

Excellence at the heart of the community



School Prospectus



Washington
Academy

Enriching Lives, Inspiring Ambitions

Curriculum Organisation

We are committed to providing a curriculum which responds to the needs of every student whilst ensuring access to a broad and balanced educational experience.

On arrival to the school in Year 7 students are allocated to a teaching group which is constructed through consultation with primary schools and takes into account students' learning needs as well as their prior achievement.

In Year 8, students are grouped based on their performance in Year 7 as well as their prior attainment in primary school.

In Year 9, 10 and 11, students are set based on their ability and performance in Year 7 and 8 for the core subjects. Students are taught in mixed ability groups for their option subjects from Year 10.



Homework

Homework at Washington Academy has the purpose of consolidating learning. It can feature a wide range of tasks that may have different formats.

Different styles of homework will be regularly set by each subject area. For example, in mathematics short practice exercises may be appropriate, whilst for humanities, project based tasks may be given. We also understand that until the habits of learning are established, students will work at a different pace and varying degrees of independence.

Homework will be set in accordance with our homework timetable which can be accessed via our academy website: www.washingtonacademy.co.uk/welcome/homework/

If you have questions about your child's homework, in the first instance, please contact the Head of Department of the subject concerned.

The academy has a system called 'Class Charts'. This is a web based system of setting all homework. All parents/carers and students get password protected access to this site so everybody stays informed about what has been set and when it is due to be handed in.

Parents and carers of new Year 7 students will receive details of log in and password details at the start of the new academic year. There is also a 'Class Charts' app which is available download free of charge to a smart phone. Our expectation is that parents/carers will ensure that homework is completed to a high standard and submitted on time.

Monitoring Progress

Washington Academy believes that assessment is an integral part of the learning process. As a parent/carer, you will receive a report once per term demonstrating your child's progress to date.

You will also be invited to attend a **Parents' Evening** once a year to discuss your child's progress with their subject teachers. This evening is organised through an appointment based system and you are able to book appointments with your child's teachers via our online booking system prior to the evening. An appointment with your child's tutor can also be arranged if required. You will receive notification of parents' evenings by letter. We ask that you ensure that your contact details are up to date to prevent important messages being missed. Our expectation is that parents/carers will attend these evenings.



The Pastoral Team

Students in Years 7 to 11 are assigned to a year based tutor group led by a Year Leader. Each year group is recognisable by the colour of their school tie.

Each tutor group has its own tutor who is integral to monitoring your child's progress and supporting them to develop positive learning habits. If you have any questions, concerns or queries regarding the academic progress or welfare of your child, you are encouraged to contact the tutor.

Tutors are led by Year Leaders who work closely with Heads of Department and subject teachers to meet the learning needs of the students in their care.

We also ask that parents/carers to sign a consent form about information sharing in case we need to make a referral to an external agency or share information with colleagues in other schools.

Support Agencies

We believe that supporting your child through their years at Washington Academy is the key to their academic and lifelong success. There are many ways in which we can do this and the support we offer includes:

- School Counsellors: both male and female counsellors are available
- Early Help Workers: these provide support to students and their families
- School Nurses: Nurture groups, health information, advice sessions, and C-Card services
- Emotional Resilience Nurse: Weekly emotional, resilience and wellbeing support sessions
- Targeted Youth Services pilot project—Working with young people who have specific barriers to learning
- Behaviour Intervention Team: Intensive and specific support for students who have complex behavioural needs
- Youth Drug and Alcohol Project (YDAP) - Group and one to one sessions which focus on educating young people about drugs and drug prevention

In addition to our onsite offer we also work closely with our external partners to provide more individual and bespoke support using a multi-agency approach. These agencies include but are not limited to:

- Local Community Police and Police Community Support Officers
- Educational Psychologist
- CAHMS/CYPS
- Together for Children

If you feel your child may benefit from any of the support mentioned above this should be discussed with your child's Year Leader.

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

We are committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum which meets the needs of all pupils, including those with additional needs. We aim to ensure all pupils receive a fulfilling educational experience.

Pupils with additional educational needs have an individual support plan and they will receive differentiation and additional strategies in lessons to reduce their barriers to learning. This support will be reviewed on a termly basis with the pupil, parents / carers, and key members of staff. If required, the support plan will then be updated.

Interventions are offered throughout the school on an individual and group basis depending on need and range from Literacy and phonics support to an extensive range of additional agencies and counselling services.

Inspire Provision

Washington Academy are proud to offer a local authority commissioned provision for students who have an EHCP and learning difficulties or disabilities.

Inspire provides a broad and balanced curriculum with a blend of specialist and mainstream learning opportunities.

Our curriculum is designed to develop our young people academically, socially and emotionally with timetabled lessons to support social skills and preparation for adulthood.

These skills are embedded across the curriculum and students have an opportunity at KS4 to follow accredited courses at GCSE, BTEC and entry level.

Culture for Learning

At Washington Academy, learning comes first. We aim for students to become responsible, self-disciplined learners who make positive choices about their learning and behaviour. The focus is on reward and every member of staff will utilise our behaviour recording system 'Class Charts' to provide instant visual recognition of good behaviour by students within their tutor group, their teaching class and across the Academy.

The expected code of conduct for every student at Washington Academy are the Agreed Academy Absolutes.



Outside the classroom

1. You must move **quickly, quietly and sensibly** to your lesson.
2. When you arrive at the classroom you must **line up** quickly, quietly and sensibly and **wait for the teacher**.
3. **When the teacher tells you** walk into the classroom quickly, quietly and sensibly and **find your Seat**.
4. **Outdoor coats should be removed** once you have entered the academy.
5. **Remove your bag and place it under your seat.**

At the start of every lesson:

1. **Place your equipment, on top of your desk.**
2. **Sit quietly whilst the teacher takes the register.** When you hear your name simply answer **'Yes Sir' or 'Yes Miss'**
3. During the lesson remember to put **your hand up if you want to ask / answer a question.**

At the end of every lesson:

1. **Pack up all of your equipment** and books quickly, quietly and sensibly.
2. **Tidy up** quickly, quietly and sensibly.
3. **Wait for the teacher to dismiss you**

Attendance and Punctuality

Good attendance and punctuality are fundamental to students achieving their potential to help them in later life; there is a strong link between excellent attendance and high achievement.

There are processes in place to monitor and intervene if your child's attendance falls below expected levels.:

- In the event of a student's absence, parents/carers should inform the office at Washington Academy by telephone on a daily basis. This should be followed by a note of explanation on their return. If a long absence seems likely we can provide work. If parents/carers do not telephone on the day of absence a text message will be sent and we expect parents/carers to respond to such messages by text
- It is vital that students arrive on time every day so that they can participate fully in tutor time activities and are given necessary information. Students should be in their tutor room by 8.35am and attend all lessons on time. Persistent lateness will lead to an escalation in sanctions.
- The vast majority of parents or carers do not take their children out of Washington Academy during term time but there have been rare occasions when we are asked to accommodate requests for them to do so. However, the Department for Education does not allow parents to take their children out of Washington Academy for the purpose of a family holiday. Any such absence will be marked on the register as unauthorised.
- Students are classed as 'persistent absentees' if their attendance falls below 90%, (more than 19 days absent). Students falling below 90% will be referred to the Local Authority's Attendance Improvement Team, which would be the first step towards legal action if attendance does not improve. We expect that all students have a minimum attendance of 97%, (no more than 6 days absent across the academic year).

Main Academy Uniform

The uniform at Washington Academy is intended to be fit for purpose in an educational setting. It helps students present themselves positively, gives them confidence to represent the academy and promotes a strong sense of identity. The details of both the academy and PE uniforms are given below. Students are expected to wear correct uniform throughout the school year. Items which students grow out of or require replacing must be replaced as and when necessary and not just at the start of the school year. The items of the academy and PE uniform which are indicated below are purchased directly from Washington Academy's supplier, Little Gems, 11 Brockwell Road, Crowther Industrial Estate, Washington, NE38 0AF.

MAIN ACADEMY UNIFORM		
Boys & Girls		Guidance
Grey blazer with embroidered silver academy logo		Replacement of the blazer with an alternative jacket, hoody or tracksuit top is not allowed.
Formal white school shirt to be worn tucked in		All students across the academy will wear white shirts from September 2021
School tie		<p>The tie must be worn at all times. The tie worn must be the one which was allocated to the students' year group from the September they join us. The allocated colours for each Year Group at September 2021 are as follows;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Year 7 - Maroon ○ Year 8 - Turquoise ○ Year 9 – Silver ○ Year 10 – Purple ○ Year 11 – Orange
Blue embroidered jumper or tank top		<p>The jumper or tank top is an optional item. Students can choose whether or not to wear the jumper or tank top under their blazer. If purchased, it must be purchased from the uniform supplier. The wearing of the jumper or tank top does not replace the wearing of the blazer.</p>
Black polishable footwear (shoes or trainers)		<p>Flat, black, closed toe footwear Footwear meeting the requirements of the Uniform Policy of Washington Academy can be purchased directly from Wynsors at either their Gateshead Store located at the Sands Industrial Estate in Swalwell or online at www.wynsors.com</p>
Boys	Girls	
Formal Black Trousers	Formal Black Trousers or Black Charleston skirt	<p>Skirts must be purchased from Little Gems, Uniform Supplier. Short 'tube' type designs are not acceptable. Trousers must not be jeans or jean style. We do not allow our students to wear trousers made of material with high elastic content or either hipster style or figure hugging. No leggings are allowed.</p>
Important information to also note:		<p>Excessive or heavy make-up, including coloured nail varnish and/or false nails are not allowed. Baseball caps are banned and other hats/hoods must not be worn inside the buildings. Jewellery which can be worn is stud earrings and a wrist watch. For boys and girls, hairstyles are expected to be conservative in their style and if coloured, it must be a natural shade to be deemed acceptable in a professional working environment.</p>

PE Uniform & Equipment

PE UNIFORM	
Boys & Girls	Guidance
Blue polo shirt with embroidered academy logo	Plain polo shirts cannot be worn.
Navy tracksuit bottoms or navy shorts with embroidered academy logo or sports leggings with academy logo	No sports tracksuit bottoms. No leggings other than academy branded leggings.
Hooded top with embroidered academy logo	Alternative sports hoodies cannot be worn.
Plain football socks	Sports socks can be worn
Footwear	Must be sports trainers.
Important information to also note:	Long hair must be tied up. No jewellery should be worn.

Students should come to Washington Academy equipped for lessons.

Every student should have:

- Pen
- Pencil
- Ruler

We expect you as parents/carers to ensure that your child is fully equipped for learning. Your child's tutor will carry out regular checks to ensure that this is the case for all students.

We also ask that as much personal property as possible should be clearly marked. Items of either sentimental or monetary value should not be brought into the academy. Washington Academy cannot be held responsible for the security or loss of personal equipment and has no insurance to cover such losses.

Mobile phones must not be used within the academy and must be switched off and out of sight. Any mobile phone that is seen or causes an issue will be confiscated for the rest of the day. Students may collect them at the end of the day from reception. Persistent use of the mobile phone will result in parental collection of the confiscated phone. Significant misuse of mobile devices within the academy will result in a complete ban. Parents/Carers will be informed of this by letter and may be invited to meet with the Head Teacher to discuss the infringement of our code of acceptable behaviours.



The Academy Day

Time	Activity	
8.30am	Students in the building	
8.35am	Registration in form rooms	
8.40am – 9.00am	Tutorial/Assembly	
9.00am – 10.00am	Period 1	
10.00am-10.15am	KS3 break	KS4 period 2
	KS3 period 2	
11.00am-11.15am		KS4 break
11.15am – 12.15pm	Period 3	
12.15pm – 12.45pm	KS3 lunch	KS4 period 4
12.45pm – 1.15pm	KS3 period 4	
1.15pm – 1.45pm		KS4 lunch
1.45pm – 2.45pm	Period 5	
2.45pm	End of school day	

Lunchtime Arrangements

We have a dining hall serving an extensive selection of healthy and nutritious food. Items are priced separately and a two course meal may be purchased for £2 as a meal deal. In addition, there is a mid-morning break service selling a selection of healthy breakfast style food.

All Year Groups remain in the academy at lunchtime. The academy operates a cash-free system; there is a finger scanner is used to deduct money from the student's account. Student accounts can be topped up by students using a cash machine in the academy.

Free School Meals Applications

You must apply for Free School Meals using our quick and easy online form <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

PLEASE NOTE: IF YOUR CHILD IS CURRENTLY RECEIVING FREE SCHOOL MEALS, YOU MUST STILL APPLY VIA THE LINK ABOVE TO RE-CONFIRM YOUR ELIGIBILITY DIRECT WITH THE ACADEMY - THIS ALSO APPLIES TO NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS MOVING FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY. DON'T LET YOUR CHILD MISS OUT.

We encourage all parents and guardians to apply irrespective of their income. This is because if your circumstances change, you'll automatically be enrolled and your child can start receiving free school meals right away. But it's not just about the free meals. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals and you register them for this, we will receive extra funding called 'Pupil Premium'. This additional funding is used to improve educational provisions and resources at the academy.

Local Academy Board

Members of the Local Academy Board of Washington Academy are:

Chair: Mr T Scott

Vice Chair: Ms S Kean

Vice Chair: Ms V Winspear

Headteacher: Mrs S Hamilton

Member: Miss S Green

Member: Miss L Robertson

Member: Mr C Fairs

Member: Mr J Sinclair

Member: Mr C Stewart

Member: Mrs P Khaira

Member: Mrs J Bainbridge

Member: Mrs A Robson

Member: Mrs K Oakland

Associate Member: Mr D Austwick

Observer: Mrs K Weller



The Senior Leadership Team

Mrs S Hamilton

Mr D Austwick

Miss L Parkin

Miss E Routledge

Mrs A Taylor

Mr M McHugh

Miss L Coates

Headteacher

Deputy Headteacher

Assistant Headteacher

Assistant Headteacher

Assistant Headteacher

Acting Assistant Headteacher

Head of Safeguarding and Wellbeing

Making an application to join Washington Academy

Washington Academy follows the common application scheme agreed with Sunderland City Council. Information about this can be found by following the links below. Parents/Carers are invited to the Open Evening in September but are welcome to visit, tour the academy and discuss applications in greater detail by making an appointment with Miss Routledge, Assistant Headteacher.

Transferring from Year 6 to Year 7

- Parents/Carers of Year 6 students are invited to the Open Evening in September.
- Preference Forms are sent to parents/carers of Year 6 students by Sunderland City Council in early September.
- Please note there is a deadline for the forms to be returned to the Admission Team at Sunderland City Council. It is important the forms are returned by the deadline date in order to have the best chance of getting the place you want.
- Parents/carers are informed in March of the school place allocated to their child.

Details of the common application process can be found at <http://www.sunderland.gov.uk> and by following the links > Residents > Children and Education > School Admissions > Secondary School Place - September 2021.

Applications for entry to Years 7 – 11 during the school year

- Parents/Carers interested in a place should contact the academy to organise a tour of the academy and an initial discussion.
- Parents/Carers should contact the Admissions Team at Sunderland City Council on 0191 520 5553
- Parents/Carers to complete a Transfer Form
- A member of the Admissions Team from Sunderland City Council will contact the academy to confirm that a place is available.
- If the transfer goes ahead, an admission meeting will be arranged between parents/carers and the academy.

ADMISSION CRITERIA FOR COMMUNITY SECONDARY SCHOOLS – 2021/22

1 'Looked-after' child who was previously looked after but immediately after being looked after became subject to an adoption, residency/child arrangement or special guardianship order – a child that is looked-after' by a Local Authority in accordance with Section 22(1) of the Children's Act 1989 and a child who was looked after, but ceased to be so, because of adoption (or become subject to a child arrangements order, residence order or special guardianship order).

2 'Looked-after' child who appears to the Admission Authority to have been in state care outside of England and ceased to be in state care as result of being adopted – a child is regarded as having been in state care in a place outside of England if they were accommodated by a public authority, a religious organisation or any other provider of care whose sole purpose is to benefit society

3 Attendance in Key Stage 2 (age 7-10+) at a designated cluster junior or primary school

4 A sibling link - an older brother/sister or older child (including adoptive, foster or step-children) that shares the same parent/carer and lives at the same address, who will still be attending the preferred school at the time of admission.

5 Exceptional medical or psychological reasons (you must include a medical or psychological report, prepared by a professional, to confirm information that you include in this section. This report should explain why only this school can meet your child's medical or psychological needs. Common childhood medical conditions such as asthma or giving a child's or giving a child's nervousness at starting new school as a psychological reason for choosing a particular school are unlikely to be accepted as exceptional). If you intend to use this criterion when expressing a preference, please contact the School Admissions Team before completing the application form. (Eligibility under this category will be considered by a meeting of Senior LA Officers).

6 Pupils for whom preferences are expressed on grounds other than those outlined above.

The general contact details
for Washington Academy are

Telephone: 0191 580 4956

Email: info@washingtonacademy.co.uk





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