



Middlestown  
Primary School

# Prospectus 2020/21



# We are delighted that you are considering an academy within our Accord Multi Academy Trust for your child.

Established in 2016, the founding Accord academies are Horbury Academy, Ossett Academy, Accord Sixth Form College, Middlestown Primary Academy and Horbury Primary Academy.

You will find that each Accord academy retains its own unique character, ethos and vision. What unites us in one accord, however, is our shared drive to create an outstanding learning community in each of our academies, for all of our students. We believe our cross-phase MAT enables us to do that. We hope you agree and look forward to welcoming you.

**Accord Multi Academy Trust**



# Welcome

**On behalf of staff, students and governors, I take great pride in welcoming you to Middlestown Primary Academy.**

Our academy is a community where children become confident, caring individuals with high aspirations, an enduring enthusiasm for learning and the necessary skills to succeed in life.

We firmly believe that the child is at the centre of everything we do and we have tried to create a broad, balanced and creative curriculum to ensure that children are engaged in their learning and above all enjoy coming to school. We have enthusiastic, caring and professional staff who work hard to ensure this happens.

Our primary aim is that every member of our school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built upon mutual trust and respect for all. We feel that this will prepare our children to become respectful citizens in the future and that they will continue to show these same open and positive attitudes towards people they meet, regardless of their social or cultural background.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions about the school or if you wish to arrange a visit.

**Mrs Hannah Young**  
Head of Academy





# Learning & Curriculum

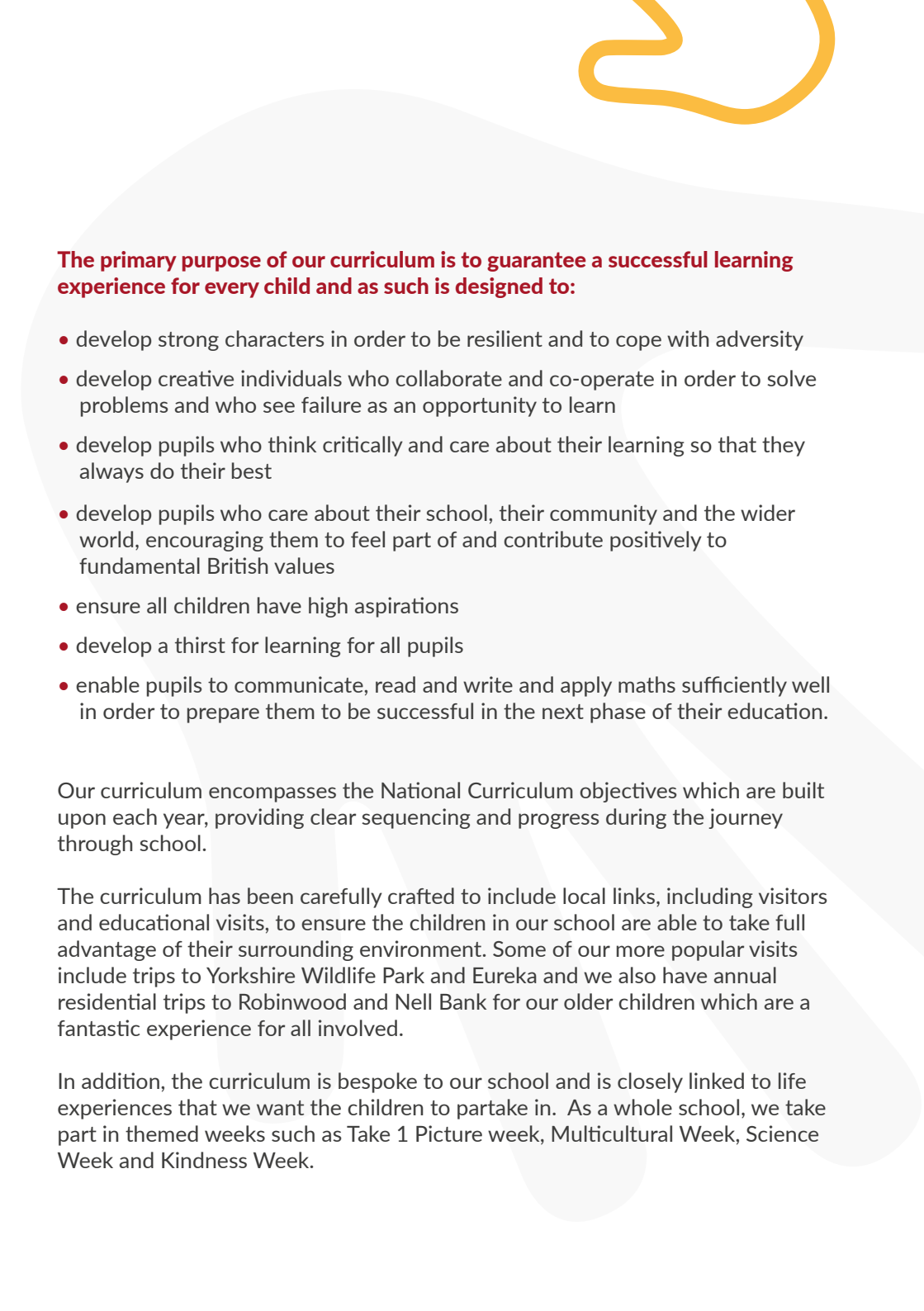
**At Middlestown Primary Academy, we firmly believe that the delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum is key to developing the child as a whole. We want our children to leave our school as confident individuals, who are capable of achieving great things and have a lifelong love of learning.**

We have a diverse curriculum which is interwoven with the key learning attributes embodied within our I CARE hand. Children learn to be reflective, collaborative, ambitious and resilient learners and they approach school life in an enthusiastic way.

To achieve this, we create a curriculum which engages and motivates children to want to learn, to solve problems, to think critically and creatively and to reflect on the new skills they have learnt.

We endeavour to provide themed approaches to learning, encourage frequent educational visits, as well as inviting visitors into school in order to bring subjects and learning to life.





**The primary purpose of our curriculum is to guarantee a successful learning experience for every child and as such is designed to:**

- develop strong characters in order to be resilient and to cope with adversity
- develop creative individuals who collaborate and co-operate in order to solve problems and who see failure as an opportunity to learn
- develop pupils who think critically and care about their learning so that they always do their best
- develop pupils who care about their school, their community and the wider world, encouraging them to feel part of and contribute positively to fundamental British values
- ensure all children have high aspirations
- develop a thirst for learning for all pupils
- enable pupils to communicate, read and write and apply maths sufficiently well in order to prepare them to be successful in the next phase of their education.

Our curriculum encompasses the National Curriculum objectives which are built upon each year, providing clear sequencing and progress during the journey through school.

The curriculum has been carefully crafted to include local links, including visitors and educational visits, to ensure the children in our school are able to take full advantage of their surrounding environment. Some of our more popular visits include trips to Yorkshire Wildlife Park and Eureka and we also have annual residential trips to Robinwood and Nell Bank for our older children which are a fantastic experience for all involved.

In addition, the curriculum is bespoke to our school and is closely linked to life experiences that we want the children to partake in. As a whole school, we take part in themed weeks such as Take 1 Picture week, Multicultural Week, Science Week and Kindness Week.



# Reading

This is at the heart of everything that we do as reading is the key to unlock the potential of every child. Reading is taught through a consistent yet engaging approach, and our principle aim is to ensure that all children see reading not as a chore but something that is to be enjoyed.

We use a range of texts to enthuse children including classical novels, non-fiction books, poetry, plays and fictional stories which are all linked to topic learning.

**“So please, oh please, we beg, we pray, go throw your TV set away, and in its place you can install a lovely bookshelf on the wall.”**”

Roald Dahl







## Phonics

We have high expectations in phonics and follow the Letters and Sounds document. We support our children to become fluent readers and skilled writers through our systematic consistent approach to teaching phonics.

Phonics is taught daily and in a variety of ways, including high quality modelling of sounding out, decoding, blending and segmenting. Our children enjoy applying the skills they learn through engaging, interactive resources and games where the children are given time to practise and rapidly expand their ability to read and spell words. We use the 'teach, practise, apply' model through phonics teaching.



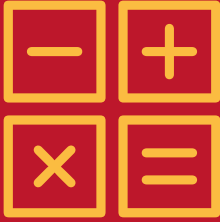
## Writing

**“If you want to be a writer, you must do two things above all others: read and write a lot.”**

Stephen King

We inspire our children to write using a book-led curriculum and real-life experiences. We aim to engage and stimulate all children to write through what they experience in school.

We believe that writing must allow children to use their imagination and engage with a range of genres. It is also crucial that we teach children grammar concepts that enable them to become proficient and accurate writers, providing them with life-long writing skills. Our aim is for children to leave our school as passionate and confident writers.



# Maths

Mathematics introduces children to concepts, skills and thinking strategies that are essential in everyday life and supports learning across the curriculum. It helps children make sense of the numbers, patterns and shapes they see in the world around them, offers ways of handling data in an increasingly digital world and makes a crucial contribution to their development as successful learners.

At Middlestown Primary Academy, Mathematics equips pupils with the uniquely powerful set of tools to understand and change the world. We believe that it is integral to all aspects of life and we aim to ensure that children develop a positive and enthusiastic attitude in Mathematics that will stay with them throughout their lives.

Through our creative approach to teaching and learning, we also seek to explore and utilise further opportunities to use and apply Mathematics across all subject areas so when our pupils leave Middlestown, they are individuals who are numerate, creative, independent, inquisitive, enquiring and confident learners.

**“Without mathematics, there’s nothing you can do. Everything around you is mathematics. Everything around you is numbers.”** ”

Shakuntala Devi





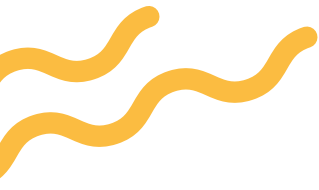
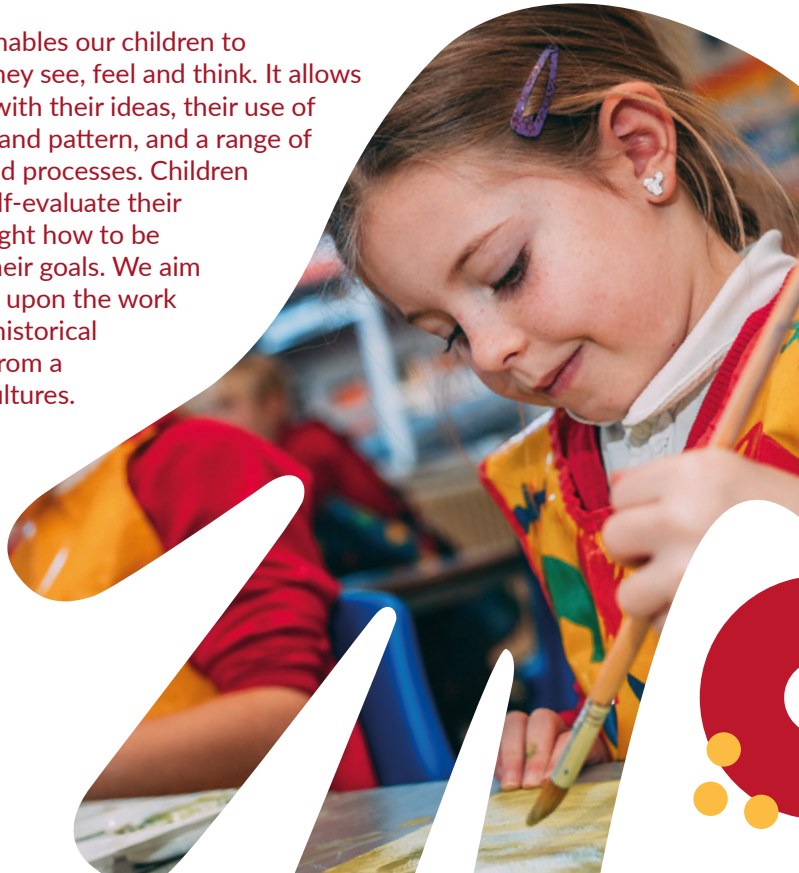
“Art is not just a subject to learn, but an activity that you can practise with your hands, your eyes, your whole personality.”

Quentin Blake

## Art

Art plays a vital part in our creative curriculum. We believe that art stimulates creativity, imagination and inventiveness, whilst providing children with the opportunities to develop intellectually, emotionally, physically and socially. Therefore, we believe that it should be taught as an individual subject as well as incorporated into other curriculum areas.

Our Art curriculum enables our children to communicate what they see, feel and think. It allows them to experiment with their ideas, their use of colour, texture, form and pattern, and a range of different materials and processes. Children are encouraged to self-evaluate their creations and are taught how to be resilient to achieve their goals. We aim for children to reflect upon the work of both modern and historical artists and upon art from a variety of different cultures.





“*Design and Technology should be the subject where [we] turn bright ideas into useful products.*”

James Dyson

# Design and Technology

We endeavour to teach our children to become creative and innovative thinkers. Design and Technology is about providing opportunities for children to use creativity and imagination to design and make products that solve real and relevant problems, considering their own and others' needs.

We provide our children with the skills needed to investigate, design, make, and evaluate their own work. Making mistakes is a huge part of Design and Technology and is integral to learning, so we encourage our children to think of improvements that could be made to their products.

Children will be taught textiles, structures, mechanisms, electrical and mechanical systems, ICT and cooking and nutrition.





# Geography

We aim to provide a broad and rich Geography curriculum that encompasses both building a secure knowledge base alongside field skills. We wish to inspire a curiosity and fascination with this ever-changing planet that we live in.

We track progress from Foundation through to Year Six to ensure that the correct progression steps are in place so that children can deepen their understanding of the interaction between physical and human processes and the formation and use of landscapes and environments.

Our children should confidently use Geographical terms from words such as 'coast, ocean, valley' in Year One through to 'biomes, vegetation and hemisphere' in Year Six. We have a broad range of Geographical topics which act as an inspiring vehicle for our children to apply their skills and deepen their knowledge. Some of our current topics include; 'On Safari', 'The Titanic', 'Ice Kingdoms', 'Clean up Coxley' and 'The Amazon'.

We believe that it is important that many of our topics are relevant and contextual to our children and so we explore the local area and make links with our community wherever possible, this includes the village of Middlestown, Coxley Woods and extending to Wakefield.

“Without Geography,  
you’re nowhere.”

Jimmy Buffett



# History

We believe History should stimulate the children's interest and understanding about the lives and times of people who lived in the past and we aim to inspire our pupils' curiosity through a range of different activities. We believe children should have a strong awareness of a range of cultural heritages and how they fit into a chronological timeline.

Pupils examine both primary and secondary sources of evidence and visit sites of historical significance through a range of different trips and through visitors who come into school to talk about their experiences of the past.

They learn about a range of different historical periods and topics, including; 'The Great Fire of London', 'Space Travel; Neil Armstrong', 'Ancient Egypt', 'The Romans' and 'World War II'. Through these topics, our ultimate aim is that pupils are curious and inspired about the past, so they're able to ask perceptive questions, think critically and develop their own perspectives and judgements.

**“The more you know about  
the past, the better prepared  
you are for the future”**

Theodore Roosevelt



## ICT

At Middlestown Primary Academy, we recognise that Computing and ICT will undoubtedly continue to play a major role in our pupils' lives at home, in further education and future work places, so we wish to ensure that their key experiences and developing abilities are both transferable and effective life skills.

We want to equip pupils of all ages to understand that computational thinking and programming skills help them to understand both the natural and digital systems in the world around them. Our aim is that pupils can safely and confidently use a range of technology to creatively express themselves and to be active participants in the digital world. We want computing to be integrated into everyday teaching and learning to engage, inspire and record the unique curriculum at Middlestown.



## Modern Foreign Languages (MFL)

At Middlestown Primary, we teach French throughout Key Stage 2. We believe it is important that pupils gain experiences of other languages in order to understand the culture, similarities and differences of another country.

We offer our children the confidence to speak with good intonation and pronunciation; encouraging a passion for language and a commitment to the subject.

Through learning French, pupils are able to develop skills involving speaking, writing, and listening/reading and responding.



“Ah, music,” he said, wiping his eyes. “A magic beyond all we do here!” ”

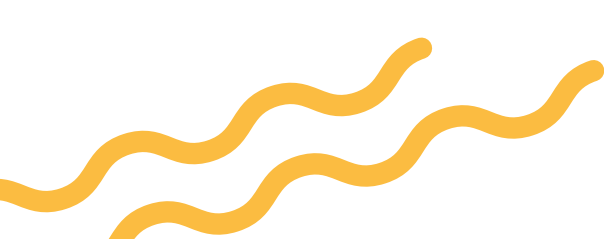
Professor Dumbledore  
(J.K. Rowling)

## Music

We make Music an enjoyable learning experience. We encourage children to participate in a variety of musical experiences through which we aim to build the confidence of all children.

Singing lies at the heart of good music teaching. Our teaching focuses on developing the children’s ability to sing in tune and with other people. Through singing songs, children learn about the structure and organisation of music. We teach them to listen and to appreciate different forms of music. As children get older, we expect them to maintain their concentration for longer and to listen to more extended pieces of music. Children develop descriptive skills in music lessons when learning about how music can represent feelings and emotions. We teach them the disciplined skills of recognising pulse and pitch. Children are taught how to work with others to make music and how individuals combine together to make sounds. We also teach them musical notation and how to compose music.

Children participate in weekly singing assemblies as well as having the opportunity to join the school choir once they enter Key Stage 2. The choir performs at several events throughout the year including Young Voices and the Pyramid Music Day. Pupils in Year 3 will learn to play the recorder and in Year 1, the ocarina. Pupils can also choose to learn how to play an instrument taught by the peripatetic teachers. Year 5 children are taught Samba every week by the Wakefield Music Service.







## PE

We strongly believe that all children should have access to a thoroughly planned, progressive physical education programme, which places a real emphasis on developing a wide range of physical competences, while encouraging healthy competition and teamwork. Throughout their time at Middlestown Primary Academy, our teachers strive to equip all children with the necessary skills, knowledge and range of physical experiences to motivate them to lead lifelong active, healthy lifestyles in which they continue their participation in physical activity and sport. We aim to give all children the opportunity to experience competitive sport by planning and participating in regular school-based events such as sports days, inter-school leagues and other local or regional events that may be appropriate and available.

**“Physical fitness is not only one of the most important keys to a healthy body, it is the basis of dynamic and creative intellectual activity”**”

John F Kennedy



## PSHCE

PSHCE is an integral part of the teaching and learning that we do at Middlestown Primary Academy. We believe wholeheartedly in delivering the social and emotional aspects of learning and these are taught weekly to all children in school. Our assembly rota demonstrates the importance of British values and reinforces the themes of our SEALs curriculum. Our aim is that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built upon mutual trust and respect for all. We feel that this will prepare our children to become respectful citizens in the future and that they will continue to show these same open and positive attitudes towards people they meet, regardless of their social or cultural background..



## RE

Religious Education is provided in accordance with the agreed Wakefield syllabus for Religious Education. The aim of our Religious Education curriculum is to support our children to learn all about and engage with religious beliefs and practices and to develop an awareness of spiritual, moral, social and cultural issues. We also foster in our children a respect for other peoples' views and to celebrate the diversity in society. Through acquiring knowledge and an understanding of religious beliefs and practices through the teaching of our Religious Education curriculum, our children grow in confidence and are able to ask appropriate questions, and can form and express their own opinions and beliefs. Our Religious Education curriculum provides lots of enjoyable learning opportunities, such as role play, drama, discussion, debate and visits. We also encourage and promote links with the local community and churches.



*“The important thing is to never stop questioning.”*

Albert Einstein

## Science

We believe that Science is a vital part of everyday life and teaching it through fascinating and practical approaches can inspire children. We strive to develop a sense of excitement, passion and curiosity about natural phenomena. Our curriculum enhances the children's scientific understanding and knowledge both independently and collaboratively. Our aim is to encourage the children to be inquisitive in Science and predict, explore and explain their own findings.



# SEN Learning

Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities have the opportunity to study a broad and balanced curriculum, alongside receiving the support that they require to reach their full potential. We strive to support students both academically and socially, and to meet their individual needs.

As Ofsted reported in October 2019 “Pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) are well supported. Adult support and practical equipment are often used to make learning easier to understand. This means that pupils can learn alongside their peers. Leaders have made sure that the work for pupils with SEND is demanding. Pupils have time to revisit and remember crucial knowledge.

## Student Wellbeing & Safeguarding

**At Middlestown Primary Academy, we take our safeguarding responsibility very seriously. We are committed to promoting the safeguarding and welfare of our children and have a Designated Safeguarding Team, as below:**

- Designated Safeguarding Lead: Mrs C Ashcroft (Assistant Headteacher)
- Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads: Mrs H Young (Head of Academy) and Miss J Tomlinson (Executive Principal)
- Safeguarding Governor: Mrs Kath Turner

In addition to our safeguarding responsibilities, we ensure that topics such as road safety, Bikeability, stranger danger, e-safety and anti-bullying are taught in class, in assemblies and through themed weeks.

Everyone has a responsibility to report any concerns they may have if they feel a child is at risk of physical/emotional harm or neglect. If you have a concern, you can speak in confidence to any professional you know, be it a teacher, doctor or health visitor. Don't think 'what if I'm wrong?' think 'what if I'm right?'

If you require any more information on safeguarding, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

# Admission Arrangements

Children will be accepted into mainstream school (Upper Foundation) from the September after their fourth birthday. Admissions into mainstream school are controlled by Wakefield Local Authority in line with our Admissions Policy which can be found on our website. School places can be applied for via:

**<http://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-children/schools/admissions/reception>.**

At Middlestown Primary Academy, we have 30 places in each year group and it is worth noting that children who attend our school have priority when applying for a place at Horbury Academy regardless of which district you are in, e.g. Wakefield or Kirklees.

Packs for parents to apply for their child's place to start school in September 2020 (child's date of birth falls between 01/09/2015 to 31/08/2016) will be sent out by the Schools Admissions Team directly to parents.

Please see the Parents Guide to Admissions at:

**<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/Documents/schools-children/school-admissions/primary-guide-parents.pdf>** which details the process to follow and the deadline dates for submitting your application. If more children request a place than there are places available then the Local Authority will follow the criteria set out in their policy (please see the link below for further information).







# Admissions to Lower Foundation Stage (Nursery)

Children wishing to start in Lower Foundation can be admitted from the term after their third birthday. For example, if your child is 3:

- Between the 1st September and the 31st December, they will start in January
- Between the 1st January and the 31st March, they will start after Easter
- Between the 1st April and the 31st August, they will start in September

Applications should be made directly to the school prior to your child reaching 3 years of age. You can download the nursery application form from our website and upon returning it to school your child will then be placed on a waiting list held at the school. Places are offered using the admissions policy provided by Wakefield Local Authority and you will be contacted by school during the term previous to their expected start date.





We follow the criteria set out in the Local Authority Nursery Admissions policy below. This website will also help you to establish your eligibility for 30 hours free childcare, as we do offer both part-time and full-time hours at Middlestown Primary Academy. However, a place in our Nursery setting does not guarantee a full-time place in our Upper Foundation class and so you will still need to apply to Wakefield Local Authority for this.

In order that part-time children have a smooth transition into our school, our Foundation Stage staff may undertake home visits and the children also build up their time to spending a full morning with us.

Packs for parents to apply for their child's place to start school in **September 2021** (child's date of birth falls between 01/09/2016 to 31/08/2017) will be sent out by the Schools Admissions Team directly to parents.

Full details of our admission policy and procedures can be found on our website at <https://middlestown.accordmat.org/> or by contacting us directly.



**“Our children are very lucky to be able to attend an amazing school with fabulous teachers!”** ”

Foundation Parent

**“Pupils are very well mannered and enjoy helping others. They greet other pupils and adults warmly.”** ”

Ofsted 2019

**“Leaders are passionate about offering pupils rich experiences outside of lessons.”**


Ofsted 2019

**“Children work hard, have fun and learn lots!”**

Parent of children in Y6 and Y4





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