspects of this work and are available at all times. They work within classrooms and in a dedicated part of the school, particularly nurturing emotional well-being. Children are always able to talk to a team member if they are feeling vulnerable or unhappy. Parents are able to seek support with any family difficulties that might exist and the work can be totally confidential. The team are in constant contact with other agencies that might also help. This model of support is being adopted by many other schools. Please take advantage of the team's expertise.

A close-up photograph of a young boy with dark hair, smiling broadly. He is wearing a maroon school polo shirt with a circular crest on the left chest. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a yellow and red structure, possibly part of a playground or classroom equipment.

“My child is extremely happy to go to school every morning. He finds the school work interesting and is eager to learn more. The school environment is extremely positive and both the teachers and other children's parents are extremely supportive. My child has made massive improvement since he started at Fairfield. Thank you for all your hard work!”

Quote from parent



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