



Watercliffe Meadow

Prospectus

The World is Ours!



*Welcome to
Watercliffe Meadow!*





Watercliffe Meadow

The World is Ours

Watercliffe Meadow is a happy, caring place for learning.

Everyone has the chance to explore, discover and develop their unique qualities, skills, gifts and talents.

We feel good about who we are.

Together, we can help to make the world a better place.

This is our 'mission statement'. Staff, children, parents and governors all worked together to create these simple statements that explain what we are about and what our vision and aims are for our learning community. Our children have even written a song about it!

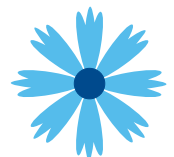
We all know that the world is a fast and ever-changing place. What we want to do above all things is to prepare our children, not only to survive in the world of the 21st Century but also to find their place and to be able to flourish within it. To do this, we know that we must provide a stable and caring environment where learning is valued, and where children (and adults) have access to a wide range of exciting learning opportunities that will help them develop their knowledge, skills and attitudes so that everyone can become successful and content in life.

We want our children to become independent learners, to have the chance to discover and feel confident about their own uniqueness and also to be able to appreciate the wider world and the importance of working together to make things better.

Our staff are dedicated to making this happen. We truly believe that,
by working together, we can achieve the aims of our mission statement.

The World is Ours!

**The Staff and Governors of
Watercliffe Meadow**



Living Our 'Mission Statement'

Feeling Safe • Enjoy Learning

Being Healthy and Active • Becoming a Global Citizen

Feeling Safe

We want all our children to feel safe and cared for. Our '**Golden Rules**' (see page 6) are the code by which we all live at Watercliffe Meadow. These life rules help to ensure high standards of behaviour and a respectful community. We have very clear behaviour and anti-bullying policies (see our 'parent summary guides') and the rewards and sanctions for all children are outlined in these.

For children who feel upset or vulnerable we have a range of 'listening systems' and support set up to give children opportunities to talk about their concerns and feelings.

Our safeguarding policy clearly states that where we have concerns about a child's welfare, we will not hesitate to contact parents and carers and involve outside agencies if necessary.

We recognise the value and the importance of positive relationships between adults and children. All our staff are trained in empathetic listening and using a trauma 'informed approach'. In 2023 we received the Trauma Informed Schools UK Award.

Enjoying Learning

For every single child at Watercliffe Meadow, enjoying and achieving in their learning is central to everything we do. Our staff plan for creative and relevant experiences that will engage children in their learning. We want children to develop enquiring minds, become good problem solvers and be able to work well with others. The basic skills of reading, writing and numeracy underpin success in learning and we all work very hard to ensure all of our children develop these skills.

Where children need additional support or an individualised programme to help them succeed, we have trained staff who provide the appropriate support and guidance.

We also actively help children to discover their own unique strengths and abilities and promote success. We know that success in one aspect of the curriculum can be channelled to help in other areas where children may feel less confident.

Attendance and punctuality are important factors in enjoying and achieving. We want children to come to Watercliffe Meadow because they enjoy coming, simply because it is a great place to be.

Where a child's attendance or punctuality causes us concern and falls below 90%, we will work with parents to explore the reasons why and provide the necessary support to improve it. As a school, our whole school attendance target is 96%.

Being Healthy and Active

We actively promote healthy eating throughout the curriculum; in the Meadow Café, through parent workshops and through our healthy eating policy. We want pupils and parents to be able to make informed decisions about their diet.

We encourage pupils to be fit and active and provide the minimum entitlement of 2 hours of quality PE for every child each week through our broad PE curriculum and by providing a range of engaging additional activities from which children can choose. We encourage healthy activity during social times and we actively promote the importance of regular exercise.

We also want our pupils to be 'emotionally healthy' as well as physically healthy. An important part of our daily and weekly planned curriculum focuses on the development of children's emotional and social skills. Children who feel emotionally vulnerable have access to our learning mentor and support staff team and we work closely with outside agencies to provide children and families with additional support whenever it is needed.



Becoming a Global Citizen

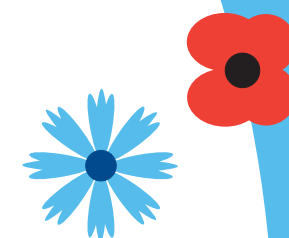
Our mission statement illustrates the value we place on the importance of our children becoming 'global citizens'. We want our children to develop a growing awareness and appreciation of other people and know about the ever-changing world in which they live. This is something we will enable children to learn about through planned curriculum experiences and teaching that will actively develop social and community cohesion and global citizenship.

In addition, there are many ways that children can make a positive contribution and share a responsibility for the welfare of our community. These include us having a community council where our children are given a real say in issues that affect them; being trained as peer mediators, play leaders, office helpers, not to mention a range of other jobs, which children can apply for to help in the day-to-day running of Watercliffe Meadow.

We also want to extend the opportunities for our children to make a positive contribution to the wider local community and are actively looking for partners to develop and strengthen links with.

From the outset we encourage parents to attend our workshops and adult learning opportunities within school. These begin in F1 with a series of 5 workshops called, **'We are Family'**.

We were the first school in Sheffield to take on the Save the Children supported FAST (Families and Schools Together) programme, which sets out to establish deep relationships with families in parent led 'hubs'.





Our **'GOLDEN RULES'**

1. We are positive and polite

We don't act in an impolite way

2. We are gentle

We don't hurt anyone

3. We are kind and helpful

We don't hurt anybody's feelings

4. We listen well

We don't interrupt

5. We are honest

We don't cover up the truth

6. We work hard

We don't waste our own
or other's time

7. We look after property

We don't waste or damage things



Living Together in an Inclusive and Nurturing Environment

We hope that everyone who comes to Watercliffe Meadow finds it to be a warm, welcoming and friendly place. For children, staff, families and other visitors we want it to have a 'homely feel' where everyone respects and appreciates each other and where everyone can see that learning is valued.

We have created a variety of different spaces for learning, both inside and outside to suit different people's learning needs. Our 'Front of House' staff, the Magic Room and our Meadow Cafe are all important parts of creating this welcoming and nurturing environment. We expect all children and all adults to look after our school and the decision to have indoor footwear for pupils is a practical step towards keeping our building clean and tidy.

In a place that so many people share every day, we need to have a code of conduct that everyone adheres to. This is essential in creating a calm atmosphere for learning and in maintaining the smooth running of day-to-day life. Our '**Golden Rules**' are what we live by every day.

The vast majority of our children follow our '**Golden Rules**' all of the time. For them there is an important weekly reward each Friday afternoon (for children from Y2-Y6 - our younger children have 10 minutes Golden Time every day). 'Golden Time' is an entitlement for all children and everyone starts each week with 30 minutes of this special time. The only reason that children will lose their Golden Time on Friday afternoon is if they break our Golden Rules and lose it in blocks of 5 minutes (1 minute for younger children) at any time during the week.

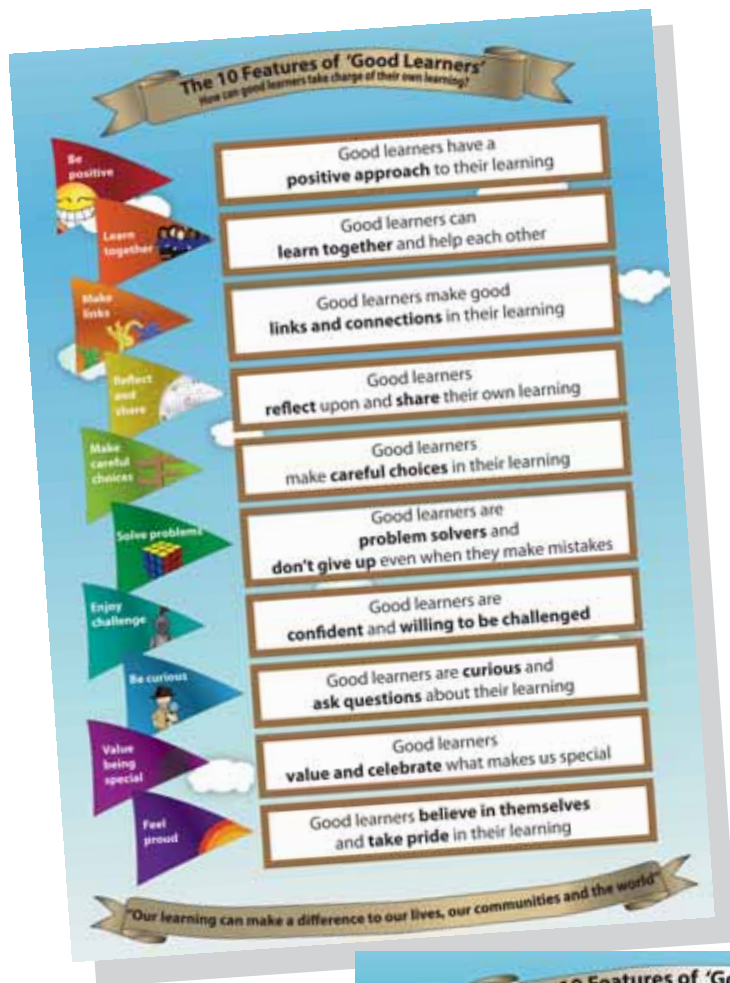
Although we have a number of other reward systems and sanctions, 'Golden Time' linked to the '**Golden Rules**' is the backbone of our positive approach to developing good behaviour. Because it works so well for most of our pupils, this means that for the very small number of children who find it hard to keep to the golden rules all the time, we can focus our energies and support in helping them to do so. When this is the case, we involve and work with families to change the behaviour that is causing us all concern. In such cases it is essential that we work together to change the pattern of behaviour.

Please read our '**Positive Behaviour Guide**' and '**Anti-Bullying**' leaflet for further information about promoting positive behaviour at Watercliffe Meadow. There is also a parent guide film on our website, which explains how these school systems all fit together.



'Our Golden Model' visit www.watercliffemeadow.com





Our Learning Principles

During 2010 and 2011 staff at Watercliffe Meadow and E-ACT Pathways worked together with Jane Reed (a nationally recognised figure in education), to devise a set of '*learning principles*' that would be central to the learning experience for all our children.

Over an 18 month period, staff at both schools worked with children, parents and staff to answer the question - '*How do we want our children to be as learners when they leave us in Y6?*' The result of this action research is the development of 10 learning principles, which will give all our children '**Learning Principles**' for the rest of their life (see the poster alongside showing the learning principles and the Passport to Learning Wheel).

Our aim is for all our children as they move through school to become increasingly aware of their own strengths as learners and to work on those areas in which they are not so strong. It is our intention that by the time children go on to secondary that each of them not only knows how they have developed across the 10 learning principles but also that they have collected evidence of themselves demonstrating these principles during their time at Watercliffe Meadow. Each year this is reflected in the learning that is collated in the WCM University folders that are sent home as part of our annual reporting to families.

All the latest educational research shows that children who know how to be a 'good learner', and can apply this knowledge, are successful.

We feel strongly that if we equip our children with this '**Learning Principles**' then we are giving them the best life chances and the ability to really make a difference in the world.

P4C

'Philosophy for Children' is a way of encouraging children to question and challenge issues they may encounter in life. It promotes the use of positive language to debate ideas, active listening skills, deeper levels of thought and empathy for others. P4C also provides a great way to explore concepts within our 'Theme' lessons.



Phonics

The building blocks of learning to read and a way of teaching children to recognise the key sounds that make up words in English. These are taught progressively as soon as children start school and 'good phonic' knowledge also helps children recognise many common spelling patterns.

101 Reads

A number of years ago we developed a list of 101 books to read before you leave Watercliffe Meadow. This is all part of our drive to instill a love of reading in every child. Stories are a big part of the WCM experience. Every term we have a 'Cosy Read' where we have a special story telling event across school. We have visiting authors every year and are always part of the Sheffield Children's Book Awards. Every Christmas our governors buy each child the gift of a book.



QCT

'Quality Circle Time' is a chance to explore issues that may arise with in the class. Children are encouraged to discuss any problems and others offer solutions by saying 'Would it help if...?'. These sessions are part of our whole school 'listening systems' for children and are designed to increase the children's awareness of them self and how we affect each other. Sessions are carefully structured to ensure children reach positive solutions and everyone leaves feeling a sense of well-being.

Guided Reading

This is a session of focussed reading time where groups read with a teacher or teaching assistant looking at a specific reading target. During these sessions other children work on tasks that also develop their understanding of text and reading.

BIG Maths

Big Maths is a rigorous, systematic and structured approach which is designed to ensure children become properly numeric as they journey through school. The framework is known as CLIC (Counting, Learn Its, It's Nothing New and Calculation) and is characterised by accurate steps of progression (known as progress drives) that make new learning easy and obvious to children by cashing in on the timeless natural laws of maths

www.andrelleducation.com/big-maths



Getting involved with Learning

There are other important ways that you can get involved with your child's learning

We welcome parents at Watercliffe Meadow and value your opinions - it is your school!

By working together we will make the biggest difference. Here are a number of ways you can be involved in the life of our school.

- Become a parent helper - we can offer you training to help on a regular basis with reading or some other aspect of school that you would be interested in getting involved in.
- Attend parents' evenings. These happen once a term and are a really important way of supporting your child and finding out about their progress.
- Support your child with their home learning (homework) - this will reinforce the learning that your child is doing at school.
- Hear your child read as often as you can - every day if possible. Until children become fluent and independent readers, this is one of the most important ways you can help to support your child's learning.
- Join our Friends of Watercliffe Meadow Parent Group.

Our School Uniform

- **All pupils** must wear a sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece that is embroidered with the Watercliffe Meadow logo.
- Polo Shirts can be either sky blue or royal blue and these can be worn with or without the school logo
- Black or grey trousers, tracksuit bottoms, shorts, pinafore or skirt (no denim)
- Girls can wear a blue gingham dress in the summer

It is important to put your child's name on all of their clothes - with over 500 children in school it is very difficult to identify lost clothing if it has no name on it! Uniform and name labels can always be ordered through the school office.

Indoor Shoes

Because our school is carpeted throughout and we have over 500 children using our school every day, children will be expected to change into some indoor shoes when they go into their classrooms.

PE Kit

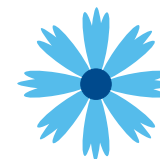
All children must bring a PE Kit into which they will change into for PE lessons and lunchtime/after school clubs. This is really important for reasons of hygiene. Our PE kit is very simple:

- Plain black shorts
- Plain white t-shirt, with or without our school logo
- Children must have appropriate footwear for outdoor PE - plimsolls or trainers
- Plain black leggings or tracksuit bottoms for outdoor PE
- Plain sweatshirt /tracksuit top for outdoor lessons

Jewellery

Watercliffe Meadow operates a **no jewellery policy**. This is with the exception of a pair of stud earrings. If your child already has their ears pierced they will need to be able to remove them independently before PE lessons.

Thank you - we appreciate your help and support to ensure that all of our children can undertake their lessons safely and that we can all maintain a feeling of pride in our school.



Dropping Off and Picking Up

Punctuality is an important life skill for children to learn. Please help your children to arrive at school on time so that they can avoid having to miss the start of their day's learning.

Start of the Day

- Breakfast club starts in the Meadow Café at **8.00am**.
- The school day starts at **8.45am**.
- Classroom doors are closed at **8.55am**.
- Any children arriving after **8.55am** will need to come into school through the main office.
- Please note that from **9.00am** children will be officially late and recorded as such on the register.



End of the Day

The end of the day is staggered to allow parents who have children of different ages in different places at Watercliffe Meadow the time to collect them:

- The end of the day for all children is **3.15pm**.
- Children in Nursery can be collected between **3.00pm and 3.20pm**.
- After school clubs run from **3.15pm-4.15pm**.



Parking

Parking at the beginning and end of the day is difficult on our site.

The main car park on the Shirecliffe Road side of Boynton Road is closed during the busy start and end of the day period to help maintain safety for children.

Please be respectful and aware of residents, blocking access and adhere to the road markings, which are there for safety and emergency vehicle access.

In addition to the 2 entrances on Boynton Road, there is also access to school via Shirecliffe Road where there are a number of bays for parking.



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Watercliffe Meadow

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