

Believe and Achieve

School Prospectus

Welcome to Crook Primary School

Choosing a school for your child is one of the most important things you will do. We hope that Crook Primary School is the school that you choose and that you will experience a happy partnership with us so that your child leaves ready to face the challenges of secondary school and to be a responsible, happy and fulfilled adult.



Our School

We are lucky to have a lovely large building with large classrooms, an IT suite/library, two full size halls and a purpose built gymnasium as well as extensive outside areas where pupils can play and explore. The building was once a secondary school giving us enough classrooms to accommodate two form entry. Our nursery is located in a separate building within the school grounds with its own large indoor and outdoor spaces.

Please contact the Admissions Team at Durham County Council by email at **schooladmissions@durham.gov.uk** or by telephone using **03000 265896**, or on the Durham County Council website to apply for a school place.

Why choose us?

At Crook Primary School, we want our children to "believe and achieve". It is our job to ensure that every child has a bright future. We aim to develop children who are skilled readers, writers and mathematicians as well as having an interest in all areas of the curriculum.

We believe that children need to learn to take risks, push themselves out of their comfort zone and learn from their mistakes. We want them to have informed opinions and respect others whilst being curious and excited about the world in which they live.

In Early Years and Key Stage 1, we encourage children to:

- Become independent
- Have self respect and respect for others.
- To become confident

In Key Stage 2

- Children are encouraged to be ambitious and to persevere.
- To develop the skill of thinking critically so that they can function well in a society where there is so much information

Above all, we want our children to be happy and secure at Crook Primary School.

"My children enjoy school very much and are truly happy here. As a parent I feel very supported and reassured that my children are safe and their needs are met"
Parent

"A School bursting with happy inquisitive children and staff who nurture and encourage them to truly "believe and achieve."
Teacher

"If you get something wrong, you don't get told off, the teacher tells you, you learn from your mistakes and you keep learning about it"
Grace

"I love school because I learn how to do cool things."
Olivia

"I love going to school because I learn lots of new things, especially in History"
Winter

"I love school because I love seeing my teachers and friends."
Lyla

"It's fun and we learn so much knowledge because we learn everyday"
Lachlan

"Crook Primary is a fantastic place to be. Both staff and children are welcoming, hardworking and caring. They really shine and 'Believe and Achieve.'
Parent

Times for the School Day

	Start of the school day	Lunchtime	End of the school day
Reception	8.45am	11.30am – 12.40pm	3.15pm
KS1	8.45am	11.45am – 12.40pm	3.15pm
KS2	8.45am	12.15pm – 12.55pm	3.15pm

At the beginning of the school day, children line up in our yard to come into school once the bell has gone at 8.45am. We ask that parents ensure that children are in the yard by 8.40am and that they wait with children until the bell goes. We are happy for children to come to school by bike or scooter. These can be parked in the bike shelter where they will be secured with school bike locks until home time.

Currently, we are proud to be part of the National Magic Breakfast Programme. This enables us to offer children a breakfast bagel (or alternative bread product) every day when they arrive at school. These are normally eaten in the classroom during the first 15 minutes of the day while the registers are taken. Water is readily available throughout the school from water coolers housed in the corridors. Children are encouraged to bring a drinks bottle with their name on it to refill during break times. The government funded School Fruit and Vegetable Scheme (SFVS) provides a free piece of fruit or veg to every 4 – 6 year old. These are normally eaten during morning break but for children in Reception, are available for them to choose at will throughout the day. All children have a break part way through the morning and again in the afternoon. Lunchtimes are staggered between 11.45am and 1.00pm using both halls to allow children enough time to enjoy food with their peers and have time to play.

Extended School Day

Our breakfast club runs from 7.45 am until the start of the school day and we also offer wraparound care after school, "ACES" (After-school Childcare Enjoyment Service) where children can stay at school until 6.00pm. For further information and prices, please contact the school office.



Attendance

Children must attend school every day and it is your responsibility to make sure that they do. They must also arrive at school on time. Children only get one chance at school and your child's chance of a successful future may be affected by not attending school regularly. We do not sanction holidays in term time unless there is an exceptional circumstance.

We track attendance rigorously and want to work with you if there is an issue with your child attending school. Please contact the school office or headteacher if you wish to discuss attendance issues.

If your child is not going to be at school for any reason, please inform the school office either by:

Telephone on: 01388 762400

Text: 07520 660260

Email at: admin@crookprimaryschool.org.uk

Online at: www.crookprimary.org.uk (using the parents tab and the absence reporting option)

Children are not allowed to leave school during normal school hours unless they are collected by an adult. Appointments should be made outside of lesson times, wherever possible.

Safeguarding

Our most important role is to keep children safe. We are committed to safeguarding children at all times. Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and all staff are trained and receive regular updates to their training. Our building is secure and fulfils (as far as possible), access requirements for people with disabilities.

Behaviour

We believe that well behaved children who can take responsibility for their own actions, are children who are content and who can show empathy to those around them. We have one school rule which is "to follow instructions". We operate a consistent behaviour policy. This means that children are rewarded each term for good behaviour with a termly treat that is gained by earning one of two possible behaviour bands; 1 for each half term. We also give sanctions in the form of warnings and lunchtime detentions when children choose not to do as they are asked. Please see our behaviour policy on our website for further explanation.

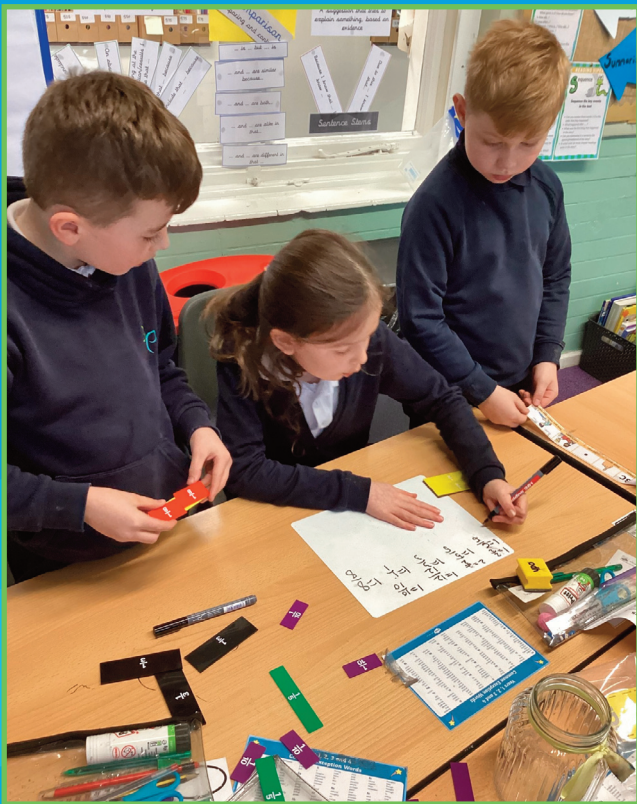


School Uniform

We expect all children to wear our school uniform. It consists of a navy or white polo shirt, navy sweatshirt, hoodie or cardigan, navy, grey or black trousers, shorts or skirt/pinafore and black shoes or trainers. Blue checked dresses and shorts can be worn in summer but shorts should be of an appropriate length. All children should have a P.E. kit consisting of t-shirt, shorts/leggings/jogging bottoms and suitable footwear. Uniform (including P.E. wear) bearing the school logo can be ordered via the school office.

Parents are asked to make sure that children are capable of dressing themselves when they come to school, including fastening buttons and zips. When uniform is labelled correctly, it is very helpful to us when trying to locate lost items.

We recognise the cost of uniform and the impact that this can have on families. We have many items of pre-loved uniform available from the school office.



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| ✓ Navy Sweatshirt/Hoodie/Cardigan | ✗ High Heels/Platform Shoes/Boots |
| ✓ Navy or white polo shirt | ✗ Body piercings |
| ✓ Navy/Grey/Black Trousers/Skirt/Pinafore/Shorts | ✗ Hooped or dangly earrings |
| ✓ Blue checked summer dress | ✗ Necklaces/Bracelets |
| ✓ Black Shoes/Trainers | ✗ Make up |
| ✓ 1 pair of stud earrings (with completed indemnity form) | ✗ Bandanas |
| ✓ School issued reward wristband | ✗ Brightly coloured hair accessories |
| ✓ Plain headband | ✗ Patterned hair accessories |
| ✓ Plain hair bobble | |

The Curriculum at Crook Primary School

Pupils need to make connections between their learning and different aspects of their lives so that they can “believe and achieve” From experience, we have found that pupils tend to compartmentalise their learning and as a result have not retained knowledge or used their knowledge in the wider context.

Our “Connected Curriculum” aims to give pupils a greater understanding and sense of place in the world. Using the Sustainable Development goals to underpin many of our subject enquiry questions, pupils will develop a sense of connectivity and responsibility to the world, see the benefit of new technologies and become critical thinkers. Throughout our curriculum we will also teach explicit learning behaviours to enable our pupils to regulate their emotion, improve their long term memory and enable them to reflect and be connected to their preferred styles of learning.

These are the sustainable development goals :



“Pupils describe the display of sustainable development goals as the most important in school. They discuss issues and their aim to make the world a better place with fire in their eyes.”- Ofsted 2023

Extra-Curricular Activities at Crook Primary

Crook Primary is a very busy place. There are a number of after school clubs that change on a termly basis. In school time, we have yearly whole school events such as the very popular "Muddy Mayhem".

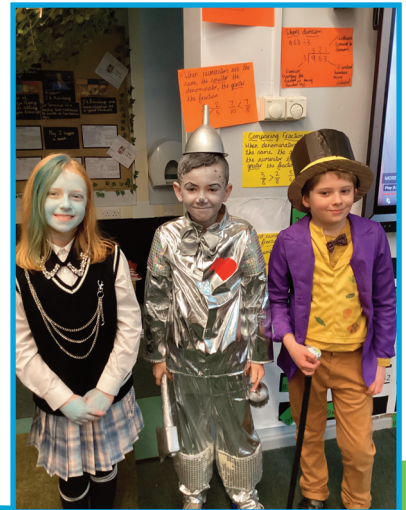
We have a group called "The Voice of Crook" which is made up of a selection of children from each year group who represent the whole year group. They meet regularly to suggest and shape whole school events such as "Crook's Got Talent, Easter Egg Competition and World Book Day".

We also have a Junior Global Committee who inform the rest of the children about our responsibility to the planet and how we can be good global citizens

Our E Cadets group help to keep children alert and safe on the internet.

"I like school because it is fun" - Liza

"I like everything about school" - Joshua



Belonging at Crook Primary

Every Child at Crook Primary from Year 1 to Year 6 is in a House Team.

The aim of the House System is to promote friendly competition and the opportunity for children across the school to learn with, and from each other, in a variety of different contexts.

The 4 houses are named after significant and inspirational people in British history, Charles Darwin, Florence Nightingale, Emily Pankhurst and Earnest Shackleton. Over the year, we have many exciting competitions and events for children and staff to win points for their house.

House Teams



Darwin



Nightingale



Pankhurst



Shackleton

Emotional Well being at Crook Primary School

Emotional wellbeing is about our feelings, our thoughts, our emotions and our moods. Looking after our emotional wellbeing is just as important as looking after our physical health.

We recognise that sometimes life can be tricky and above all we want our children to be happy and resilient. We want Crook Primary to be a place where children can thrive and grow.

We have a well-being lead, who is available for all children to give sustenance and support as well as to work with parents to support their children.

Children in Years 4,5 and 6 have Crook Crusader Lessons. This is the chance to take these lessons and move out of our fixed mindsets into a more positive way of thinking. It is with this growth mindset and resilience that we can create a world with endless possibilities. In order for a child to develop a strong growth mindset they need the input, support and comfort of others.

Encouragement and positive reinforcement from parents, teachers and peers can create an ideal environment for a growth mindset to flourish.

"You hold my hand when I am sad coming into school on a morning until I feel calm." Caprea

"Giving me time to talk and finding a friend I can trust." Ruby

"I can talk about my emotions, it has helped me to try new things that I'm nervous about and then I have seen that it's not so bad." Jensen

"In this group we learn skills for how to persevere with tasks and that making mistakes is good for us." Isabella

"When I find things hard, I've learnt how to show resilience with my work, keep trying." Alexis



Early Years at Crook Primary

Please see our separate Early Years brochure for more details

We are delighted that we have a dedicated separate nursery building with extensive grounds for our youngest children. In addition, we have an extensive reception unit located within our main school building

At Crook Primary School we aim to ensure all children in EYFS are given the best quality care and education to ensure they have a strong foundation for their future learning. We create a safe, happy, stimulating environment with motivating and challenging learning experiences to help children become confident, happy and independent learners ready to reach their full potential in an ever-changing world.

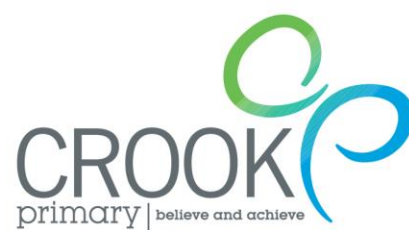
We value each individual child and celebrate and respect differences within our diverse school community. The ability to learn is underpinned by the teaching of basic skills, knowledge and values that equips our children for future success. Our Early Years curriculum is based on the Early Years framework, Development Matters 2021.

Our curriculum is designed to recognise children's prior experiences and provide first hand learning based on their interests, needs and stages of development. Pupils learn through a balance of child-initiated and adult-directed activities. Our timetable is carefully structured so that children access directed teaching during the day but this can change throughout the year to take into consideration the changing needs of the children.

Children are also given time to engage in 'exploration' throughout the variety of experiences that are carefully planned to challenge and engage children. Reading is at the heart of our curriculum and our aim is to encourage children to have a love of reading right from the start in Nursery.

In Early years we pride ourselves on developing strong and positive relationships with our families. Communicating effectively with parents is vital in ensuring good progress for our children.

"All 3 of my children have attended Crook Nursery and all 3 have loved their time here and love all of the teachers. Each child's individual personalities and needs were applauded and nurtured. I can't thank the nursery enough for all of their support and kindness, for the trips and activities. I will be sad when their time is up in nursery as it really does have the best environment for all children" - Carley



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