

Prospectus 2025/2026





Welcome

Dear Parents / Carer

Welcome to Sunnyside Academy. We hope your child(ren) will be happy and successful in our school.

At Sunnyside Academy we realise the important role that we play in preparing your child for adult life. We aim to teach all children the basic skills in English and Mathematics whilst helping them to develop emotionally, physically and socially. We aim to do this in an inclusive and interesting way.

We understand that children thrive when they are well-motivated and supported.

Success, enjoyment and interest all motivate children. When they experience success children feel good about themselves and gain the confidence to apply themselves to new learning. We give all our children the opportunity to succeed in many different aspects of school life. Success is acknowledged and celebrated in many ways.

We hope that the school and parents/carers can work together for the good of our children. There are many events in the school year, which we hope you will attend. These include termly meetings with your child's teacher to discuss their progress. We also ask you to read with your child daily and, as they get older, help them to learn spellings, number bonds and times tables.

This booklet aims to give you some helpful information about our school.

Please take some time to read it. We will be happy to discuss any questions that you may have. If at any time you have concerns about your child's progress or well-being, please come and talk to one of our staff. We try to ensure we see parents and carers as quickly as possible and resolve any queries.

We look forward to a successful future with you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Julie Sutton
Headteacher





Sunnyside Academy is a mainstream Academy with specialist provision bases for children between the ages of three and eleven. It is part of Ad Astra Trust and works in partnership with 9 other Trust Academies across Middlesbrough, Durham, Stockton and Hartlepool.

The address of our school is:

Sunnyside Academy, Manor Farm Way, Coulby Newham, Middlesbrough, TS8 ORJ.

Contact Details:

Tel: 01642 596422

Email: office@sunnyside.adastraschools.org

Sunnyside Academy is of semi-open plan design that enables flexible use of space. The school has total wheelchair access.

Sunnyside Academy is an inclusive school with approximately 285 pupils.

The school is organised into 3 areas :

Foundation Stage Key

Stage 1

Key Stage 2

We are privileged to have six specialist base provisions within the school that serves the Tees Valley. Sunnyside has a d/Deaf Resource Base (DRB) which supports children with hearing loss; The Key Stage 2 High Needs Bases (HNB) which supports children with moderate learning difficulties and a base provision for children with vision impairment (VI base). There is a communication base for younger pupils Rec – Y2 and a communication base for KS2. We are fortunate to have staff with a wide range of specialist expertise to support our children. The staff and our Local Academy Committee are committed to the specialist areas of the school and know that these work for the benefit of all.

Ad Astra Trust

Sunnyside Academy is part of a multi academy trust with nine other primary schools across Stockton, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough and Durham. We uphold the values of the Trust which are:

Support

Togetherness

Achieve

Respect

Success

Time of School Sessions

	MORNING	AFTERNOON
Nursery	8.40 a.m. - 11.40a.m.	12.30 a.m.- 3.30 p.m.
Reception & KS1	8.40 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.	12.50 p.m.- 3.10 p.m.
KS2	8.40 a.m. - 12.00 p.m.	12.50 p.m.- 3.15 p.m.

Gates open at 8.30am. Doors open at 8.40am. Registers are taken at 8.50am. Gates close at 9am.

Gates open again at 3pm for end of day collection.



School Aims

All children have the right to achieve their full potential.

We want your child to enjoy coming to school therefore the staff at Sunnyside aim to create a happy, secure and caring environment within which the children will grow and learn.

The children receive a broad and balanced curriculum, which will provide a range of interesting activities that will motivate them to work and achieve to the best of their abilities.

All children learn at different rates; therefore work is matched to their ability.

The development of children's self-esteem is a priority. All children have a right to be treated with respect by adults and by other children. Likewise, we expect all children to be tolerant of each other and to care for each other. The adults in school will provide a caring consistent model of appropriate behaviour.

We encourage the children to develop self-discipline and to choose acceptable behaviour by providing positive role models, giving clear rules and guidelines.

Sunnyside Academy is committed to effective working partnership with Trust schools, Governors, parents/carers and the wider community. Links with outside agencies and local businesses are fostered in order to help children appreciate the world of work and to bring expertise into the school.

Our final aim is that each child should go home at the end of the day with a feeling of achievement.

Admission and Transfer of Children

The school admits children into the nursery on a part-time basis from the term after their third birthday but can accommodate 30 hours and works in partnership with a day care provider – Little Wonders. If there is a waiting list, then children are admitted according to age, with older children being given priority. The nursery has a maximum capacity for 26 children per session. Nursery children work with the Reception class regularly before they transfer. All children have the opportunity to stay for a school dinner before they move into full-time school. This all helps them to adjust quickly to their new class.

We have one admission to school each year. All children begin their reception class, full time, in the September of the year in which they are 5.

Children will transfer to secondary school in the September following their 11th birthday.



Pastoral Care

Each class teacher is directly responsible for the pastoral care of children on their class register. Every member of staff, teaching and non-teaching has a responsibility for the wellbeing of all the pupils in the school.

The class teacher is the first person to approach if you are concerned about your child. The teacher may decide to involve the Assistant Headteacher, Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), Deputy Headteacher or the Headteacher, depending on the nature of the concern. We are committed to helping the children to use non-aggressive ways of dealing with arguments and misunderstandings. Parents can help us by NOT telling children to hit back. Our relationship and behavior policy will give other strategies that the children can use. We have a dedicated Pastoral Team, who can support you and your child.

Close liaison with school is crucial. There are opportunities before and after school for parents and carers to speak to staff. Appointments must be made for more detailed discussions.

A responsible adult should bring younger children to school. It is not acceptable for children under sixteen to be responsible for accompanying Key Stage 1 children to and from school, unless permission has been discussed and granted with the Headteacher. Children should not be on the school premises before 8.30 a.m. The school doors open at 8.40a.m. Lessons start officially start at 8.50am but learning access is from 8.40am.



Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club begins each morning at 8.00 a.m. The children have breakfast and are supervised at all times by members of school staff, with lots of activities. Each session costs £1.50 which can be paid via Parent Pay, no booking is required. Access is via the main entrance doors. Breakfast includes, cereal, toast, bagels and juice. Allergies are catered for.

Parent/carer Consultation Interviews

Parent/carer consultation appointments are held in the Autumn and Spring Terms. Open mornings are offered in the Summer Term, when parents/carers are invited in to look at their child's work and speak to the teacher.

Summary reports are sent out with a final end of year report in July. These reports describe your child's progress and, where applicable, the results from statutory assessments and tests. After each parent/carer interviews, teachers will note parents' comments. This helps us to monitor and support parental views. Parents may make additional appointments if they feel this is necessary.

Homework

All the children are expected to read at home daily. Ten minutes reading per day will reach an extra sixty hours reading experience per year. Good reading standards do involve parental support and we do all we can to advise parents on the best way to support and guide your child with reading. If you need help please ask. It is important that the children remember to bring their books to school daily. Please check that your child has put their book in their bag!

Each parent is asked to sign a Homework Agreement that shows the overall commitment of school and home to the role homework plays in the children's education. English and number homework is regularly given in Key Stage 1.

In Key Stage 2, times tables, number bonds and spellings are given to learn regularly. Other homework tasks are given that relate to classwork. Children are sometimes asked to do their own research. They enjoy the help that parents and carers can give.

Money, jewellery and sweets

Children may need to pay for school meals, trip money and occasionally money for special events. These monies can be paid online by registering with ParentPay. If you do not have an account please ask for details at the school office. We ask that children do not bring sweets into school, even in a packed lunch.

The children are encouraged to bring 20p each day, to buy a piece of fruit or something else from our healthy tuck shop, at mid-morning break. No other money is needed during the school day. Reception and KS1 pupils are provided with fruit every day.

The only jewellery allowed in school is a watch, ear studs and medic-alert necklaces. Pupils will be asked to remove any other jewellery they are wearing. The school can take no responsibility for any jewellery brought into school. Pupils wearing ear studs and watches must, for reasons of safety, remove them for P.E. If your child cannot remove their studs please make sure the studs are left out for P.E. days.



Educational Visits

Educational visits are an important part of children's learning. When children join the school parents sign a form giving permission for the school to take their child out into the local area e.g. Coulby Newham shopping centre, Fairy Dell, the community centre and all sites within walking distance. Parents will be notified about these visits. We also have visits further afield requiring coach transport. Parents are always notified regarding trips and we also ask for a voluntary contribution. We rarely charge children the full cost of a visit but if the voluntary contributions are not sufficient the visit may not take place. This includes a residential visit for children in year 6.

Medicines in school

We are willing to give children PRESCRIBED medicine when it is needed to be taken up to four times a day. The medicine must have on it the child's name and clear instructions, and a completed consent form from parents giving permission. Forms are obtained from the office.

All children who have inhalers should keep their inhalers with them at all times. If parents feel that nursery or infant aged children are not to be responsible for their inhalers then the class teacher will look after them.

It is important that children have instant access to their own inhalers.



School Uniform

At Sunnyside Academy we expect that all children should wear school uniform. There are sound educational reasons for this:

- It creates a positive attitude to work and school life
- It gives the children a sense of belonging
- The children are easily identified on school trips therefore ensures the safety of the children.

The school uniform of Sunnyside Academy is:

- Yellow or White polo shirt with school logo
- Grey or black skirt, pinafore dress or trousers
- Navy blue sweatshirt/ jumper/ or cardigan preferably with school logo
- Black or navy shoes/ black trainers

NO HEELS OR VIBRANT COLOURS

In summer the girls can wear a blue or yellow gingham dress with sturdy sandals. The boys can wear, black or grey trousers or shorts.

All uniform items with the school logo are available from school through the office.

A list of all stocked uniform items is available in school.

P.E kit: We expect that all children wear the school P.E. kit

Yellow t shirt (with or without logo)

Navy shorts/ joggers in the winter for outside PE

The following would also be acceptable:

- Key Stage 1- pupils do P.E. in bare feet/ P.E. shoes/plimsolls, t shirt and shorts
- Key Stage 2 – require shorts t-shirt and P.E shoes-plimsolls for indoors and trainers for outdoor
- Football shirts/strips should not be worn for P.E.

School uniform can be purchased direct through Lollipops school wear by visiting their website

[Lollipops Children's Clothes | Middlesbrough \(lollipops-middlesbrough.co.uk\)](http://lollipops-middlesbrough.co.uk)



School Meals – we are a NUT FREE school

The school operates a cafeteria system at which the children have a choice of hot school meal or salad bar. School dinner money should be paid on a Monday morning in the envelope provided or via ParentPay. The school dinner register is held in the office. **No items containing nuts must be brought onto the premises or prepared on the premises.**

If children would like to change from school meals to packed lunch this can ONLY be done at the beginning of a half term. Changes from packed lunch to school dinner can be undertaken but the office must be informed of all changes. The cost is £2.40 per day.

Packed lunches must not contain chocolate bars, fizzy drinks or sweets.

The Government provides all pupils in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 with a Free School Meal. During the lunch break a team of Supervisory Assistants support the children. Children are expected to give the same respect to all adults working with them, whether they are teaching or non-teaching staff. Continued disruptive behaviour at lunchtime may result in the child being sent home for lunch for a set length of time.

Road safety and parking

Parents must not use the school car park. The school car park is used by a high number of authority mini-buses and taxis, which bring children to school from outside our catchment area. Car parking spaces are available in the public car park just outside the school gates which we would ask all parents to use. Please use the correct entrances and exits to the school and do not park near the main gates as this will obstruct the passenger vehicles.

Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality are essential if children are to do their best in school. We monitor these carefully and where there is a cause for concern we will ask the Educational Welfare Officer to visit a family and offer support so that the children can attend regularly. Please let the school know if your child is ill, by telephoning on the first morning of their absence. Regulations require us to mark your child's absence as unauthorised if we are not informed of the reason for the absence. A home welfare visit will be undertaken after 3 days of absence. Although this may seem harsh, this is an important safeguarding process. Our attendance and punctuality procedures are outlined in our Attendance Policy.

Illness, hospital, doctors and dental appointments, and other exceptional circumstances are the only valid reasons for authorised absences. Evidence for such appointments will need to be presented. Whilst forms for leave during term time can be submitted to the Head teacher these would only be permitted in the most extenuating circumstances, as stipulated by DfE regulations. Other absences, including holidays during term time, are unauthorised and will be recorded on pupils' annual report.

IN KEY STAGE 1- if your child is to be collected by anyone other than their parents/carers then please let the class teacher know at the beginning of the day or the office. If it is a person whom the class teacher does not know they will need a note from you identifying them and authorising the pick up or you may want to contact the main office in advance.

Lateness disrupts the whole class and the office. Children should be in their classrooms between 8.40 and 8.50 am. However, if you sleep in please bring your child late, rather than let them miss a whole day.



Emergency Procedures

It is important that we have at least two up-to-date telephone numbers where you, a family member or a friend can be contacted during the day if your child is ill or has an accident. We will organise transport home or to hospital if necessary.

If you change your telephone number or address whilst your child is in school please give us this new information as soon as possible (likewise if the second contact number changes please let us know).

School Rules

- Be Ready
- Be Respectful
- Be Safe

AD ASTRA STARS VALUES

Support, Togetherness, Achieve, Respects, Success

Special Educational Needs Code Of Practice

If you, or the class teacher are worried about your child's progress there are termly meetings to discuss this further (the class teacher is always available to talk at the end of the school day if needed). If it is decided that your child needs some extra help to achieve a short term target they may be involved in an intervention group with another adult. If the rate of progress or some other issue continues to cause concern we ask for help and advice from another specialist e.g. Speech and Language, Educational Psychologist. You will always be informed and involved in this process and there may some activities you are asked to help with at home. If your child has a SEND plan then you will have access to their provision using Edukey Provision Maps.

On rare occasions a child may have a specific need that cannot be met without additional resources, in this case the school may request additional High Needs Funding from the Local Authority. There are some children who require an Education Health Care plan (EHC) to ensure that the school is able provide all that is essential to help a child make expected progress. If your child does require an EHC you will be invited to a meeting with all the professionals involved with your child as your views are extremely important. There will then be a panel meeting to determine whether an EHC is required or not.

Some children will join Sunnyside Academy to take advantage of our unique range of support bases with specialist teachers and teaching assistants. If your child has been placed in one of our bases there will be an annual review which the Local Authority will attend when transitioning to another school will be discussed (e.g. Year 5).



Foundation Stage

The Foundation Stage begins when children reach the age of three. Many children attend some form of pre-school or nursery soon after their third birthday. At Sunnyside Academy, children enter the Nursery as soon as possible after their third birthday. They progress through Nursery and transfer into Reception class in the academic year of their fifth birthday. At whatever age children begin pre-school or school, they will have a range of different experiences. They will have learnt a great deal, particularly from their families and will have varied interest and skills. Young children are constantly encountering new experiences and seeking to understand them in order to extend their skills, develop their confidence and build on what they already know. At Sunnyside, we plan learning experiences of the highest quality, that will help the children make progress, taking into consideration both the children's needs and achievements. In 2023, we were very proud to achieve the renewed Early Years Quality Mark.

The Foundation Stage is about developing key skills such as listening, speaking, concentration, perseverance and learning to work together and co-operate with other children. It is also about developing early communication, English and Mathematics skills that will prepare young children for Key Stage 1. There are 7 areas of learning set out for our children:

3 Prime areas

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

4 Specific areas

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

All aspects of the early year's curriculum ensure equal interest for boys and girls. Wherever applicable, children will use IT to support the early year's curriculum.

Children with any special educational need are integrated into activities on an equal basis with other children, with tasks adapted accordingly. More able children are extended appropriately using the Key Stage 1 programmes of study of the National Curriculum. The children are formally assessed termly, in November, February and June. Foundation Stage reports are issued on the transition from Nursery to Reception and at the end of the Reception year. In addition, a close relationship between Nursery and Reception class staff and parents is encouraged, with parents' comments and questions about their child's progress being welcomed.

The main aims of Sunnyside Academy's Foundation Stage are:

- To make the child's first experience of school happy, positive and fun
- To encourage parents to become partners with the school in the education of their children
- To provide a curriculum firmly based on active learning to meet the needs of the individual child
- To foster a love of learning, enquiring minds and the ability to discuss, adapt and negotiate

Key Stage 1

As children move from Foundation Stage to Key Stage 1 (KS1) they will enter Year 1. Work is often based and usually around a particular topic which will last half a term or a full term. The school day will become more formal with structured lessons taking place throughout the day. These lessons re-inforce phonics and higher expectations of recording. We use the Soundwrite scheme to teach phonics.

The handwriting scheme is taught and it is important that children learn the correct letter formation. Please ask for a copy of the scheme if you would like to help your child with writing at home.

Each child will be given a reading book to read at home. Support from parents for reading at home is greatly appreciated. Although your child will be heard as often as possible within school your enthusiasm and encouragement to read at home will make a big difference to your child's progress. Guided reading is also used in class to support decoding and comprehension skills.

Children will take part in performances throughout the year, speaking, listening and drama play a major role in KS1. You will be invited to watch these performances.

Your child will be assessed for their progress, this usually takes the format of working one to one with an adult and is in no way threatening to the children. The results of this assessment will be shared with you at parents' evening. If you would like to discuss any issues about your child and school please make an appointment to see their class teacher, Assistant Head or the Deputy Head teacher or the Head teacher.





Key Stage 2

The children move into Key Stage 2 (KS2) at the beginning of Year 3. During KS2 children will usually have a much more structured day with timetabled lessons. There will be homework set each week and it is expected that children continue to read every night and complete their reading record.

The children are expected to remember to keep their PE in school. Y5 and Y6 pupils can come to school in their PE kits on the days that they have PE. Most year groups also have a two-week swimming block during which they will go swimming each day at The Rainbow Leisure Centre. Children may be invited to represent the school at a range of sporting activities. In spring term, Year 6 children are invited to go on our residential visit, usually lasting 3 days.

The children will continue to go on education visits associated with the topics covered in class; they are also encouraged to carry out their own research at home, using a library or the internet. Children work on computers throughout school, however it is expected that KS2 will work on the iPads or laptops in the class to complete projects. All year groups have dedicated iPads for the children to work on within the classroom, covering a range of topics and software. All our computers have safeguarding software to ensure that children have no access to inappropriate material. If you would like advice on this for any computers you have at home please feel free to contact us or check our Online Safety Policy.

As the children reach Y5 and Y6 there are a range of responsibilities they can volunteer for, e.g. playground buddy, door monitor and reading ambassador. We also work with Kings Academy to ensure transition to secondary school is as smooth as possible.

Friends of Sunnyside

We invite all parents/carers/grandparents to join the Friends of Sunnyside. This group is committed to supporting the school through fund raising and organising social events in order to develop the community aspect of the school. The friends meet regularly, usually in school. The group consists of parents, staff and members of the local community who wish to do their best for the children. We are proud of our fundraising record and most recently have been able to play a major role in the development of the outdoor areas of the school. The activities involved are often shown on display on the notice boards around school.

Extra Curricular Activities

A range of clubs and activities take place both during lunchtimes and after school. You and your child will be informed if and when there are clubs suitable for them. These include, Gardening Club, Science Club, Art Club, Read and Relax, Recorder Club, Healthy Eating Club, Dodgeball, Multi-Sports and Soft Play

There is an array of sporting opportunities at Sunnyside. We offer pupils the opportunity to play more traditional sports such as football, badminton, cricket etc both during timetabled lessons and after school. We compete in numerous competitions throughout the year which in turn has led to pupils representing Sunnyside at district level.

Friends of Sunnyside and the Student Council also organise and run discos and events at various stages throughout the school year.

After School Wrap around care – Little Wonders

Little Wonders provides the after-school care on the school site every day during term time. The hours are 3.10pm to 5.30pm each day. They are registered with OFSTED as a provider and work in partnership with the school. Bookings are taken directly through them. Their contact details for costs and hours are littlewonders65@yahoo.co.uk
Tel 07480290195





Contact us

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www.sunnyside.adastraschools.org

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