

# Allendale Primary School

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**Nurture • Inspire • Achieve**



# Welcome

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Welcome to our school – a place that provides a unique educational opportunity for your child. At Allendale we take time to get to know every child as an individual and tailor their experience with us to their particular academic, social and emotional needs. We nurture self-esteem and build confidence to ensure all children feel safe and flourish during their time with us, developing to their full potential.

- Friendly, dedicated and approachable teachers, support staff and governors.
- High expectations and standards.
- Small teaching groups enable each child to receive individual attention.
- Spacious Community Sports Hall, fully equipped to provide access to sporting activities throughout the year.
- A building that has been completely refurbished to meet the needs of primary aged children from 4 – 11 years old.
- Dedicated Computing Suite with an extensive range of mobile devices
- Two inviting, well stocked library areas.
- Light and spacious teaching spaces.
- Separate Early Years Unit for nursery and reception children with self-contained outdoor area.
- All STARS – before and after school care provision.
- Superbly equipped adventure play area.
- Two large playgrounds and separate quiet yard.
- Extensive grounds, including a large sports field and nature reserve



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# The School and its Place in the Wider Community

The school's catchment area comprises of the valley of the East Allen river – a diverse rural area encompassing several villages and many smaller hamlets with a cohesive and vibrant community. The school is at the heart of the community, engaging in local events, contributing to initiatives and activities and welcoming members of the community into school. Many visit to bring their own experiences and expertise to share with the pupils, others to enjoy school performances, charity events hosted by the pupils or sporting events.

Allendale Primary is distinctive in that it offers the very best of two worlds: with some 120 pupils on roll it is small and friendly yet it has an extensive and secure site with many facilities envied by much larger settings.

Strong and consistent leadership is supported by a governing body that is both skilled and experienced. Together they actively put the wellbeing of the children at the heart of every action and decision. Parents, carers and their families are encouraged to be involved in their child's education and wider school life.

The collective passion and commitment of staff, governors and volunteers means that the children receive the best possible start to their education and are prepared for the opportunities and challenges that they will encounter in the modern world.



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**The end of year concert which pupils were enthusiastically rehearsing during my visit was based on the values of tolerance, democracy and fairness, and the pupils I spoke to exemplified these values. Your passion for ensuring that pupils remain at the heart of what you do is also notable. It is exemplified in the many ways pupils contribute to school developments - they are enthusiastic school councillors and eco warriors.**

Ofsted

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We are located on the site of a former middle school which extends across four acres and so enjoy a much bigger space than most primary schools of our size with equally impressive facilities. We have fully refurbished buildings with light, spacious classrooms, a dedicated computer suite, two well stocked libraries, a quiet nurture room, music studio and a large hall with stage which can accommodate whole school performances, assemblies and visiting theatre groups.

# The Learning Environment

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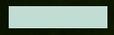
A separate Early Years Unit in the centre of the site with self-contained garden provides a warm welcome into school life for our nursery and reception children. The unit is well equipped with two large teaching areas and a central room for arts, crafts, sand and water play activities. The school maintains close links with the village preschool ensuring a seamless transition for those children transferring to our nursery.



Children are taught in relatively small classes. We encourage children to support and look out for each other and this helps develop compassion, confidence and leadership skills throughout the school. Older children are given the opportunity to take on tasks and responsibilities for helping and mentoring younger children during certain activities, breaks and open days

Our extensive grounds are divided into two large playgrounds and separate quiet yard, an adventure play area, sports field, a wildlife/nature area which is almost an acre in size and an outdoor classroom. Using our onsite community sports hall, we provide a wide range of sporting activities throughout the year and host inter-school meetings/fixtures.

# The Curriculum



The national curriculum delivered in primary schools is divided into three stages:

- Early Years Foundation Stage happens in Nursery and Reception: ages 4-5
- Key Stage 1: ages 5-7
- Key Stage 2: ages 7-11

In Early Years, the initial focus is on settling children into school and establishing core skills such as communication, language, literacy, mathematics and physical development.



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You and your team have an in-depth knowledge of each pupil. You know their interests, strengths and where they need support to show their full potential. You make regular checks on pupils' progress to provide them with timely support and this enables them to make consistently good progress.

Ofsted

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Learning happens through games and play and it is less formal than in key Stages 1 and 2. This helps support personal, social and emotional development, encouraging self-expression through creativity, art and music.

Key Stages 1 and 2 build on the EYFS and include:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Art and design
- Computing
- Design and technology
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical education
- Religious education
- Personal, social and health education
- French – in KS2





Core skills are enhanced through targeted programmes such as Accelerated Reader and Maths Mastery which are fun and stimulating for all abilities. We have volunteers who run library sessions to embed a reading culture for purpose and pleasure. Pupils make good progress and academic achievement in the school is impressive with excellent results being achieved at all levels. We are consistently amongst the highest achieving schools in Northumberland with results above the national average.

There exists a topic-based approach to learning with topics covering a range of curriculum areas, often involving visits and visitors. This focussed approach to a particular theme makes learning more relevant, enhances enjoyment and boosts levels of interest all of which assist in a child's learning. In addition, we hold specific themed days and weeks such as Health Week, National Science and Engineering Week, Anti Bullying Week and Arts days where the whole school gets involved and often works together.

Teachers are encouraged to use their strengths and often deliver lessons in other classes throughout the week; we call this our rotation lesson.

Children are continually monitored by their class teacher. Individual support is provided in specific areas where and when this is needed, including expert provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities and additional challenge for more able pupils. Parents and carers are given regular updates about their child's progress and achievements and work in partnership with the school to provide support at home. We hold workshops on learning methods and curriculum areas such as maths.



The school provides a challenging curriculum that creates enthusiasm and a love of learning. A wide range of activities and experiences expand the basic curriculum and are aimed at extending the children's learning inspiring teamwork, confidence and independence. The opportunities are carefully selected and structured so that each individual can participate and benefit from the experience:

# An Enriched Curriculum

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- Outdoor learning is a very prominent aspect within the extended curriculum and each year there is a focus of different skills as well as teamwork, developing initiative, independent thinking and problem solving.
- Links with the community – the school has strong links with the community, engaging in local events, contributing to activities such as village shows, the folk festival, the local history group and celebrations with the local churches. The school also hosts an annual art exhibition in the village art centre. A recent and very successful initiative has been the production of a school newspaper. The articles it contains, written by the pupils, give the local community an insight into the life of the school. In addition, local people work with the school in offering their time and expertise to expand the range and depth of activities that the school can offer.
- Visits and Visitors - are a regular feature within the school programme with annual residential visits making a valuable contribution to the pupils' educational experience.
- Sporting opportunities – a wealth of opportunities exist with the availability of a well-equipped Sports Hall and a field which accommodates a 400 metre running track. There are strong links with all the village sports clubs - football, tennis, cricket and golf which provide curricular and extra- curricular coaching and encourage the pupils to participate in a chosen sport outside of the school environment.
- School Productions – the school hall accommodates a stage, with associated lighting and seating for a large audience. This gives the pupils the opportunity to showcase their talents in an enhanced environment whether it be music, drama or dancing.



- School Council and Sports Leaders - Pupils are encouraged to take an active part in the life of the school. Each year the children elect representatives for the school council. These representatives along with the sports leaders are given responsibility to organise activities and consult with fellow pupils in making decisions involving different aspects of school life.
- National Awards – the number of awards that the school holds, on a regular basis, illustrates how successful the school is in providing a rich and diverse curriculum. The Artsmark Gold Award demonstrates an excellence in arts and cultural provision whilst the PE Gold mark recognises the range of provision offered in the way of physical activities. The school holds the Green Flag Award from Eco Schools. This is again managed by representatives from each year group who look at the school environment and sustainability. The enhanced Healthy Schools Award is held by the school and Bikeability cycle training is conducted on an annual basis. The school also holds the Modeshift Gold award for promoting sustainable and active travel.

# Outdoor Learning

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Teaching doesn't just happen in the classrooms and we recognise that being outside has health and wellbeing benefits as well as providing a different and stimulating environment in which to learn.

We have a dedicated and extensive nature area with trees and wild flowers planted by the children, a large dipping pond and fire pit. Our teachers and volunteers have a range of environmental and outdoor activity experience and use outdoor learning to demonstrate practical concepts, explore nature and develop children's creativity. Sessions allow teachers to develop links with many areas of the curriculum and assess children's skills in different contexts. Outdoor sessions also allow children to develop cross curricular skills such as team work, leadership, initiative and problem solving.



These facilities are also used by local community groups such as the scouts.

As well as on site facilities children make regular trips to the beach, local woodlands and other environments funded by the Parent Teacher and Friends of Allendale Primary School (PTFA). Years 4 and 6 enjoy a three-day residential break to explore activities such as rock climbing, canoeing and ghyll scrambling.

We have a very active and enthusiastic ECO club who regularly promote whole school initiatives and hold the Green Flag award.



The school grounds include extensive playing fields which provide space for a range of sports including football, rugby, cross country and athletics and allow the school to host inter-school tournaments and festivals.

# Sporting Activities



The large sports hall provides an all-weather venue for badminton, netball, indoor football, tennis and hockey and is also superbly equipped for indoor PE lessons like gymnastics. The hall is also used for a range of after-school clubs such as gymnastics, judo, tennis and cricket.



The school actively encourages competition between groups of children in school and also against other local schools. There are opportunities for every child to represent the school at sport during their time with us, and many choose to progress their sport with the numerous active clubs in our community.

Art and music are embedded in all aspects of the school for their own intrinsic value and the benefits of helping focus, improve memory and provide additional routes of expression. All our children participate in musical activity whether that is learning an instrument, singing in assembly and school productions or watching visiting theatre groups.

# Arts and Music

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Art takes many forms, with drawing and painting being regular activities which decorate the corridors and showcase the children's work. Creative workshops such as willow weaving, clay modelling and computer animation all build different skills and allow individual expression.





# Our School Day

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Children are invited to arrive in the playground from 8.45am where a member of staff will be on duty to greet them. Children who travel on school transport are supervised safely onto the site. Staff meet their classes in the playground and escort them into school ready for registration at 8.55am. Nursery and reception children can be taken directly into the Early Years Unit where staff will welcome them.



There is a short morning and longer lunch break. Around 20% of the primary school day is playtime – invaluable time spent outdoors of the classroom with the space to explore, build, create, reflect and play with others from across school. We joined the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPaL) Primary programme to change the culture of playtimes and encourage a greater sense of adventure, individuality and freedom. Through this mentored process we have opened up the whole school grounds and introduced a range of new equipment and items for the children to use if they wish. Support is given in learning to assess risk, understanding and making rules to keep themselves safe. This creates a sense of responsibility, allows them to make informed choices and builds resilience and confidence in the longer term.

The tried and tested OPAL Primary Programme has shown to support behavioural and inclusion improvements as well as more general wellbeing. Many of the highest Platinum Award level OPAL schools are also OFSTED Outstanding rated schools.



# Conclusion

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At Allendale Primary our Priorities are to:

- Develop each child's self esteem
- Work together as a community within which all can learn and live in harmony
- Develop positive attitudes and effective strategies for learning, through inspired teaching
- Create a learning environment of high expectations and achievement, set and maintained by all
- Equip the children with the basic key skills in Literacy, Numeracy, Science and IT and give all children access to the full Primary Curriculum
- Promote meaningful and active involvement within school and the wider community
- Provide collective worship whatever beliefs are held
- ...and be a community with a sense of shared purpose and ownership with effective management and leadership



We will encourage all children to:

- Communicate their feelings and ideas fluently
- Become self-reliant and be able to use their initiative
- Behave in a way that is acceptable and to understand that they are responsible for their own actions
- Set themselves achievable goals and targets
- Enjoy their learning by sharing and celebrating their talents and successes with others

## Get in Touch

If you would like to find out more about Allendale Primary School please do not hesitate to contact the school office on 01434 683376. We will be delighted to show what our school can offer your child and to answer any questions that you may have.

### For further information:

Website -

[www.allendaleprimary.northumberland.sch.uk/website](http://www.allendaleprimary.northumberland.sch.uk/website)

Facebook page –

[www.facebook.com/AllendalePrimarySchool](https://www.facebook.com/AllendalePrimarySchool)

