



Allendale Primary School

At our school, all children are valued and are given opportunities to achieve



Allendale Primary School

Welcome to Allendale Primary School

Alison Hawkins, Headteacher says:

Welcome to a school that provides a unique educational opportunity for your child.

Here are some of the reasons which make us so special:

- Friendly, dedicated and approachable teachers, support staff and governors.
- High expectations and standards.
- Small teaching groups enable each child to receive individual attention.
- Spacious Community Sports Hall, fully equipped to provide access to sporting activities throughout the year.
- A building that has been completely refurbished to meet the needs of Primary aged children from 4 – 11 years old.
- Dedicated Computing Suite.
- Two inviting, well stocked library areas.
- Light and spacious teaching spaces.
- Separate Early Years Unit for Nursery and Reception children with self-contained outdoor area.
- Superbly equipped adventure play area.
- Two large playgrounds and separate quiet yard.
- Extensive grounds, including a large sports field.

Our School Community

Within our small school community each pupil is known as an individual and therefore receives individual attention. Every child's self - esteem and self - confidence is nurtured and positive relationships are built between children, staff and parents. The atmosphere within the school is friendly and purposeful and a happy working environment is achieved where staff plan and deliver stimulating



lessons and activities. Parents are positively encouraged to be involved in their child's education and wider school life. We have a supportive Governing Body which is actively engaged in managing and developing the school.



Diverse and Creative Curriculum

We have a very wide ranging, creative and diverse curriculum. We not only have high expectations academically but foster

and develop skills and interests within the arts, sports, scientific enquiry, eco issues, technology and global events. Outdoor learning is a very prominent aspect within our curriculum and each year we focus on different skills as well as teamwork, developing initiative, independent thinking and problem solving.

Get in touch

If you would like to find out more about Allendale Primary School, please do not hesitate to contact us. To make an appointment to visit, please contact the school office on 01434 683376. We will be delighted to show you what our school can offer your child and answer any questions you may have.



Why Sarah and Dov selected Allendale Primary School for their children

Sarah and Dov Goldberg live in Catton with their three children, Sam, six in Year 2, Isabella, four, in Reception and Henry, three.

Natural progression

Both Sam and Isabella attended Allendale village pre-school and had made good local friends; for Sarah and Dov, choosing Allendale Primary School felt like a natural progression. "Everything we saw and heard about Allendale Primary School, we liked. There was a very positive feeling about it and we've not been disappointed in any way."

Size is important

Sarah feels Allendale Primary School, being a smaller primary school, encourages children to be individuals and has the capacity to embrace their unique personalities. "The school is able to have enough time to pick up on individual personality traits," says Sarah. "They're very aware of the child's needs. We've always felt the staff have been very communicative and inclusive with parents."

A very caring school

"They really like the fact that their particular interests are considered important. Sam likes space and nature and he feels his teachers always show an interest if he takes a special book in," explains Sarah. "They'll take time to read it with him, which he loves! As a parent, it's great to know your children are happy and content at school! We have absolutely no regrets in having chosen Allendale Primary School!"

Children say

Sam says, "I really like the outdoor learning days we have where we get to build dens, have hot chocolate and learn about animals and local history!"

Isabella says, "I love everything about my school!"

"As a parent, it's great to know your children are happy and content at school!"



Our School Day



School hours

Children are invited to arrive from 8.45am, where they line up in the playground. A member of staff is always on duty to meet the children who travel to and from school via bus or taxi to ensure they are supervised safely onto the site. Staff meet their class on the playground and escort them into school ready for registration at 8.55am.

Nursery and Reception children can go straight into their unit where staff will welcome them.

Our school day finishes at 3.30pm.

Breakfast and After School Club

Allstars is our affordable before and after school childcare. The Club is situated in the Early Years Unit to the rear of the main school building. Hours are flexible and vary according to need. Further information is available from the school office.

School Uniform

Children are expected to wear our school uniform as it establishes good standards of appearance and enables children to feel part of the school community.

Our uniform consists of:

- Red sweatshirt, fleece or cardigan
- White polo top or white shirt
- Black or grey trousers, skirt, or pinafore

In warmer weather:

- Grey or black shorts
- Red checked or striped summer dress

Footwear:

- Sensible school shoes
- Boots allowed in cold weather
- Sensible school sandals in summer

• No trainers are allowed other than in PE

PE Kit:

- Navy blue polo shirt or T shirt
- Navy blue shorts
- Navy blue hooded top (optional)
- Dark coloured jogging bottoms or track suit bottoms
- Trainers or plimsolls
- Drawstring PE bag, with name on front

Appearance:

Plain studs are allowed for children with pierced ears. No other jewellery should be worn in school although watches are acceptable.

Long hair should be tied back for safety reasons. Extreme hairstyles are not allowed such as patterns shaved into hair, shaved heads and unnatural hair dyes.

Children should not wear nail varnish, the only exception being social occasions in school.



School meals and snacks

Our school meals are cooked on site. They are nutritionally balanced with a choice of menu and vegetarian option. Payment options are available on our website. Children can bring their own packed lunch in a clearly named lunchbox. We hold the enhanced Healthy school Award so fizzy drinks, chocolate bars and sweets are not allowed.

Fruit is available for all children free of charge. Milk is provided free for all children under 5 years old and available for all other children for a small termly charge.

Every child is given a water bottle when they first start school and encouraged to use it daily. There is a water dispenser in school from which the children can obtain fresh drinking water daily.

Curriculum

The curriculum is divided into three stages:

Early Years Foundation Stage: from ages 4-5

Key Stage 1: from ages 5-7

Key Stage 2: from ages 7-11

Reception

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum is based on seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Key Stages 1-2

Areas of the curriculum are:

- English
- Mathematics
- Science
- Art and Design
- Computing
- Design and Technology
- Geography
- History
- Music
- Physical Education
- Religious Education
- French and Spanish (KS2 only)
- PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education)



We adopt a topic based approach to learning. Topics are usually taught for a half term or term. They cover a number of curriculum areas and often involve trips and visitors. Teachers use their strengths to deliver lessons in other classes throughout the week; we call this our rotation lesson. In addition we hold specific themed days and weeks such as Health Week, National Science and Engineering Week, Anti-Bullying week and arts days where the whole school is involved.

Susan and Howard believe an open approach and a friendly ethos encourages children to reach their full potential at Allendale Primary School

Susan and Howard Robson live in High Staward with their sons Harry and Jake, aged eleven and nine.

Power to build confidence

When Harry first started school he was shy for a while. "As the school is small the teachers have been able to get to know Harry's individual personality. As a result, his confidence has grown so much during his time there," says Susan. "The teachers have really got the best out of him!"

Whilst both children are thriving at Allendale Primary School, Jake and Harry, according to Susan, have very different characters. Jake is very competitive and has really enjoyed the sports and outdoor learning opportunities available. "Jake has got a lot from the outdoor learning days," says Susan. "It's great that different learning styles are catered for. And Jake has responded really well to having a male teacher."

Hopes and Expectations

When Susan and Howard learned that the school was to change from a three tiered school to a primary school they had some initial concerns. "We wondered whether Harry might not be pushed or prepared for secondary education in the same way that a middle school would prepare him," explains Susan. "I was concerned it would be like stepping back a year, but it's not been like that at all!"

The older children have maintained a level of responsibility and independence which Susan feels is important for preparing them for secondary school. "Years, 4, 5 and 6 still get to do things as a group of 'older children'," says Susan. "Both of my boys have had the opportunity to be on the school council which they've thoroughly enjoyed! And it's given them a good level of responsibility, which I think is valuable for the future."

Approachable and open

"As well as taking on board any concerns I have had, the Headteacher asked Harry for his suggestions on how to ease the transition for the move to a primary school structure. The Headteacher personally responded to his suggestions. He was so pleased as he felt his views were respected, which I think is really important."

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Children say

Harry says:

"I've really enjoyed my time at Allendale Primary School. I've made some great friends and the teachers always recognise when you work hard."

Jake says:

"I really like the outdoor learning days we get to do! They're really good!"

An Enriched Curriculum

Artsmark Gold School

We are an Artsmark Gold School, and nationally recognised as demonstrating excellence in arts and cultural provision.

We run themed arts projects in which the whole school is involved, the results of which can be seen on display in the hall and around the school. We encourage the children to develop their performance skills whether it is drama, singing, music or dancing and showcase their talents during whole school and class performances.

Links with the Community

We have strong links with our local community. We hold harvest celebrations in the Methodist Chapel or St Cuthbert's Church. We work closely with local businesses such as The Forge Arts Centre and the Co-op. They are a valuable resource, providing practical support and learning opportunities which enrich our curriculum. In addition, local people work with school by offering their time and expertise to help us to stage performances and special events.

Reading Connects School

We are a 'Reading Connects School' and are passionate about developing a whole-school reading culture. We have volunteers who come into school to run library sessions for the children and encourage all children to read for purpose and pleasure.

Eco Schools

We hold the Green Flag Award from Eco Schools. Since moving to the Primary site we have been developing plans to reduce our carbon footprint with such initiatives as recycling and solar energy. Our Eco Committee is comprised of 2 representatives from Y1 up to Y6 and they look at the school environment and sustainability. We are planning a new wildlife garden to be located in our extensive green spaces.

Healthy Schools

We hold the Enhanced Healthy School Award. Every year we hold Health Week focusing on Healthy eating and lifestyles or healthy physical activity. Our Y5 and Y6 children can participate in the BikeAbility cycle safety training each year, using the school playgrounds and roads around Allendale. Sport is an important element of school life; having the Community Sports Hall means that all our children have access to high quality PE lessons and after school activities no matter the weather. We also hold the Anti-Bullying Award recognising our commitment to raising awareness of different forms of bullying and having high expectation of behaviour in school.

Outdoor Learning

Outdoor learning sessions form an important part of our curriculum. Each year we have a different topic and focus; these activities are always amongst the most popular sessions every year for the children. Examples of activities include beach studies, survival challenge in the woods, shelter and den building, going down the mines, waterfall walking, lots of art and craft activities using natural materials, investigating animal tracks, digging fire pits, lighting fires and using them to cook bread, toast marshmallows and make hot chocolate. These sessions help the children to develop resilience, independence and problem solving skills as well as self-esteem and confidence when they rise to challenges and do things they didn't think they would be able to.

A great education and a nurturing environment - Mary couldn't ask for more than she has found at Allendale Primary School

Mary and Colin Potsig live in Allendale with their children Grace, six, Ophelia four, and Arwen, one.

Nurturing environment

Mary felt the nurturing environment of a smaller school would be beneficial for Grace's additional needs. "Grace suffers with anxiety so she finds changes very difficult to deal with," explains Mary. "For the first six months or so, Grace was unable to even respond to the register on a morning, but with Allendale Primary School's support, and the patience of the teachers, Grace has settled into school life well."

Impressed

Mary has been impressed with the tools implemented by the school to help Grace's development and to aid her ability to focus on school work. "They've incorporated things like a smaller room for her at lunch time and a glitter bottle to help her feel calm," says Mary. "And they've recently added a number scale so that Grace can communicate how she is feeling about something by giving it a rating," says Mary. "The teachers can then give her some strategies to use when she is starting to feeling anxious. They're all really helpful things which have made school life easier for Grace."

Motivating and encouraging

Currently in Year 2, Grace is, according to Mary, achieving well: "Academically, Grace is where she needs to be for her age and progressing well. Her needs are very much emotional ones. Having said that, she doesn't like writing and the school has shown great support here too."

To encourage Grace to write, the teachers introduced a free-writing book where she can write about whatever she likes, rather than a set topic. Mary believes this has really helped to motivate and encourage Grace with her writing and spelling. "It never feels like a problem to speak to any of the staff at Allendale Primary School. They're all so approachable and willing to help. I know Grace's needs are well-cared for - her confidence has grown so much! I couldn't ask for more!"

Children say

Grace says about Allendale Primary School:

"My favourite experience at school has been going on school trips like the one to Adventure Valley. And I like my teachers because they are nice to me and they are friendly."

Inclusion: a curriculum for all



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We are a very inclusive school and modify tasks where needed to ensure that all children can access the curriculum and achieve their full potential. Children may be included on the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities register and may have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which sets targets and outlines actions to support them. Where appropriate, a referral to an external support agency may be made. We support children and parents in addressing behaviour issues and will put strategies in place to support children in gaining the skills to manage and be responsible for their own behaviour. Above all, we want to raise the self-esteem of all our children and give them the skills to enjoy life in and out of school.



Inclusion

We are totally committed to providing high quality provision and support for all pupils who have Special Educational Needs of any kind. We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents.

More Able Children

Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented are supported in various ways. They are challenged academically and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate for their needs. Art Club recognises those children who have a particular talent and they work towards the Artsmark Discovery Award. Themed weeks enable children to develop a wider knowledge in subject areas such as Science and Technology and participation in intra school and inter school competitions showcases individual sporting talents.

Lindsay and Calum have appreciated the dedicated and supportive approach Allendale Primary School has provided to meet their daughter's additional needs.

Lindsay McCulloch and Calum Nicholson live in Allendale with their daughter, Sarah, five in Year 1. Sarah has Down Syndrome and she has a number of additional needs.

No regrets

Lindsay and Calum always wanted Sarah to attend a mainstream school. After looking at Allendale Primary School, they knew it felt right. "We just got an instant nice feeling when we looked around that it was the right place for Sarah, and so far, the school have given us fantastic support. We have no regrets."

Fantastic support from the very beginning

"We first looked at Allendale School a year before Sarah was due to start. She couldn't walk at the time, but the school just wasn't fazed by that or any of her additional needs," explains Lindsay. "The staff undertook Makaton and Ipad training so they could communicate better with Sarah as her speech is delayed."

Lindsay is really appreciative of the processes put in place to support Sarah's learning. "Children with Down Syndrome are visual learners," explains Lindsay. "The school has had to adapt work for her so that topics are more user friendly for her. They'll use pictures and when she's learning her different sounds they'll use sensory objects to assist her."

Nothing is too much trouble

"Nothing is ever an issue for the staff. They've been willing to adapt their learning processes to incorporate Sarah's needs. Sarah's speech in particular, has been delayed so the staff learning Makaton and teaching it to the other children has been brilliant!" says Lindsay. "It has made school so much nicer for Sarah. Her friends and the teachers are able to communicate with her, which is so important and makes such a huge difference."

Recognition for individual achievements:

Lindsay feels confident Sarah is happy and content at Allendale Primary School. "She just loves going to school every day," says Lindsay. "She recently got a certificate of achievement in assembly for good listening and for making brilliant progress with her speech and language. Sarah was so chuffed about that!"



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Clubs and activities



Clubs and Activities

We have a spacious, well equipped, lottery funded sports hall which is used for PE activities within the curriculum and after school clubs and activities. We hold the School Games Kite mark showing our commitment to promoting sporting activity. The sports hall is also a popular resource for the local community.

Clubs

There are a wide variety of clubs that children can join during lunchtime and after school. These do vary but options include:

- Cricket
- Drama
- Hockey
- ICT
- Story
- Multiskills
- Drumming
- Chess
- Badminton
- Tennis
- Art
- Eco Committee
- Football



School Council

Each Year the children elect representatives for the School Council. The School Council is actively involved in developing different aspects of school life. Amongst other things, the School Council has been responsible for changing from airline trays to plates and bowls at dinnertimes, choosing playground equipment, introducing girls football and fund raising for charities and playground markings in school as well as having an input into the Behaviour and Anti-Bullying policies.

Tracy has appreciated the way that Allendale Primary School has effectively and sensitively addressed her son's particular needs

Tracy Bennett lives in Allendale with her children Luke, ten, in Year 5, Lili-Grace, two and new baby, Logan.

A new start

"Luke struggled at first to settle in to a new school. He'd spent two years at a bigger school in a bigger town with bigger class sizes. When we came to Allendale, he felt like the outsider for a while," explains Tracy. "There have been some behavioural problems but Allendale Primary School has worked closely with him and they've really supported him. They've dealt with any issues in a sensitive way. He's settled in lovely now. He loves Allendale Primary School and can't wait for the school day to start!"

Focused learning

With some behavioural and emotional issues, Luke has at times, found it difficult to concentrate and focus on school work. As a result of the support Luke has received, Tracy feels he has progressed hugely since joining Allendale Primary School and she has seen some positive changes in him. "A really great thing about the school and the smaller class sizes is the scope for Luke to work more closely with the teachers," says Tracy. "Sometimes you have to really force Luke to focus and the teachers have been able to do that. I can really see a difference in his ability to concentrate on a task and I feel the teachers really care about him as an individual."

One-to-one support and family support

Tracy has appreciated the introduction of a Parent Support Worker who has provided Luke with one-to-one support, as well as offering support to the family as a whole through some difficult times. "Having someone there for Luke to talk to and someone I felt I could talk to has been brilliant! It's made a huge difference to us. Janet, the Parent Support Worker, has been my support as well as Luke's and she has helped us all," explains Tracy. "She's been someone dedicated and approachable for Luke to talk to outside of the family and his teachers about any concerns he has. It's been reassuring to know he has that in place."

"A really great thing about the school and the smaller class sizes is the scope for Luke to work more closely with the teachers"

Children say

Luke says:
"Allendale Primary School is lots of fun! The school dinners are great and my favourite lesson is design and technology because I like making things. And I love learning!"

Admissions



Visit Allendale Primary School

Parents who are thinking of applying for a place at our school are invited to arrange a visit and look around at any time.

Applications

The Local Authority Admission's Office deals with all new admissions to Allendale Primary School. There is an online application form that can be completed. Click on www.northumberland.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=15987

Contact details for Local Authority Admissions are:

School Admissions
Northumberland County Council
County Hall
Morpeth
NE61 2EF

Telephone: 01670 624889

Fax: 01670 626134

Email: schooladmissions@northumberland.gov.uk

Getting involved



Partnership with parents

We believe that a good partnership between school and home is essential and have an 'open door' policy where parents can speak to staff before or after school or arrange an appointment if necessary. Parents are encouraged to comment in their child's reading record or homework diary.

Parents are welcome to volunteer in school either as a regular commitment or supporting on trips or outdoor learning activities.

We have two parents' evenings throughout the year and open afternoon where children can share their work with parents.

Written reports are sent home in the Summer term and parents are welcome to come and discuss these.

The newsletter comes out at the start of each month or term and is available on our website. It contains updates, reports about events in school and information about trips, visitors and events in school.

PTFA

The PTFA, (Parents, Teachers and Friends Association) organises regular social and fund raising events for both children and families. Events have included quizzes, Marble Nights, Duck Race and highly successful Christmas fair and Silent Auction. The PTFA funds all our trips and visitors as well as purchasing equipment and resources for use by all children in school. It is vital that parents support the PTFA either by attending meetings or events as it enriches so many aspects of school life

Governors

The Governing Body consists of representatives of parents, teachers, members of the local community and the Local Authority. They work closely with the staff and Senior Leadership Team to support the school and plan strategic developments. Our Governing Body is very actively involved in all aspects of school life.

Do you want to be a Governor?

If you are interested in becoming a governor, further information is available from the school office.

How to find us



Allendale Primary School

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NE47 9PT

Tel: 01434 683376
Fax: 01434 683465
Email: admin@allendaleprimary.northumberland.sch.uk
Web: www.allendaleprimary.northumberland.sch.uk

At Allendale Primary our priorities are to:

- develop each child's self-esteem
- work together as a community within which all can learn and live in harmony
- develop positive attitudes and effective strategies for learning, through inspired teaching
- create a learning environment of high expectations and achievement, set and maintained by all
- equip the children with the basic key skills in Literacy, Numeracy, Science and IT and by giving all children access to the full Primary Curriculum
- promote meaningful and active involvement within school and the wider community
- provide meaningful worship
- ...and be a community with a sense of shared purpose and ownership with effective management and leadership.

We will encourage all children to:

- communicate their feelings and ideas fluently
- become self-reliant and able to use their initiative
- behave in a way which is acceptable and to understand they are responsible for their own actions
- set themselves achievable goals and targets
- enjoy their learning by sharing and celebrating their talents with others.

