



# Bell Lane Academy

## **ABOUT OUR ACADEMY**

### **Locality**

Bell Lane is a community primary academy with a nursery. It is situated near the centre of the large village of Ackworth, about eight miles to the south-east of the city of Wakefield and four miles south of the small industrial and historical town of Pontefract.

Due to our school catchment area, we do not draw from a particularly wide range of social or ethnic backgrounds and therefore aim to broaden children's understanding of community cohesion through providing relevant learning opportunities in the curriculum.

Bell Lane Academy has good community links and aims to play an increasingly important role in community life.

### **Our Academy Community**

Bell Lane Academy has strong links with former Wakefield City Academies Trust (WCAT) academies and works in partnership with not only these but several other local schools. We are also beginning to work with academies from our proposed new sponsor, Outwood Grange Academies Trust (OGAT).

Pupil's awareness of themselves as members of the academy community is developed in many ways. For example: electing class councillors, presenting class showing assemblies, initiating fund raising and adopting roles of responsibility such as 'Top Team' members and Librarians.

The academy aims to show good practice in modelling the principles of equal opportunity. This is evident in the way children and parents are greeted, listened to and actively invited to give their views not only through written responses but also through discussion. Our day to day practice is based on Social Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) and reflects our inclusive ethos and promotion of community cohesion within the academy.

The academy currently holds the Silver Investors in People award, the Investors in Pupils award and the Sainsbury's School Games Silver award.

### **Class Organisation**

Children of different abilities are catered for within each class. The classes are arranged according to the age of the children, the size of the classroom and complement of staff, at that time.

Every effort is made to keep class sizes as small as possible and it is academy policy that, whenever possible, every teacher is supported by a classroom assistant for some lessons. Our admission limit of 45 pupils per year group means that we often have split age classes.

Our 52 place Nursery is housed in a separate on site building. We run two three hour sessions with a maximum of 26 children in each session. Three full time staff are based in Nursery: a teacher who is currently the Foundation Leader, a Nursery Nurse and a Support Assistant.





## Curriculum

### Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The Foundation Stage makes a crucial contribution to children's early development and learning. We provide children with a rich variety of teaching and learning experiences that are appropriate to their needs.



The Foundation Stage is about developing key learning skills such as listening, speaking, concentrating and learning to work and co-operate with others.

Teaching to achieve these early learning goals is through first-hand experience, focussed activities and continuous provision.

The outdoor environment also plays a key role in the Foundation Stage curriculum and both the Lower and Upper Foundation classes have their own specially equipped outdoor areas which are planned for and in constant use.

### Key Stage One and Key Stage Two

In common with other primary academies, our children are taught all National Curriculum subjects with literacy and numeracy skills reinforced across the curriculum.

Planning allows for creative, cross-curricular learning that builds on children's previous knowledge. We aim to provide a range of key experiences for children as well as more practical opportunities for them to develop, practice and extend existing skills. We also focus on providing learning environments that are stimulating, informative and support learning.

Providing a creative cross-curricular curriculum to meet both the academic and pastoral needs of pupils is a key part of our school ethos. For example: Elements of Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) are reflected across the curriculum and links to staying healthy are taught in Science, Literacy and Food Technology.

The academy uses a variety of co-operative learning techniques and a growth mindset approach to develop children's ability to learn from each other, achieve success and fully engage in lessons.

The needs of specific individuals and groups of pupils are well met through the delivery of differentiated work within lessons by teaching staff and support assistants along with additional activities such as collaborative group work, additional creative activities and the provision of a range of individual and small group intervention programmes.

### Behaviour

The academy's behaviour policy states clear expectations of pupil behaviour with rewards and sanctions that support this. The academy has an effective anti-bullying policy based around the use of friendship groups to support vulnerable pupils and works closely with parents to ensure that all issues relating to this are dealt with quickly and successfully.

Visitors and parents frequently comment on our pupil's polite and friendly behaviour.

### Safeguarding



**Bell Lane  
Academy**

The academy has policies and procedures to ensure pupil safeguarding. These are known to all staff and there is a clear management responsibility in relation to child protection. The safeguarding of our pupils is of the utmost

importance in our academy.

More in depth information about our academy can be found on Bell Lane Academy website:

[www.belllaneacademy.org](http://www.belllaneacademy.org)