



Plains Farm Academy

Plains Farm Academy Inspires



Ofsted 2019: 'A good school'



Foreword: Miss L Cassidy, Headteacher, says...

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our wonderful school.

High standards and aspirations

My vision for Plains Farm Academy is to provide a learning journey that is stimulating, inspiring, challenging, supportive and inclusive. We believe that excellence is achievable for everyone! This is because excellence is only achieved through reaching potential. We motivate and inspire every child to have the highest aspirations and standards, ensuring that all children reach their full potential and grow into responsible citizens.

Supporting our children through their primary school journey

Our aim is that when every child leaves us at the end of Year 6, they will be confident, responsible and competent members of society who are ready for secondary school. We hope to achieve this by giving every child access to a broad, balanced, rich, varied, stimulating and creative curriculum. The aim is for every child to be challenged, motivated and inspired.

A positive, nurturing environment

Offering a brilliant educational experience is only possible with our support and strong guidance. We pride ourselves on our exceptional pastoral care. Our safe, secure and nurturing environment makes this happen. We encourage children to be caring, honest and happy individuals who have tolerance and respect for all.

Dedicated staff

Our dedicated and skilled staff are committed to creating a secure, friendly, happy atmosphere where children can thrive. They aim to support all children to grow in confidence and academic excellence, whilst nurturing wellbeing.

Parent partnership

We work closely with our families, guaranteeing school is supported by parents and parents are supported by the school, to enable children to thrive and become the best version of themselves.

Get in touch

Our prospectus is designed to give you an insight into our school's culture and ethos, but this is just a start. We love to share our wonderful learning environment with others and would be so happy to organise a visit for you. Please get in touch with the school office to arrange one.



Academy hours

Doors for nursery and reception open at 8.50am.

- Nursery - 9.00am - 3.00pm.
- Reception - 9.00am - 3.00pm.

Doors for KS1 and KS2 open at 8.40am.

- KS1 (Years 1-2) - 8.50am - 3.10pm.
- KS2 (Years 3-6) - 8.50am - 3.15pm.

Breakfast club

Our breakfast club runs from 7.50am until 8.50am in the morning.

After-school club

Runs from 3.10pm to 4.45pm Monday to Thursday and Fridays 3.10pm to 4.30pm.

Uniform

A school uniform gives children a sense of belonging and of taking pride in their appearance. It also reminds them we are ready for work! Our uniform consists of grey or black trousers/skirt/pinafore/shorts, white or red collared school polo shirts and a red school jumper, sweatshirt or cardigan with our school logo.

PE Kit

For PE, children should wear a white t-shirt with optional school logo, black or red school shorts or black jogging bottoms, and a navy PE hoody with school logo. These should be kept in a drawstring bag on your child's peg.

All uniform items must be clearly labelled with your child's name. Uniform can be ordered via totalsport or the school office.

School meals and snacks

Plains Farm Academy is passionate about helping children form healthy habits for life. This means lunchtime is a very important part of the school day. School meals are coordinated by Sunderland City Council and cooked and prepared on-site. All food served is fresh, healthy and balanced and designed to give children the energy and nutrition required for the school day.

Packed lunches

If your child would prefer a packed lunch, this is fine. We ask that children do not bring in sweets, chocolate or glass bottles and cans. We promote healthy foods for lunches. We are also a nut-free school.

Free school meals

All children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 are provided with a cooked meal free of charge through the Government Universal Free School Meals offer. Children in other year groups may be entitled to Free School Meals if they meet certain criteria. Please enquire with the office if you think you might be entitled to this.

Break-time and drinks

Fruit is provided to be eaten at playtime for every child within Reception and Years 1 and 2. Children in other year groups may bring a piece of fruit from home. Other snacks are only permitted as part of a packed lunch. Children should bring a plastic reusable bottle filled only with water to drink from throughout the day.

Milk

All children under five are entitled to a free portion of milk each day at break time. If you wish for your child to receive milk beyond their fifth birthday, contact the school office.

Fun, challenging and inspiring curriculum: igniting a love of learning

Enriched curriculum: trips and visitors, P.E and clubs



Skilled teaching

There's no doubt we have an ambitious curriculum at Plains Farm Academy. However, we believe it is both ambitious and achievable through the skilled teaching we provide. We ensure children have a broad range of opportunities to deepen and expand their knowledge in all subject areas. This means we can inspire a love of learning in all subjects and offer vibrant and innovative learning opportunities.

Developing lifelong learners [main heading for article]

We aim to develop fully-rounded individuals. This means that we ensure our curriculum enhances skills in all areas of development, including physical, academic, creative, social and emotional.

The curriculum is divided into three stages

- 1. Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 4 - 5.
- 2. Key Stage 1: from ages 5 - 7.
- 3. Key Stage 2: from ages 8 - 11.

Early Years Foundation Stage

A high-quality early years experience is of vital importance and can have a lasting effect on a child's attitude to education, personal and social skills and attainment. The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- 1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development.
- 2. Communication and Language.
- 3. Physical Development.
- 4. Literacy.
- 5. Mathematics.
- 6. Understanding the World.
- 7. Expressive Arts and Design.

Phonics

We follow the Read Write Inc phonics programme from Reception. This ensures all children have a solid foundation in literacy on which to build and become fluent readers and strong writers.

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- Mathematics.
- Reading, Writing and Communication.
- Science.

- Computing.
- Design and Technology.
- History.
- Geography.
- Art and Design.
- Music.
- Modern Foreign Languages.
- Physical Education.
- Religious Education.
- Personal Development.

Music

High-quality music education should engage and inspire children to develop a love of music. Musical expression is a key part of the personal development of an individual. Music also enhances cognitive skills and language development and helps them develop their talent as musicians. In doing so, they also improve their self-confidence, creativity and sense of achievement.

In addition to our music lessons, we always sing in assemblies and amazing productions. Years 1 to 6 enjoy weekly musician tuition from Musical Mates. We also have a school choir that regularly performs in the community.

Trips

We firmly believe that children learn best from their own first-hand experiences and to this end we endeavour to take the children on trips that enhance and enrich topics from the curriculum. Teachers carefully plan trips, which can include visits to working farms, zoos or museums. Examples of our trips include:

- London
- Beamish
- Adventure Valley
- Derwent Hill
- Newcastle Castle
- Science for Life

Local visits too!

Children often participate in local visits too. These could include simple walks around the locality looking at shops, transport and infrastructure, housing and hedgerows.

Residential visits

In Year 6, our eldest pupils get to enjoy a residential trip. Last year this was a trip to London with their peers. Often the first time children have left their parents, it's an incredible opportunity to learn independence and new skills for children before they embark on their secondary school journey.

Visitors

As well as enriching experiences out of school, we welcome many visitors into our school throughout the year to provide exciting, dynamic learning experiences for the children. These have included:

- North East play bus.
- Crazy creatures.
- Chris Bostock.
- Relax kids.

Sport and PE

We believe all children should have the opportunity to take part in regular physical activity and develop habits for a long, healthy and active life. This starts in our Early Years provision with free-flow of indoor-outdoor provision, giving young children all the movement they need to develop.

Through their journey at Plains Farm, children will engage in competitive and cooperative physical activities and will take part in a variety of games, gymnastics and dance activities. By the time children reach Key Stage 2, they will have developed a broad range of skills and ways of communicating, collaborating and competing.

We have a very large playing field and host a football club and athletics events here. Each year we pay for pupils to receive specialist coaching from The South Shields Foundation coaches.

Clubs

Our range of before school, lunchtime and after school clubs is so broad, we're sure there will be something for every child. Our range of clubs includes:

- Multi-sports.
- Choir.
- iPad club.
- Colouring club.
- Mindfulness.



Equality of opportunity

We believe that everyone deserves the opportunity to achieve their full potential and that it's our job as educators to overcome challenges and barriers to learning. The governors and staff of Plains Farm Academy work hard to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) have access to a fully inclusive curriculum and can take part fully in school activities.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Children with SEND will receive specific help from their class teachers, teaching assistants and the SENDCo. Where necessary, the school and parents will consult with and seek advice from various outside agencies. We review and assess the progress of children with additional needs and put appropriate interventions and educational plans in place.

Working individually with children

We aim to ensure that the needs of all children are met and that children have access to all necessary resources to enable them to reach their full potential and overcome all learning and developmental challenges. Most importantly, our dedicated and caring staff value all students regardless of their ability. The Code of Practice for children with SEND is firmly in place with active Governor involvement and parental support. A policy document explaining in more detail is available on the school website.

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs. Opportunities are sought for such pupils to meet and work with similarly gifted pupils in the area, often at sessions run by local secondary schools.



Admissions arrangements

Nursery admissions

The academy takes children from the age of three. Parents can register their interest in a nursery place with the academy by completing an application form when their child is two years old. To register your child for a nursery place, please visit the academy reception and bring along a copy of their birth certificate.

Reception admissions

An application for a place in Reception must be made online with the Local Authority, www.sunderland.gov.uk/admissionsonline. When you apply for a place online, you will receive a confirmation email to reassure you your application has been received. You can also call 0191 520 5553 to request a paper application form.

In-year admissions

Sometimes children must transfer to Plains Farm Academy from other schools outside of the normal admissions process. To register for a place you must collect a transfer form from your child's current school. The completed form should be handed into your child's current school office, who will then forward the relevant paperwork to Sunderland City Council's Admissions Service for processing.

Getting involved

Voluntary helpers

We always welcome volunteers from our school and wider community to help with activities such as school visits, or supporting children in class, etc. If you are interested in volunteering at the school, please contact the school office.

Governorship

The governing board at Plains Farm Academy is made up of parents, school staff, representatives from the Multi-Academy Trust and members of the local community who want to make a positive contribution to children's education. They use their diverse knowledge and experience to help the headteacher make the right decisions for the school and oversee the strategic direction and performance of the school and ensure accountability. When a parent governor position becomes available, we will notify you and allow you to apply.



Our ethos, aims and vision

Inspire Multi Academy Trust's vision

Plains Farm Academy is proud to be a part of Inspire Multi Academy Trust, alongside Burnside, New Penshaw, Fatfield and Farringdon Academies. Inspire Multi Academy Trust's vision is 'to create a family of outstanding schools with a clear purpose, direction and objectives.'

Inspire Multi-Academy Trust's ethos

We will build a thriving community where challenge and accountability enable us to succeed on behalf of the children and families whom the Trust serves. Enjoyment of learning is fundamental; we will harness enthusiastically the power of a creative and diverse curriculum to raise attainment across the Trust schools. We will put the needs of our children at the heart of all our decision-making.

Plains Farm Academy aims

- To provide a broad, balanced, rich, varied, stimulating and creative curriculum.
- To motivate, challenge and inspire all to have the highest aspirations and standards.
- To ensure excellent for everyone at every stage of their learning journey, enabling them to reach their full potential as responsible citizens.
- To provide a safe, secure and nurturing environment.
- To encourage everyone to be caring, honest and happy individuals who have tolerance and respect for all.
- To strive to ensure all learners are reflective, demonstrate resilience and are independent within their own successes and enjoy their journey with us at Plains Farm Academy.



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