



MOORLANDS
SCHOOL



Welcome

At Moorlands, we have a simple yet beautiful motto: 'Intrepide!', or 'Be Brave!' In school we talk about how being brave or intrepid takes many forms. Being brave isn't always a grand gesture; sometimes it just means 'having a go'; attempting that difficult question; offering an answer in a lesson when you're not quite sure - or simply trying something new. We offer a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment in which this culture of intrepidness can flourish, allowing Moorlands children to be brave and adventurous as they learn and grow.

Moorlands is the oldest prep school in Leeds, founded in 1898. The school moved to its current superb location in 1967.

In 2012 Moorlands became a full member of the Methodist Independent Schools Trust bringing with it the benefits of membership to a large network of independent schools, the nearest of which is Woodhouse Grove. This relationship allows the pupils of Moorlands access to many of the facilities of a large school, whilst remaining in a smaller prep school environment.

The history and traditions of Moorlands, entwined with the Methodist values and access to the facilities and expertise of our partner school, provide a perfect, all round education.

Jacqueline Atkinson - Head Teacher



Jacqueline Atkinson - Head Teacher







The Moorlands Way

At Moorlands, our priority is the happiness of our pupils. We want every child to feel safe and secure and endeavour to create a caring, supportive environment that enables each individual to develop and shine.

Moorlanders are encouraged to be independent, critical thinkers with enquiring minds and a love of learning. We offer our children many leadership and teamwork opportunities to grow their confidence and prepare them for future challenges.

Alongside an educationally rich learning environment, we provide weekly specialist teaching in swimming, dance, music, drama, outdoor education and languages. Sport and the performing arts thrive at the school and pupils are offered a plethora of extra-curricular activities ranging from technology to gardening.

Throughout, we emphasise the importance of kindness, consideration and respect, and maintain high expectations of behaviour and good manners at all times.

At Moorlands, we treasure the time we have with each of our pupils. When a child steps through our doors we aim to take them on an invigorating journey of learning, growth and discovery.

Join us as we travel along the Moorlands Way

First steps

Step into our Early Years classrooms and you will be greeted by engaged and happy children making the most of our well-equipped, bright and spacious facilities.

We understand that the transition from home to school is a major step for children and parents alike. Our qualified, experienced team work with you to make this move as smooth as possible, bearing in mind the specific needs of each child. We have a flexible approach, taking into consideration family requirements. Nursery children can do any combination of mornings or full days, with a minimum of four sessions (half a day).

Our focus on getting to know each and every pupil, means we deliver our Early Years curriculum in a manner best suited to the individual. When the time comes for our Early Years children to move up to Key Stage 1, they are prepared and confident for this next stage in their educational journey.

“Moorlands celebrates the individual child” Parent Survey 2017

A bright start





engagement





Picking up pace

Key Stage 1 is home to children aged 5-7 years old. We ensure a seamless transition from the Early Years; Year 1 pupils continue to enjoy areas of continuous provision, with the structure of the day becoming increasingly formal, in preparation for Key Stage 2.

Our Creative Curriculum ensures all learning styles are catered for and pupils are engaged and curious about the topics studied. English and maths remain discrete subjects whilst subject specialists teach French, music, drama, outdoor education, swimming and PE. All subjects are enhanced through several educational visits each term and also by themed days, which include the ever-popular Bedtime Story Evening and the Year 2 overnight residential to the Peak District.

Parents are warmly welcomed to share their child's journey. An open afternoon is held each half term where parents are invited to view the classrooms and the children have the opportunity to showcase their learning. An annual highlight is the Summer Production in which all pupils are fully involved in every area from acting to singing, designing and building the stage set and creating costumes.

It is always a delight to watch the children develop throughout Key Stage 1 and it is with excitement that we watch them move up to the challenges ahead in Key Stage 2.

“A caring atmosphere with an exceptionally dedicated staff team”

Parent Survey 2017





potential



Maintaining momentum

As they move into Key Stage 2, the ongoing Creative Curriculum enables the children to think imaginatively across a variety of topics, ranging from 'Chocolate' to 'Expedition Everest'.

We actively encourage independent thinking and adaptability, alongside academic focus and an ever evolving depth of learning. High standards in the core skills of literacy and numeracy are maintained throughout, with academic rigour escalating in Upper Key Stage 2 to ensure each pupil achieves a place in the senior school of their choice.

Pupils are taught in small, mixed ability classes using a variety of teaching styles to meet the needs of each child - challenging our more able and gifted pupils and supporting those who need additional help. We believe that every child has something unique to offer and we pride ourselves on identifying and nurturing that trait; academic, sporting, musical, artistic, scientific or technological.

Pupils leave Key Stage 2 as caring, considerate individuals, taking with them a wealth of experiences: the camaraderie of teamwork raising money for charities; the fun they've had nurturing our youngest Moorlanders in our Buddy System and the joy of personal goals achieved as Prefects, Team Captains and Heads of House. Memories of their time at Moorlands include moments in the spotlight in school productions and national venues and personal bests on the sports field. And, of course, they take with them the friends they have made here. Friends that will walk alongside them for a long time to come.







teamwork

A sporting chance

Every Moorlands pupil has the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of competitive and non-competitive sporting activities under the expert guidance of specialist staff. We see sport at Moorlands as key to the physical and social development of our pupils, fostering confidence, leadership, sportsmanship and teamwork. Pupils at Moorlands are encouraged to try new sports and really enjoy their exercise.

The wide and varied PE curriculum aims to give pupils the opportunity to find a physical activity that they enjoy and ideally want to continue with outside school. Examples of the sports and activities on offer include athletics, rounders, rugby, netball, climbing, football, hockey, dance and gymnastics. All Moorlands pupils also benefit from weekly swimming lessons in our heated pool.

Key Stage 2 pupils all have the opportunity to take part in a variety of inter-school and House competitions, ranging from athletics meets and cross country fixtures to...House Conkers! Moorlands pupils have enjoyed sporting success both locally and regionally and our pupils have also competed nationally through the IAPS sports programme.

“Pupils treat each other with excellent consideration and respect”

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report 2017

Creative freedom

The Arts are at the very heart of Moorlands, adding a warmth and energy to school life.

The role of music is highly valued throughout the school. Children are encouraged to learn an instrument and all of our pupils receive specialist weekly music lessons. Children in Year 1 benefit from whole class piano lessons and those in Year 2 learn the recorder. We have a dedicated team of peripatetic staff who offer a variety of instrumental lessons on a one-to-one basis. Our many different ensembles and choirs mean that there is something for everyone!

Drama at Moorlands is a vibrant part of each child's experience, helping our pupils develop their self-esteem and confidence. Children are encouraged to explore their creativity through improvisation, group and independent work and enjoy specialist drama lessons from the age of two. It is a joy to witness previously shy pupils finding their voice and confidently addressing the whole school in assembly.

Moorlands pupils have numerous performance opportunities throughout the year to showcase their music and drama skills - to a typically very enthusiastic parent audience!

Art and design also flourishes at Moorlands. We encourage students from an early age to be experimental and creatively independent, and offer them the opportunity to develop a wide range of skills, from drawing and painting to print, textiles and 3-dimensional-sculpture work, including ceramics.

“Moorlands is family orientated and encourages individualism”

Parent Survey 2017





harmony

Beyond the classroom

As our children make their way through Moorlands, we aim to prepare them for life beyond our walls.

The Personal, Social, Health, Citizenship and Economic Education programme (PSHCEE) plays a vital part in informing and supporting our pupils. It empowers pupils to learn about their own lives as well as the lives of others and encourages pupils to take responsibility for their lifestyle and learning, helping them develop into confident and assertive individuals.

We teach our students that they can each have a positive effect on the world around them – be it at school or further afield. We have an active Student Voice who meet frequently with the Deputy Head to discuss issues raised by the student body, and our Eco Committee works hard raising awareness and implementing eco-friendly ideas within school.

In an increasingly technological world, Moorlands School recognizes the evolving nature of computing and ICT and so delivers a wide-ranging and creative Computer Curriculum through classroom based technology and within our newly refurbished IT suite. Children are taught how to explore technology safely and are also actively encouraged to contribute towards the development of ICT within the school through our Digital Leader programme.



“ Pupils feel that they are encouraged to put forward ideas and feel valued for their contributions ”

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report 2017



discovery



challenge



Exploring the world

Whilst we are proud of Moorlands' excellent academic record, we know that it is important to remember that a true all-round education can never be confined to the four walls of a classroom.

Moorlands pupils have many opportunities to learn in different environments. Our large woodland area provides the perfect setting for weekly outdoor education lessons covering nature, crafts and survival. We also endeavour to bring the work the children do in the classroom to life with a myriad of exciting educational trips and visits, ranging from visits to local museums and theatre trips to wild camping in Snowdon.

“Pupils show abundant self-awareness of themselves as learners and delight in improving their understanding and their work”

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report 2017

All roads lead home

For a child to be able to make the most of their primary level education, school and family life should work seamlessly together. At Moorlands, we understand that key to this, is offering flexibility and convenience for parents, and a home from home environment for pupils.

We are conveniently located just off the ring road at Weetwood Lane, North Leeds – hidden away within leafy grounds and away from busy roads, yet easily accessible from Wetherby, Harrogate, Otley and all the northern suburbs of Leeds. We have ample off road parking, making school drop off easy and stress free.

Children can arrive at school from 7.30am for breakfast and be picked up after tea at 6pm – providing the perfect solution for busy parents. Many of our pupils actually request to stay late so that they can participate in our large selection of after school clubs! Our fees include all school run clubs, and breakfast and tea from Reception class upwards.

Parents play an important role in life at Moorlands. Our parent organisation, the Moorlands School Association (MSA), is a friendly and diverse group and is always keen to welcome new members.

“It's a family - the children all look after each other, across the year groups.”

Parent Survey 2017



friendship



“The quality of pupils' personal development is excellent...they show true resilience and take pride in living up to the school's motto of being intrepid”

Independent Schools Inspectorate Report 2017





The journey ahead

Pupils leave Moorlands as confident, independent and articulate individuals, ready to face new challenges.

Throughout their time with us, we enhance our pupils' learning with a strong focus on critical thinking and speaking and listening skills. Towards the end of Key Stage 2, our children take on the roles of Prefects and House Captains, positions of responsibility that help hone their leadership skills, in readiness for senior school.

We take pride in our track record of successfully preparing our pupils for entry into secondary school. Our pupils are highly successful in gaining their first choice of school and many obtain academic, music, drama and sports scholarships and awards.

It is always with sadness that we wave goodbye to our Year 6 children – but also with excitement for what lies ahead. We are privileged and proud to have played our part in the first stage of their educational journey and know that whatever path they go on to follow, they will surely move forward in true Moorlands style...

...Intrepid.

onward...

How to find us



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