

Beech Hill Primary School

Prospectus 2018-19



Beech Hill Primary School

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Newcastle Upon Tyne

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"Where knowledge grows."



Welcome to **Beech Hill Primary School**, part of the **Valour Multi Academy Trust**, and a school graded **Outstanding** by Ofsted. Becoming part of our school community is hopefully one of the most rewarding and important decisions you are likely to make. As a parent you have an important role in ensuring your children go to a school that is safe, friendly and secure. We aim to create an environment where the children are happy and excited about coming to school; where they will succeed; where the curriculum is broad, balanced and enriching and where standards are high.

Beech Hill can provide all of these and more. We are a vibrant Primary school in the Outer West of Newcastle Upon Tyne. We currently have over 400 pupils on roll from Nursery to Year 6.

We offer an outstanding, exciting and stimulating learning experiences for all of our children across all areas of the curriculum. We strive to make learning appropriate and relevant to the individual needs of our unique and special pupils.

We hope this brochure gives you a brief taste of life in our school and help you as you develop greater confidence in becoming a member of our school community. We look forward to welcoming you to our school so that you can see for yourself what we have to offer to your child.



Dame Nicola Nelson
CEO of Valour Multi Academy Trust
Executive Head Teacher



Mrs Jess Eatock
Head Teacher



Our Aims and Vision Statement

Everything that we do and plan each academic year helps us and the children to achieve our shared aims and make Beech Hill the school that we all want it to be.

Our Vision is that all children will feel loved, happy and safe. We will provide each child with many and varied opportunities to develop their character to feel accepted; to develop a sense of belonging; to be driven and resilient and to be inspired and be inspiring.

We hope to achieve this through the following aims:

- To help students build on their strengths and overcome their weaknesses;
 - To prepare each child for the opportunities, responsibilities and experience of life and to develop enquiring minds.
 - To encourage children to respect and care for themselves, others and their environment.
 - To provide a broad, balanced and creative curriculum that combines excellence in teaching with enjoyment of learning.
 - To instil in the children a high level of self-esteem and confidence in their own worth.
- To raise the aspirations of each individual within our school community so everyone strives for personal excellence in everything they do;



Character



At Beech Hill, we work with passion and enthusiasm alongside the children, families and the wider community to build the positive character traits identified in our shared vision, within every single pupil. We aim to develop the pupil's moral emotions, to encourage them to be motivated and aim high in life. Pupils are supported to self-regulate by taking full responsibility for their actions and consider the impact of their behaviour on others.

Each cohort of children focusses on the traits most appropriate for that particular group, enabling teachers to plan and teach specific lessons on virtues which require support, as well as addressing situations as they arise within and outside school.

Every pupil has an individual character goal which is displayed in the classroom and reviewed regularly alongside their academic targets.

Children can write down their thoughts, feelings and experiences linked to their personal character development in their reflective journal, which is accessible daily and shared with their teacher as a record of their journey.

As part of 'Be the best you can be' project our children set themselves a life goal which is displayed on the classroom 'dream wall'. The pupils then work on creating a pathway to ensure they achieve their dream. Initially, many children wanted a familiar job, such as babysitting and cleaning, or didn't want to work at all. After working with visitors from a variety of careers, such as architects, farmers, police officers, soldiers and a range of local businesses, pupils raised their self-expectations. Confidence, optimism and self-esteem are now much higher, therefore, children are excited to gain the qualifications they need to achieve their goal.



Beech Hill delivers the Thrive programme, which is designed to support children to cope with life's emotional ups and downs, through specific activities designed around each child's needs. We have a calming Thrive room and trained practitioners.



Admission Arrangements

Children are admitted to the Nursery in the September after their 3rd birthday. We also have a January intake for children turning 3 before January 1st. The following year they are admitted to Reception with some additional children joining us in Reception from other settings. Sometimes children join the school in other year groups if spaces are available. Applications can be made to the school office and prospective pupils and their parents are always welcome to make a visit to find out more about the school.

Special open afternoons are also held each year for new pupils to Nursery and Reception. This gives parents the chance to bring their child, explore classrooms, and meet other support staff and parents.

The School Day

It is very important to us that each child starts the school day feeling happy and secure. Being punctual is a very important part of this so that learning can begin with the minimum of fuss or disruption.

The times for the school day are as follows:

Reception to Year 6:

Morning session
8.55am – 12:00 (KS1) & 12.05 (KS2)

Afternoon Session
1.00 p.m. – 3.10 pm

Nursery

Morning Session
8.45am – 11.45am

Afternoon Session
12.15pm – 3.15pm



Breakfast Club

Every child who attends Breakfast Club is entitled to a free breakfast. The CBI (Confederation of British Industry) sponsors us through Greggs to allow all children to have a brilliant start to the day. Breakfast, which can include toast, cereal, muffins, yoghurt, milk and sometimes even croissants, takes place at 8.15 every morning in the Early Years building. This ensures that all our children start the day fuelled up and ready to learn.



Extra-Curricular Activities

At Beech Hill we have a broad and varied selection of after school activities offered to all children from Reception to year 6. Many are run by school staff based on their skills or interests as well as following requests from children, for example; gymnastics, science, Lego, colouring, crafts and football to name but a few. Some of our older children lead lunch time clubs which we are very keen to promote. We also have highly skilled external coaches providing clubs such as rugby and football.

Kangaroo Club

In addition to these clubs we run an after school club called Kangaroo Club. This takes place in the Early Years hall each night until 4.45pm. This is open to all children from Reception to Year 6. There are two sessions; 3.10pm-4.00pm and 4.00pm-4.45pm. Each session costs £1. Children can attend both sessions. A variety of activities are on offer at Kangaroo Club as well as homework support.



Uniform

The children must wear the school uniform, which consists of:

- Beech Hill jumper (with the school logo)
- White shirt/blouse
- Grey trousers
- Kilts
- School tie
- Purple and white checked dress in the summer
- Black sensible shoes

With children wearing uniform, it is **ESSENTIAL** that names are written in labels or that name labels are attached inside clothing.

You are urged to make sure that your child's name is clearly marked on the school clothing.



Jewellery and Valuables

The wearing of jewellery such as bracelets, necklaces and earrings is not allowed.

Children wearing jewellery which may be dangerous to themselves or others, or which may interfere with their work, will be asked to remove it.

Children with pierced ears are allowed to wear earrings of the stud type only.

The rules regarding jewellery are to help keep your children safe - please help us to help them.



Dinner Money

Dinner money is collected on Monday morning or the first day of a school week. The money has to be banked on this day, and it is essential that children bring it then, preferably in a purse, box or envelope clearly labelled with their name, class and amount.

All children from Reception to Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal.

Packed Lunches

Children bringing healthy packed lunches should do so in a box clearly labelled with their name and class. Water is provided for children having packed lunch.

Attendance and Absence from school

The reason for **ALL** absences from school must be reported to a member of staff.

Parents should advise the class teacher or the school office (by note, personal visit or by telephone) of the reason for their child's absence.

Holidays during term time

Parents are discouraged from taking holiday during school time. Permission from school must be sought. Even though permission may be granted, the period of absence will show on the child's attendance record.

Where the school has not been told of long or frequent absences, the Head Teacher will ask the Education Welfare Officer to visit the home.

Where no reason has been given for an absence, the child will receive an unauthorised absence mark on the register.

Parents are encouraged not to take children out of school throughout the school day for dental or hospital appointments. However, if appointments are necessary then the school office must be informed and appointment cards must be shown.



Out of School Learning

At Beech Hill we are dedicated to ensuring children have as many life experiences as possible. It is part of our whole school vision that all children will have visited a woodland area, a farm and a beach by the time they leave Year 2. In addition to this, children in Years 4, 5 and 6 go on residential trips, either to focus on outdoor activities which will challenge them physically and also challenge their determination and resilience, or we provide them with cultural experiences such as visiting the Houses of Parliament and West End Shows. At Beech Hill we believe that children need these experiences to develop personally and academically.



Forest School

Forest School aims to give children the chance to explore the outdoors and develop skills such as teamwork, resilience and confidence. We have three members of staff trained as Forest School Practitioners, and there are opportunities for children to take part in Forest School activities throughout the week and on trips to Scotswood Nature Gardens. We enjoy lighting fires and cooking outdoors, as well as building dens, whittling and putting up shelters.



Our School Dog

At Beech Hill we have our very own school dog called Ted. He is the result of a school vote of what the children felt we needed to improve our school. Mrs Morren takes Ted home each night and brings him in the next day.



Literacy

At Beech Hill we follow the National Curriculum for English in Year groups 1 to 6 and cover all areas of the EYFS Curriculum in Nursery and Reception.

In Reception and Key Stage 1 we follow the Read, Write Inc phonics programme which is delivered daily and teaches children phonics, reading and writing skills. In addition to this, children are also taught literacy lessons where they are provided with a broad and rich variety of genres to explore and apply their knowledge through.

In Key Stage 2, children are taught literacy lessons in mixed ability classes and streamed for activities such as comprehension, spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Our school is part of the Primary Writing Project, which aims to raise writing standards from Early Years up to Year 6.

Children from Reception to Year 6 have a home reading book and staff read with each child weekly to build their confidence and fluency and support them to use the school library to select their own books to read at home.



Mathematics



Children will receive at least a daily mathematics lesson at Beech Hill to learn new skills from their year group's programme of study (examples of termly objectives covered can be downloaded from our website). Within these lessons, and additional sessions in the week, we endeavour to develop every child's fluency, problem solving and reasoning ability.

Regularly practising tables, number bonds or division facts in fun and varied ways can help us to develop fluency in our children. Providing children with opportunities to ask questions, practise skills in a concrete, pictorial then abstract way, investigate statements or access learning at a greater depth will also support the development of key reasoning and problem solving skills.

Within every daily maths lesson, children are encouraged to work independently where possible. Support can be provided through the use of resources, or adult or peer support. Children who are exceeding expectations will also be challenged in daily lessons through the use of greater depth questioning and tasks.

In addition to daily mathematics sessions (at least once a day), your child may be invited to a booster group. Booster groups are used to support pupils in a small group situation to meet the expectations of their year group or beyond and to become the best they can be. The booster group may be offered if a pupil is in need of additional support or even if a child is a talented mathematician and would benefit from learning in a small group at a more advanced level.

In addition to all the above, we strive to foster a love for the mathematics curriculum through additional events such as "Mums and Sums" or 'Lads n Dads' sessions to develop a love for Maths at home with parents and carers too. We also have puzzle solving enrichment lessons for children to choose and annual calculations sessions for parents to participate in, puzzle days and open days.



The Arts

The Arts are integral to the ethos of Beech Hill. We want to allow children to achieve in all areas, not just academically. We are dedicated to providing a range of opportunities throughout the curriculum which allow children to showcase their talents, as well as offering extracurricular opportunities which can build upon them. Each year we have an Arts Week, where artists, actors, dancers and musicians visit us to work with the children and to give the children the opportunity.



Technology and the Curriculum

At Beech Hill, we have a Computer suite of PCs and a class set of ipads. These can be used for Computing lessons, as well as literacy and numeracy lessons or research. We teach children how to write codes and program software, how to be digitally literate and how to stay safe online through our e-safety lessons.

Sport and PE

We pride ourselves at Beech Hill in providing all children with the opportunities, fundamental skills and motivation to lead a healthy and active life. We do this through offering a wide range of physical activity and encouraging children to have a go and always try their best. As well as the typical sports you may expect, we also offer sports such as cycling and boxing as part of our PE curriculum and teach a range of values through PE. These include honesty, respect and teamwork. We regularly enter competitions and attend festivals to encourage children to be fit and active. We also invite in coaches from clubs in the local area and take children to sports venues to show them what opportunities there are outside of school.



Science

At Beech Hill, we believe that children learn best through practical experiences where they are able to “see” science happening. Most of our science lessons are based on a range of practical investigations through which the children develop a range of science skills alongside acquiring scientific knowledge. We want to encourage children to be curious about the world around them and to enjoy exploring and observing science in everyday life. We believe that it is important that children develop an understanding of important scientific ideas and processes and they are able to confidently communicate this knowledge to others. Whenever possible, we enrich the children's learning through working outdoors or alongside outside agencies, developing the children's enthusiasm for science and providing a curriculum that is relevant to their own lives.



Curriculum

Information about our curriculum can be found on the school website.

www.beechhill.newcastle.sch.uk

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

There is a Code of Practice, which the school follows. Children with S.E.N.D will be catered for initially by differentiated work within the classroom. Their progress is carefully monitored and regularly reviewed by the class teacher and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).

Where necessary, extra support will be given to small groups, and external advice may be sought. Regular reviews of pupil's progress take place and parent's support is invaluable in this area.

For more information please see our school website.

British Values

At Beech Hill we promote British Values through our day to day activities. These fundamental British Values include the following;

- Democracy
- The rule of law
- Individual Liberty
- Mutual respect of those with different faiths and beliefs

At Beech Hill we recognise that Britain is a multi-cultural society and as such we explore other faiths. We hope to make children aware of the diversity of cultures, traditions, customs and beliefs that we find in Britain and around the world.



Rewarding and Celebrating Success

At Beech Hill, we believe in recognising children's achievements and celebrating their success. Each week a reader, writer and mathematician of the week are selected from each class and shared on our Facebook page. Star of the week is also celebrated in assembly. This is awarded for good work in a particular subject, or for children demonstrating certain character qualities. At the end of each school year, we nominate a boy and a girl in each class for our annual Connor Mooney Awards which celebrate achievements over the course of a year. There is also a grand prize for one boy and girl who we feel has really stood out and had a positive impact on the school. Finally, we also have our Dame Nelson Awards. At the end of Year 6, children who have made a positive contribution to life inside and outside of school will be given a Dame Nelson Award medal in recognition of their efforts.

Transfer Procedures

Children from our school usually transfer to Walbottle Campus, Kenton High School or Studio West at the end of Year 6.

Feeder schools will regularly visit the school prior to decision making time to talk to parents and children about what their schools have to offer and

transition days are organised for all year 6 children usually in the June and July of their final term.

Any parents with children who have additional targets (have special educational needs) will be invited to a review at Beech Hill at the end of the year and teachers from the pupil's new school are also invited to attend so parents have the opportunity to discuss additional needs and concerns before embarking upon year 7 life.

A separate booklet, giving details of the system for transfers, is provided by the Local Authority (LA) in the school year before pupil's transfer. Parents can make their choice from the list, subject to accommodation being available in any particular school.

We work with Northumbria and Newcastle Universities who organise events to give the children a flavour of university life and inspire them to apply. Year 6 also attend a careers fair where they can find out about a range of opportunities available to them.

Parents are most welcome to discuss transfer arrangements with the class teacher or the Head teacher.



Sex and Relationships Education

Sex and relationships education is also incorporated into the wider curriculum for Science and PSHCE. We begin in Early Years by looking at changes as we grow from babies into older people, life cycles and growth of plants.

In Year 3, children are introduced to simple plant reproduction and in Year 4 they begin to name body parts. In Year 5 and 6, we bring in the support of the school nurse and talk about body change and puberty. Parents will be informed when children will be tackling issues, which may raise queries at home.

If you would rather your child did not take part in these sessions, please inform the Head teacher.

Medicine

If a child is taking any medicine that needs to be taken three times a day, we ask that these be given in the morning before the child comes to school, at teatime and just before bed. First Aid Staff can administer medication if prescribed by a doctor and to be given four times a day.

Child Protection

Parents should be aware that the school would take any reasonable precaution to make sure of the safety of its children. In cases where the school has reason to be concerned that a child may be the subject of ill treatment, neglect or other forms of abuse, staff will always follow the school and LA Child Protection Procedures and inform Social Services of their concern. Dame Nelson is the named child protection officer in school.

Contacting us

We are always interested in your opinions about the school and its activities. If you have suggestions that would improve the school or help the education of your child, please contact the Head Teacher. Your views will be welcomed and carefully considered, and we always look forward to hearing from you.

Mrs Maguire, Mrs Bewley and Miss Morren (Our admin staff) will welcome you to our school and handle any questions you may have.



Family Support Coordinator



Sharron Macdonald is our Family Support Coordinator. She is based full time in school to offer support to families in the following areas;

- Developing parenting skills
- Family learning (literacy and numeracy skills)
- Behaviour support
- Guidance about other support agencies
- Domestic abuse
- Keeping children safe
- Emotional well being for children and adults
- Punctuality and Attendance

Staff

There are a huge number of people who help to run our school. Everyone has an important job and makes a valuable contribution to make to the efficient running of the school and in helping your child to learn.

Senior Leadership Team

Dame N Nelson DBE
Executive Head Teacher

Mrs J Eatock
Head Teacher

Mrs N Fielding
Mrs K Telfer
Mrs J Manning
Assistant Head Teachers

Mrs J Lisle
Mrs J Kemp
SENCOs

Administrative Staff

Mrs S Macdonald
Family Support Co-ordinator

Mr A Greensit
Chief Finance Officer

Mrs N Maguire
Admin Officer

Mrs S Bewley
School Business Manager

Miss K Morren
Admin Assistant



Teachers

Mrs B Carter (Nursery)
Miss K Farnham (Reception)
Mrs J Kemp (Reception)
Mrs P Griffiths (Ready to Read)
Mrs J Mantle (Y1)
Miss L Potts (Y1)
Mrs N Fielding (Y1)
Miss P Richardson (Y2)
Mrs K March (Y2)
Mr M Davidson (Y3)
Mrs L Scott (Y3)
Mr J Rowlands (Y3)
Mrs D Morren (Y4)
Mr C Greenwood (Y4)
Mrs J Opie (Y5)
Mrs F Donaldson (Y5)
Mrs McDonough (Y5)
Mr M Worthington (Y6)
Mrs J Lisle (Y6)
Mrs K Telfer (Y6)
Mr T Wooton (Y6)
Mrs J Manning (Y6)
Mrs K Skinner (Y6)
Mrs E Jobson (PPA)
Mrs C Higgins (PPA)

Teaching Assistants

Mrs M Matues
Nursery Nurse

Mrs J Patterson
Nursery Nurse/ SEN

Mrs C Docherty
Support Assistant/SEN

Mrs K Southern
Mrs P Lynch
Mrs A Crompton

Mr P Nelson-Taylor
Miss K Leighton
Mrs E Pardue
Miss R Deniz
Miss C Ghulam
Mrs L Knightley
Mrs J Baird
Miss N Comber
Miss D Young

Midday Supervisors

Mr P Redpath
Facility Manager
Senior Midday Supervisor
Mrs P Hunter
Mrs T Lynch
Mrs M Crompton
Miss K Shaftoe
Ms M Mills
Mrs C Docherty
Miss H Crompton
Mrs S Clark
Mrs B Rowntree
Mrs L Fraser

Kitchen Staff

Mrs L Duffy
Head Cook
Mrs A Kelly
Mrs H Thomson
Ms A Wakenshaw

Cleaning Staff

Mrs S Clark
Mrs N Redpath
Miss S Williams
Miss L Summerill

