



Middleton-in-Teesdale
Academy

2025

PROSPECTUS





Welcome to Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy

Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy is a unique primary school set in the heart of our wonderful village, surrounded by the most magnificent countryside. It's a place where children learn to be their best self. Here at Middleton, children are happy and smiley. But most of all, children love to look after each other.

Being headteacher here fills me with a great sense of pride. Our school has gone from strength to strength and it's only just the beginning.

Although SATs are important, they are only a part of the primary school experience and every day children at Middleton excel in many other ways. They are creative and passionate, they sing and dance, they help each other, they are kind and compassionate, they are curious and interested.

As a parent, I know that choosing a primary school for your child is a hugely

important decision - you want to know that they will be cared for, nurtured, and given the best education possible. At Middleton-in-Teesdale we offer your child just that; a carefully planned, rounded, and caring education, that's brimming with happiness.

I warmly invite you to come and see for yourself what a wonderful school we have here.

Catherine Harris

Catherine Harris, Headteacher



A close-up photograph of a young boy with brown hair, wearing clear safety glasses and a dark blue school sweater over a white collared shirt. He is looking slightly to the right of the camera with a thoughtful expression. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a school hallway with other people. There are decorative blue and green geometric shapes overlaid on the bottom right and bottom left of the image.

**I feel proud to be a leader
in this school. There are
exciting times ahead
and I am looking forward to
being a part of this journey.”**

- Associate Assistant Headteacher



Teaching & *learning*

Excellent teaching and learning helps children to lead happy and rewarding lives and is an investment for future communities. At Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy we believe that learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience... and it should be fun!

Through our teaching we aim to equip children with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their current lives. We also enable them to be 'active citizens' (people who feel inspired, motivated and empowered to make a difference) now and in the future.

We follow the National Curriculum where our dedicated team have worked incredibly hard planning progressive learning for every year group in every subject.

We work alongside other primary schools in the North East Learning Trust to develop and share the best teaching and learning techniques, underpinned by the latest evidence-based research about what makes the biggest impact on children's learning.

Play-based learning is important to us and we believe very strongly in allowing children to direct their own learning. Staff play alongside the children, observing, modelling and stepping into their play to provide challenge and constant learning opportunities.



Our Vision & values

At Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy we have a simple shared vision with all schools in the North East Learning Trust - that every child experiences excellence every day.

We work hard to ensure that every learning journey is memorable and happy, and that each individual's potential is recognised and nurtured.

As a school we aim to develop:

- Enthusiastic and successful learners
- A curriculum that will inspire and challenge all learners
- Responsible, active citizens of current and future communities
- A learning environment that is safe, stimulating and that fully supports learning

We believe effective teaching and learning is:

Life skills for a life-long learning journey
Engaging and ambitious
Active and interactive
Relevant and meaningful
Nurtures everyone's individual potential
Inspiring
Neighbourhood and community-centred
Generates challenge, equality & opportunity



Our school is a place where children can be themselves and are encouraged to develop their strengths, in a safe and caring environment. This allows them to flourish in their own individual way.”

- Year 3 and 4 teacher



There are *visible improvements* to the school since joining NELT. The management team are really supportive.”

- Vice Chair of Friends of Middleton (FOMS)



At the heart of the Community

Our school is at the heart of a tight knit community - something which we treasure. At Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy we say that 'many hearts make a school' and we truly value our relationships with families, friends and neighbours.

We work closely with parents and carers and are grateful to be supported by the Friends of Middleton (FOMS). The group collaborates with pupils and staff to provide the very best for our children.

FOMS have recently provided new waterproofs for our pupils in Early Years, donated to subsidise school trips and transport, sponsored Year 6 yearbooks and organised Christmas activities.

The Friends of Middleton always welcome new members with open arms and look forward to involving more parents as their children join the Academy.

Our sponsors, the North East Learning Trust (NELT), respect and value our school's heritage and help us to evolve whilst nurturing the warmth, character and spirit that has defined our school and been so important to the local community across the years.



What our teachers say...

Children get to have an understanding of things that make it meaningful in the real world through a broad and rich curriculum. This includes a strong PSHE education which provides a well-rounded world view.

We provide a warm and friendly environment for our children. School isn't only about grades, it's about knowing that children are happy, safe and nurtured.

Our school is in such a unique setting surrounded by beautiful scenery which makes Forest School even more impactful.

We provide fantastic opportunities for our children, both in and out of the classroom. Pupil leadership schemes allow our pupils to take ownership of their school experience and improve their confidence.

We are a close knit community and we really enjoy working with parents and carers to ensure the best outcomes for our children. It's lovely to be able to know all of our children and their individual families.

We have high expectations for all of our children. We want them to reach for the stars and be full of self-confidence. Having mixed year classes enables our children to get to know everyone and gain valuable life skills.

Being a small school means that Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy is like a family. Staff know each and every child well.

We are a welcoming and inclusive school. We go out of our way to reward positive attributes and behaviour through our numerous rewards initiatives.



Introducing Forest School

If you go down to the woods today you're sure of a big surprise... by discovering our inquisitive youngsters foraging, building and creating their own outdoor adventures in our Forest School!

Learning within nature enriches children's lives and enhances their education. After all, what better way to learn about the world around you than by grabbing hold of it with two (muddy) hands!

We aim for as many children as possible to join Forest School across our two distinctly different sites. Our top site, which is open and sheltered by the tree canopy, offers a variety of different spaces to explore. In contrast, our second site is more of a wild space that children can freely explore.

Our Forest School is child-led, with no predetermined criteria with which to measure them against. This means all children can participate equally, gaining a

sense of achievement and boosting their self-esteem - a truly holistic approach to child development.

Forest School is proven to support the development of many life skills and personal qualities including: resilience, team work, responsibility, communication, self-confidence, concentration, strength and coordination, the ability to understand and evaluate risk, using initiative, building positive relationships, positive physical and mental wellbeing and fostering creativity.

Above all else however, you can tell by the smiles on their faces that Forest School is fun!





“Young people develop most when they are *learning by doing*, when they are given responsibility, work in teams, take acceptable risks and think for themselves.”

- Forest School Association





How to apply...

We actively encourage anyone considering Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy to visit us and see for yourself our wonderful school - please call to make an appointment on 01833 640 382.

If you've already decided you would like your child to attend Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy, you will need to complete an online application form by visiting:

www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you do not have access to the internet, you can complete a paper application by contacting Durham County Council on 03000 265 896.

The deadline for applications is in January (see admissions website for the exact date).



Supported by the North East Learning Trust

Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy is part of the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of schools across North East England.

NELT is widely regarded as providing some of the best education in the county, and indeed the country, with children making significant progress from their starting points, achieving impressive exam results, and going on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities.

NELT has grown to 13 schools with an impressive series of rapid school improvements under their belts. Without exception, every school that has joined NELT as 'inadequate' or 'requiring improvement' as judged by Ofsted, has improved by two whole grades to become 'good' or 'outstanding' – this success is a testament to the unwavering dedication of a talented regional network of staff.

NELT is deeply committed to teacher development. It operates North East SCITT, a dedicated training arm for

new teachers, ensuring the highest standards of teaching expertise are embedded from the start of new teachers' careers.

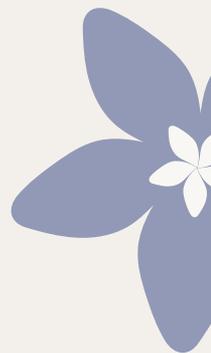
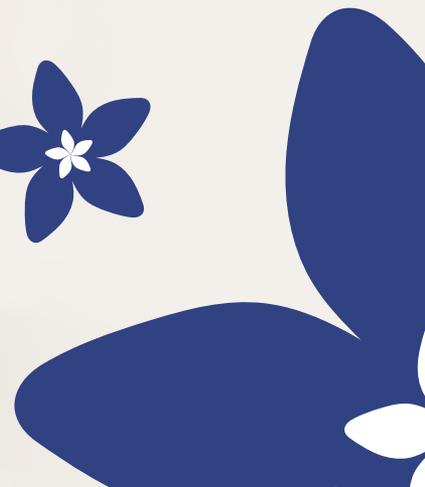
Additionally, as a National Teaching School Hub, NELT is one of 87 centres across England offering teachers high quality training and development throughout their careers.

NELT's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is also a National Research School, one of just 23 in England that up-skill teachers using cutting-edge research.

NELT is led by outstanding educators, including CEO Lesley Powell CBE, who actively contributes to regional and national educational development. It has also built up a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools on their paths to becoming outstanding.



We hope to
see you soon!





Middleton-in-Teesdale Academy

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**North East
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