WELCOME TO NEW SEAHAM ACADEMY

School Prospectus

2026–2027

Belong. Believe. Achieve.

A practical guide to our school, curriculum, care and community.

A warm welcome

A nurturing, inclusive community where every child is known, supported and encouraged to thrive.

Our mission

At New Seaham Academy, we create a nurturing and inclusive community where every child feels a strong sense of belonging and is valued for who they are. Through a creative, ambitious and inspiring curriculum, within and beyond the classroom, we encourage children to believe in themselves, embrace challenge and develop a lifelong love of learning. We nurture confident, curious and independent learners, empowering every child to achieve their full potential and make a positive contribution to our community and an ever-changing world.

At a glance

- More than 200 pupils, organised into classes with careful consideration of age, ability and maturity.
- Nine classrooms, EYFS outdoor area, music room, library, mezzanine, two halls and a large playground.
- Woodland and wetland learning areas, a Multi-Use Games Area and a Well-Being Garden opened in 2025.

NEW SEAHAM
NSA
ACADEMY

Meet our team

The adults who lead learning, care and day-to-day life at New Seaham Academy.

Role	Name
Headteacher	Mr S Bilton
Deputy Headteacher	Mr Richardson
IT Technician / Cover Supervisor / CFO	Mr Cummings
Supply Office Manager	Miss L Nilsson
Caretaker	Mr Spedding
Cleaning staff	Mrs J Jennings

Teaching team

Class	Teacher
Class 1	Ms Robinson
Class 3	Miss Whitelock
Class 4	Mr Richardson
Class 5	Miss Atkinson
Class 6	Miss Roberts
Class 7	Miss Turnbull
Class 8	Mr O'Neill
Class 9	Mr Spinks

Support at school

Classroom assistants

Mrs Robinson and Miss Stoker.

Lunchtime supervisory assistants

Mrs Jennings, Mrs Rutherford, Mrs Barrass and Mrs Charlton.

Expertise across the curriculum

Subject and aspect leads

Area	Lead
English / Curriculum / Assessment	Mr Richardson
Maths / Outdoor Learning / Attendance & Behaviour	Mr O'Neill
Science / Music / PSHE / SENDCO / Inclusion / Personal Development	Mr Spinks
Computing	Miss Robinson
Geography	Miss Whitelock
History / RE / Art & Design / DT	Miss Whitelock

Safeguarding leadership

Designated safeguarding team

Mr S Bilton (DSL), Mr A Richardson (DDSL) and Mr T Spinks (DDSL).

Awards and quality marks

- Eco Green Flag Award
- Artsmark Gold
- Challenge Award
- Primary Quality Science Mark – Gilt
- National SMSC Gold Award
- Learning Outside the Classroom National Award
- National PE Quality Mark with Distinction
- Enhanced Healthy Schools Award
- School Games Mark Gold

A clear rhythm for learning

Part of the day	Time
Doors open	8:15am
Morning session	8:30am–12:00pm
Lunch	12:00pm–1:15pm
Afternoon, Monday–Thursday	1:15pm–4:30pm
Afternoon, Friday	1:15pm–4:00pm

Arriving safely

Children can enter the school building independently from 8:15am. Children should not be on school grounds before 8:15am.

Our learning spaces

Learning takes place across the school, not only in classrooms. Our facilities include dedicated indoor spaces and extensive outdoor provision, including woodland, wetland and the Well-Being Garden.

Safeguarding comes first

Everyone at New Seaham Academy shares responsibility for keeping children safe.

Our commitment

Trustees and staff are committed to safeguarding children in school and robustly enforce all statutory requirements related to all forms of safeguarding children. The school follows recommended guidelines and procedures for all safeguarding and Child Protection concerns. All staff are fully trained in safeguarding matters. The Headteacher is the Designated Safeguarding Lead and the school's Health and Safety Officer. Mr Richardson and Mr Spinks are Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding leads

The Headteacher, Mr S Bilton, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Mr Richardson and Mr Spinks are Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads.

Safeguarding includes

- protecting children and young people from maltreatment
- preventing impairment of children and young people's health or development
- ensuring children grow up in circumstances consistent with safe and effective care; safeguarding also includes bullying, racist abuse, harassment and discrimination
- pupil health and safety, first aid, medical conditions and intimate care
- internet safety and school security
- educational visits, drug and substance misuse, and appropriate physical intervention

Visitors and parents

For safeguarding and school-security reasons, parents and visitors must not move around school unaccompanied. Thank you for helping us keep everyone safe.

A broad, ambitious curriculum

Strong foundations, memorable experiences and opportunities to learn beyond the classroom.

Curriculum subjects

- English and Maths
- Science
- Music through Durham Music Service
- Computing
- Art & Design and Design Technology
- Physical Education
- History and Geography
- French in Key Stage 2
- PSHE
- Outdoor learning in our woodland and wetland areas
- Religious Education using the Durham agreed syllabus

Religious Education and collective worship

Parents who wish to discuss withdrawal from Religious Education or collective worship should contact the Headteacher.

How we teach

Our approach to teaching is flexible and a variety of adaptive teaching strategies are used in the education of pupils. Full use is made of technology to enhance learning in all subjects. Outdoor Learning is an important part of our curriculum and includes wetland, woodland and forestry skills as well as taking subjects outdoors. Physical Education is delivered outside where weather permits and otherwise in the school halls. PE includes swimming and water safety in Key Stage 2 and may sometimes be delivered by external providers. Every child should have suitable PE clothing, including shorts, T-shirt and trainers. Physical Education is a legal requirement and pupils should only be excused where appropriate supporting medical information is provided.

Religious Education follows the Durham County Council agreed syllabus. Pupils may be withdrawn from Religious Education and collective worship; parents who wish to do so should discuss this with the Headteacher.

EARLY YEARS

The best possible start

Reception children learn through the Early Years Foundation Stage across seven connected areas of learning.

Prime areas

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Specific areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The three prime areas are Communication and Language (listening and attention, understanding and speaking); Physical Development (moving and handling, health and self-care); and Personal, Social and Emotional Development (self-confidence and self-awareness, managing feelings and behaviour, and managing relationships and understanding others).

The four specific areas are Literacy (reading and writing), Mathematics (number, shape, space and measures), Understanding the World (people and communities, the world and technology), and Expressive Arts and Design (exploring and using media and materials and being imaginative).

Cross-curricular themes including equal opportunity, racial equality, citizenship, relationship education, environmental issues, personal, health and social education, safety and the Global Dimension are embedded across subjects. British values are promoted throughout the school curriculum.

Inclusion, SEND and challenge

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

Some children may have some form of special educational need at some time during their education. The majority of needs are met from the school's own resources; some children may require additional support from school staff and external professionals. The school implements the Code of Practice for pupils with special educational needs, including early identification, parental involvement and support plans for pupils on the register. The Special Educational Needs policy is reviewed annually and is available from school on request. The school SENDCO is Mr Spinks.

SENDCO

Mr Spinks is the school SENDCO.

Pupils identified as more able

Children identified as having a particular ability or talent are included on the school's More Able Register. The register is updated annually through teacher assessment. Appropriate provision is made during curriculum time and each pupil has an Individual Challenge Plan to support effective provision. Parents are informed about provision for their child. The lead teacher is Mr Spinks.

More Able lead

Mr Spinks leads provision for pupils identified as more able.

Enrichment, clubs and visits

Children have opportunities to discover interests, build confidence and take learning into new settings.

Enrichment during the school day

- Karate
- Golf
- Woodland and wetland activities
- Yoga
- Mindfulness
- Performing arts

Activities vary by term. Additional after-school opportunities may also be offered from 4:30pm onwards. Year 6 pupils run lunchtime clubs for younger children, including sport, art, reading and ICT activities.

Educational visits

Where appropriate, educational visits are conducted to support children's learning. Year 6 children experience residential field trips to outdoor education centres. Written parental consent is acquired to cover educational visits off site during the time your child is in school. It may be necessary to request a voluntary contribution towards visits.

Families and school communication

We aim to keep families well informed about school life and each child's progress. Communication includes:

- Parental Review Days three times each year
- Open Days once per term
- text messaging
- curriculum information on the school website
- home–school reading journals
- homework guidance for each class
- an annual diary issued in September
- school website and Facebook page
- letters and individual meetings where needed
- new key year-group café/open days

To avoid disrupting the daily timetable, parents who wish to speak to a class teacher are asked to make a mutually convenient appointment through the school office. Parents who wish to speak to the Headteacher are welcome and encouraged to make an appointment through the school office.

Talking to teachers

To protect learning time, please arrange a mutually convenient appointment with your child's class teacher through the school office. Parents are also welcome to arrange an appointment with the Headteacher.

Photography and digital media

The school regularly takes photographs and makes digital footage of pupils. Parents are asked to complete photographic consent if they wish to allow photographs or footage to be used for work in books, displays, school printed publications, the school website, Facebook and other social media platforms, and local or national media. The Data Protection Officer for the school is Mrs Thompson.

Growing responsibility and independence

Pupils are encouraged to contribute to school life, take responsibility and support one another.

- An elected School Council meets regularly to discuss school issues and suggest improvements.
- House Captains and Vice Captains are elected annually for the four school Houses.
- Pupils run extra-curricular activities and older pupils take on monitor roles across school.

Behaviour and relationships

We have a successful Behaviour Policy and the behaviour of our pupils is one of the strengths of the school. Children are encouraged from an early age to understand and follow the policy to promote the wellbeing and safety of everyone. Normally a firm word, withdrawal of privileges or temporary exclusion from activities is sufficient. For more serious behaviour incidents, the school follows government guidance on suspension and permanent exclusion. Support from parents is especially helpful when addressing behavioural matters.

Uniform, PE and everyday essentials

School uniform

- Red school sweatshirt or cardigan
- Pale blue polo shirt
- Grey or navy trousers or shorts (not sports shorts)
- Grey or navy plain skirt or tunic
- Pale blue checked summer dress
- Plain black shoes – not trainers
- Plain hair bobbles in school colours
- Book bag, ordered from school

PE kit

- School House-colour T-shirt
- Shorts, tracksuit bottoms or leggings
- Trainers for outdoor PE
- PE bag

Please label everything

Please ensure your child's uniform and PE kit are clearly labelled with their name.

Jewellery

For safety, jewellery is not permitted. Children may wear a watch. If ears are to be pierced, families are asked to do this during the summer holidays so earrings do not need to be worn in school.

Please ensure that all items of school uniform and PE kit are clearly labelled with your child's name.

Meals, wellbeing and being in school

School meals and packed lunches

School meals are prepared on the premises by Chartwell caterers for pupils who want them. The school promotes healthy eating and parents are encouraged to ensure packed lunches are healthy. Key Stage 1 pupils receive fruit daily as part of the government fruit scheme for infant children. Sweets and crisps are not allowed in school in order to support a healthy diet.

Healthy-school reminder

Sweets and crisps are not allowed in school.

Pupil Absence

The school's attendance policy is available on the school website. We follow Durham CC guidelines for Attendance Management. The school actively encourages full attendance. However there obviously may be occasions when your child is too poorly to attend school. A telephone call to school is needed, or a note upon their return, unless their absence is to be for a considerable length of time. The Office Manager will contact parents of children who are off school following government guidelines. If a child has a medical appointment, it is necessary for parents to show the appointment card to the school office when requesting an absence.

Authorised absences are only allowed for medical, religious, or close family bereavement. Further details and helpful advice on pupil absence can be found under the ‘Attendance’ tab on the school website.

Leave of Absence During Term Time

Please note that parents have a legal obligation to ensure their child attends school during term time. Taking children out of school during term time means they miss lessons which can never be caught up and this adversely affects pupil progress. Parents who take children out of school for term time holidays or other occasions/events may incur a fixed penalty fine issued by the Local Authority for excessive unauthorised absence. The school follows national guidelines and protocol on Term Time holidays. Please note that new government guidelines on term time holidays or leave of absence and truancy means that Headteachers will not authorise term time holidays unless in exceptional circumstances.

Staff absence

When a class teacher is temporarily absent, the school has a policy on cover following government guidance for workforce arrangements. Pupils may be sent to other classes or the class may be covered by appropriate support staff in the short term under the direction of a teacher.

Policies, complaints and staying connected

School website

Visit **www.newseaham.org.uk**

The website includes curriculum information, attendance guidance and school policies.

Complaints and concerns

New Seaham Academy has a General School Complaints Policy adopted by the Board of Trustees. Where concerns arise, parents should contact the Headteacher in the first instance as soon as possible. Copies of the Complaints Procedure are available from school on request or can be downloaded from the school website.

For the latest versions of school policies, attendance information and other statutory guidance, please refer to the school website or contact the school office.

We look forward to welcoming you

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