

School Prospectus

2025-2026



Whale Hill Primary School

**Sandsend Road
Eston
MIDDLESBROUGH
Cleveland
TS6 8AD**

Tel. 01642 454339

Email: schooloffice@whalehill.steelriver.org.uk

Website: www.whalehillprimary.co.uk

STEEL RIVER
ACADEMY TRUST



Welcome to Whale Hill Primary School

Dear Parents and Carers,

On behalf of the staff and governors, we welcome you and your child to our school and look forward to a happy and successful association over the coming years.

This prospectus is designed to give you information about our school, its aims, curriculum and activities. We hope you will find it both useful and interesting, please visit our website for more information about the school. We also have a Facebook page and a Parent Mail app where all events and information are shared.

Children learn best when the relationship between home and school is warm and positive. Confidence in a school comes from knowing and understanding what is happening within it. We hope you will take every opportunity to know us better through regular contact and discussion with the staff and by taking advantage of the many occasions that exist for visiting the school. It is very important to your child's well being that we share mutual trust and understanding. At Whale Hill we 'live and breathe' improvement, there is strong culture of hard work and learning throughout the school. We have committed and dedicated staff who are willing to go the extra mile to ensure all of our deserving children reach their full potential.

In sharing this information about our school, we hope it will enable you to enjoy a full and active part in the life of Whale Hill Primary School and join us in aiming for the best of outcomes for our children.

Please contact us if you have any concerns or enquires.

Yours sincerely

Mrs Sandra Marsden
(Head Teacher)

Mr Paul Forster
(Deputy Head Teacher)

Our Staff

<u>Distribution of Staff 2025-2026</u>	
<u>Teaching Staff</u>	
Head Teacher – Mrs Marsden	
Deputy Head Teacher – Mr Forster	
Assistant Head Teacher/SENDCO – Mrs Dunn	
Key Stage 2 -Assistant Head teacher - Mrs Haith	
Y6	Mrs Haith (Team Leader), Mr Brown
Y5	Mrs Phoenix (Team Leader), Mr Parsons
Y4	Mr Frost (Team Leader), Miss Berry/Mr Forster pm, Miss Skillcorn
Y3	Miss Evans (Team Leader), Miss Offiler
LOWER SCHOOL -Assistant Head teacher for Y1 Y2/Reception and Nursery- Mrs Gordon	
Y2	Miss Begley (Team Leader), Mrs Willis
Y1	Miss Marshall, Mrs Barstow
EYFS	
EYFS	Mrs Gordon (Team Leader) Mrs Evenden, Mrs Dawson
Nursery	Mrs Newlands & Mrs Rudd Miss Curnow (MAT leave until Jan 2026)
Other	Mrs Doe - PE across KS2 Mrs Dunn - KS2 nurture group teacher & SENDCO Mrs Laverick - Wellbeing, Pastoral & Parent support worker

Teaching Assistants	
Upper School	Mrs Thompson, Mrs Cole, Mr Smith
Middle School	Mrs Cowap, Mrs Appleyard, Mrs Stares, Mrs Wiberforce
Lower School	Miss Lloyd, Mrs Scott, Mrs Ward, Mrs Dent, Miss Allan, Miss S Lloyd, Miss Cowap
Early Years Foundation Stage	Mrs Gavaghan, Mrs Hellon, Mrs Jones, Mrs Brown, Mrs Hoe, Mrs Bowstead, Mrs Wilkinson

Lunchtime Supervisors	
Upper School	Mrs Cole, Mrs Roberts, Mr Smith, Mrs Harrison
Middle School	Mrs Cowap, Miss Brisley, Mrs Graham, Mr Boyes, Miss Watson, Mrs Stares
Lower School	Miss Lloyd, Mrs Griffiths, Mrs Durber, Mrs Haggath, Mrs Scott, Mrs Parks, Miss S Lloyd

Early Years Foundation Stage	Mrs Hoe, Mrs Bowstead, Mrs Wilkinson, Mrs Bowstead
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Our Governors

The Governing Body of Whale Hill Primary School consists of:-

- 2 parent governors
- 1 staff governor
- 4 Trust Appointed
- The Head Teacher

Governors have a 4 year term of office.

Mrs J.Hutchinson	Chair of the Governing Body
Mrs K.Sawyer	Vice Chair
Mrs S. Marsden	Head Teacher
Mr P Forster	Staff Governor (Deputy Head teacher)
Mrs A Verrill	Parent (term ends Sept 2025)
Mr S Jackson	Trust Appointed
Mr J Wilberforce	Trust Appointed
Mrs E Wood	Parent
Vacancy	Ballot – Sept 2025

About the School

Whale Hill is a Primary School that is part of Steel River Academy Trust for children aged 3-11 years. The school is a two-form entry with an attached, purpose-built, 39 place nursery. We are always pleased to hear from any parents and carers who are considering sending their children to our nursery please contact the school office to register.

From September we will be offering 30 hours provision for eligible families.

The Building and its Facilities

The school was opened in 1967 as a primary school. In 1970 an additional building was erected and the school became separate infant and junior schools. The purpose built 39 place nursery was attached to the infant building in 1975.

In 1981 the infant and junior schools amalgamated to form Whale Hill Primary School. The former infant building is used by the Early Years Foundation Stage and Lower School (3-7 year olds) and the old junior school building now houses Middle and Upper School (7-11 years).

The accommodation consists of 21 classrooms plus a nursery, 1 fully equipped ICT suite, several library areas, a kitchen and 2 large halls, one of which also doubles as a dining room at lunchtimes. The buildings are regularly developed and improved to create a welcoming learning environment for our families; our most recent developments are a Reading Sanctuary, the Zen Den and our recently completed outdoor well-being area which have been completed over the last 3 years.

In September 2019 the school formed a Multi Academy Trust (Steel River Academy Trust) with three other local schools and benefits from a range of collaborative opportunities.

Our Aims

Staff and Governors regularly review the aims of the school and endorse the following aims: -

Whale Hill is an inclusive school - we value all our pupils equally, and all the staff at Whale Hill 'go the extra mile' to develop the children's fullest potential.

Our aim is: -

- To nurture happy, lively and well-balanced children with active and enquiring minds
- To enlarge children's knowledge and develop their skills
- To foster tolerance, respect for others and increase children's awareness of moral and spiritual values
- To help children become active participants and responsible citizens, able to live their lives as completely as they are equipped to live

Our expectations of children are always high. We want them to work hard, enjoy school life, be resilient, behave appropriately and take responsibility within the school.

"Continuous improvement towards the best imaginable"

We always consider the views of our children and they have agreed to follow our 'Whale Hill Way'

1. Be ready
2. Be respectful
3. Be responsible
4. Be safe

School Organisation to Meet These Aims

The school is divided into 4 units of learning each of which is the responsibility of a member of the Senior Leadership Team: -

- Early Years Foundation Stage – Mrs Gordon.
- KS1 – Mrs Gordon
- Key Stage 2 – Mrs Haith

Each child is placed in a mixed ability group (according to age) and is assigned a class teacher, who comes to know the children very well. The class teacher is normally a parent's main contact. In this way the school organisation is broken down into smaller units, so that a caring school community is established whose first priority is the well-being, happiness and personal all-round development of each individual child.

Each class teacher has his/her own expertise in particular areas of the curriculum and belongs to one of several within-school working parties, the aim of which is to advise other teachers appropriately and to evaluate the quality of teaching and learning we provide. This helps us to provide a consistently high

provision across the whole school. As well as weekly staff meetings we also have 5 staff Professional Development days throughout the year when children will not be required to attend school. You will be given notification of these days well in advance.

Curriculum Organisation and Classroom Practice

Our school curriculum is broad and balanced with a strong focus on basic skills in Maths and English as well as investigation and learning at a greater depth in all subjects. Children are encouraged to engage and achieve by a range of organisational strategies and teaching techniques; formal whole class teaching, informal small group work, individual and group independent investigations etc. The children are taught how to reflect on their learning and what they must do to improve and reach their targets. Our children leave us at the end of year 6 well placed to begin the next phase of learning in secondary school.

We have high expectations and we encouraged the children to work as hard as they are able and be proud of their learning outcomes. We want them to move with confidence and security from dependence to independence, as caring, courteous, thinking members of society.

Teaching Groups

Most year groups are organised into two classes and although children spend a large part of the day in mixed ability registration groups, they are often re-grouped into ability sets, so that we can match learning tasks to different levels of ability and appropriate challenge is presented. Most frequently this occurs in English and Maths which are generally taught as separate subjects. Other subjects are taught discreetly with cross curricular links made where possible. In Music we follow Charanga, a scheme that much of our curriculum is based on. All classes follow a scheme of work in PE and RE and PSE. Further information can be found in the curriculum section on the website.

Class sizes vary according to the number of children admitted each year, however most classes have less than 30 children. There are support staff attached to all classes.

The programmes of organised learning meet the requirements of the New Curriculum introduced in 2014: -

Maths, English, Science, ICT, History, Geography, Design Technology, Music, Art, MFL and PE.

At Whale Hill School we secure understanding by teaching fewer things in greater depth.

Religious Education is taught through an 'agreed syllabus' and we implement a health education programme using the Jigsaw scheme which includes drugs awareness and sex and relationships education. (Any parent wishing their child to be excluded from RE or corporate acts of worship, on religious grounds, should contact the Head Teacher.)

The staff plan lessons and activities in the long, medium and short terms to ensure challenge, progression and continuity in children's learning. In order to track, monitor progress and inform future planning, children are subject to regular ongoing 'assessment for learning' and target setting the results of which are fed back regularly to Parents and Carers to further promote the sense of 'partnership' between home and school.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities are provided voluntarily and reflect the interests and enthusiasm of the staff, governors and friends of the school. There are lots of clubs available throughout the year for the children to become involved in including:

School Council Activities

Chess Club

Music Clubs

Art Clubs

Maths Clubs

Sports clubs.

Year 6 Residential Visit



We've had another really successful visit to France! As a school, we feel privileged to be able to offer this amazing trip to our children and we're always grateful to the members of staff who give up time away from their own families to make all of this happen. The children visited numerous cafes, a cathedral in Amiens, a market in Rosieres-en-Senterre, Europe's biggest aquarium and, of course, Disneyland Paris! The children were fantastic on this visit and for many of them this was their first time away from home. Their behaviour was impeccable and each and every one of them thoroughly enjoyed themselves. It was a trip of a life-time! (Mrs Haith)

Y5 Residential

The Year 5 children took part in a fantastic residential visit to Boggle Hole near Robin Hood's Bay. They spent time exploring the coastline and taking part in a smugglers' challenge in the village while developing their map-reading and compass skills! They also enjoyed getting very muddy during the woodland adventure and investigating the rock pools along the beach. The children were a credit to you and the school, and they had a wonderful time. The Year 5 team are looking forward to organising the next visit for the new Year 5s which will take place from 22nd – 24th April 2026. Further details will follow in the Autumn Term.
(Mr Parsons)



Special Educational Needs and Disability

The school always seeks to provide well for those children who have learning differences and disabilities and a range of support systems and interventions are in place to help to meet the needs of all our children. The school follows the government's Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice introduced in January 2015. We believe early identification of difficulties is best and we work in partnership with specialist such as, learning support, the school educational psychologist, speech therapists, English as an additional language teachers and autistic spectrum support staff. Counselling is also available through the Steel River Academy Trust counsellor in school to support children's emotional

needs. Any parent who has worries or concerns about their child's progress in school, should not hesitate to speak with the class teacher, Mrs Dunn the SENDCO or the Head teacher. Parents and Carers are always kept fully informed of any concerns we may have about their children.

Homework

At Whale Hill we use homework to reinforce and consolidate skills and understanding developed in the classroom. Homework activities also give Parents and Carers a valuable opportunity to play a part in helping children learn and homework provides a vital link between home and school.

The main focus is usually English (based on reading and learning spellings) and Maths (often based on times tables or an extension of what they have been learning that week).

We ask that Parents and Carers encourage and support these activities as much as possible. Parental guidance is invaluable and can do so much to enhance children's achievements. Please feel free to approach class teachers if you have any queries about the homework set for your child.

Home School Agreement

We have a Home School Agreement to make sure children, Parents and Carers and teachers all work together to secure the best outcomes for our children. A copy is included at the end of this brochure. We ask that this is discussed at home and signed by children, parents and teachers; it's what we all promise to do for the children of Whale Hill School. We try to keep you informed as often as possible with half termly newsletters shared via Parent Mail and more information on our website. Our Facebook page is also a place where we can post quick messages.

We are always grateful for the wonderful support we get from the Parents and Carers and the local community.

Information Sharing with Parents and Carers.

We share information regularly with parents electronically via Parent Mail, Facebook page and Seasaw. Parents and Carers may visit the school at any time during the school day but as teachers are busy preparing lessons before school in the morning an appointment outside school hours is preferred for enquiries about your child's learning. We need Parents and Carers to share any worries or concerns they may have so that we can use them as improvement opportunities. We view input from Parents and Carers as one of the most vital ingredients of school improvement so if a circumstance is urgent teachers can always be contacted via the school office. Teachers are always happy to chat informally at the end of the day when children are collected from school. If you have administrative queries (e.g. free school meals, admission inquiries, uniform etc.) please contact one of the office staff: Miss Duncan (finance and accounting) Miss McGee and Mrs Lee (curriculum, assessments, breakfast and after school clubs) or telephone 01642-454339.

Formal consultation evenings for Parents and Carers are held on two evenings in the autumn and spring terms (usually October and March). We urge you to take advantage of this valuable opportunity to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher. At the transition Parent's meetings in September, booklets for Maths and English will be sent out via parent mail. These include the objectives that your child will cover throughout the year. In addition you will be invited to special concerts, assemblies and other parental engagement events throughout the year, all designed to promote the home school partnership and enjoyment.

We are grateful to the many Parents and Carers and friends of the school who regularly support us on a voluntary basis with cookery, crafts, reading, educational visits etc. If you have a talent which you can share with children, or just an hour you can spare to help out in school, please talk to your child's class teacher who will be most appreciative of an extra pair of willing hands.

Admissions Policy

Children are admitted to the nursery, on a part-time basis, as soon as possible after their third birthday. Priority is given firstly to pupils residing within the school admission zone (as defined by the Local Authority), secondly to children with sibling links of children already attending the school. After that children from outside of our admission zone may be offered a place.

All children (born between 1st September and 31st August) enter full-time education in the September prior to their 5th birthday. See our website for the Steel River Admissions Policy.

Charging for School Activities

At Whale Hill we maintain the right to free school education for all children regardless of Parents and Carers' ability to pay or willingness to meet the cost. However throughout the year, we do take children on lots of educational visits and transport to these activities is expensive and so we must ask for donations from Parents and Carers towards the cost to ensure that these visits can take place.

Learning Behaviour.

The children at Whale Hill have a reputation in the community for good behaviour, which we endeavour to protect at all times. When on educational visits outside of school their exemplary behaviour is regularly commented on by members of the public.

Although great emphasis is placed upon developing self-discipline, unacceptable behaviour is always checked. The children know from an early age what the ground-rules are. We expect (and in the majority of cases obtain) high standards of behaviour, with children taught to show consideration, courtesy and respect for others, their property and their surroundings.

Our behaviour policy explains clearly our system of sanctions and rewards. Any parent who is anxious about their child's well being or behaviour at school should not hesitate to contact us. No concern is ever too minor to bring to our attention.

Clothing and School Uniform

After many requests from Parents and Carers, the school does have adoptive 'colours' and nearly every single child in school wears it, including the nursery! Uniform is one of the ways we can instil order and ambition and help the children of Whale Hill develop good behaviour for learning so that they can be the best they can be or even better than they thought they could be!

Royal Blue sweatshirt (or jumper or cardigan)

White blouse/shirt (or polo shirt or tee shirt)

Grey/Black trousers/skirt (or pinafore)

Plain Black Shoes (trainers can be worn as long as they are all black with no ticks or stripes).

PE Uniform

Plain black or plain blue shorts

Plain blue or plain white tee shirts

Plimsolls or trainers

Royal blue sweatshirts, polo shirts, tee shirts, fleeces, waterproofs etc. embossed with the school logo are available for Parents and Carers to purchase from www.motif8.co.uk, <https://myclothing.com/> or <http://www.quickastitch.co.uk/> in Redcar.

We expect children to wear clothing which is suitable and appropriate to school life.

If earrings are worn then they must be a small stud, all other jewellery is not allowed and we also discourage designer haircuts or coloured hair. All clothing and footwear should be clearly marked with the child's name. Parents and Carers are asked to make sure PE kits are brought to school every Monday.

You will find more information about our uniform in our uniform policy which can be found on the website.

Provision of Meals

School meals are served in Upper School Hall from 11.30 a.m to 1.00 p.m. There is an extremely wide choice of hot and cold meals which are beautifully presented, nutritiously balanced and cooked to a very high standard. Any parent wishing their child to bring a pack lunch must contact the school office for a packed meal application form. The kitchen requires two school weeks notice, when children are changing from school meals to packed lunches. We regret that we cannot accommodate children alternating between packed and school meals on a weekly basis and so ask that Parents and Carers make at least half-termly commitments, either to packed lunches or school meals. Any queries, please feel free to contact the school secretary, Mrs Lee. Payment for meals should be made through out Parent Mail app. Any child leaving school or returning to school after the attendance register has been taken at 8.45 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. must report to the school office so that their lunch requirements can be amended on the system.

Free School Meals

A government funded free meal is available to all children in reception, year one and year two classes. Other children may be entitled to a free school meal in accordance with scales laid down by the Local Authority (LA) and this includes any parent in receipt of Income Support. If you think your child may be entitled to free meals, please ask for an application form from school or contact the LA at

Redcar & Cleveland House

Kirkleatham Street,

Redcar

TS10 1RT

Every effort is made to ensure that children receiving free school meals cannot be distinguished from those children who pay.

Free Fruit for All

As part of a government funded scheme all EYFS and Key Stage 1 children are entitled to receive a free piece of fruit daily. We are keen to encourage healthy eating habits and invite Key Stage 2 children to bring in a piece of fruit for break time. We positively encourage all children attending Whale Hill to adopt healthy eating habits.

Transfer to Secondary School

A system of parental preference operates in Redcar and Cleveland. The secondary schools most used by our pupils are Outwood Normanby, Laurence Jackson and St Peters Catholic Academy. We have active links with the schools, designed to ensure the pupils' smooth transition from primary to secondary education. Parents and Carers of children nearing secondary transfer age are contacted by the secondary provider.

The School Day

We ask that all children arrive in plenty of time to start each day promptly.

<u>Nursery</u>	Morning session:	08.30 – 11.30
	Afternoon session:	12:15 – 15.15
<u>Reception</u>	School begins:	08.40
	Morning break	10.05 – 10.20
	Lunch	11.30 – 12.30
	School ends:	15:10
<u>Lower School</u>	School begins:	08.40
	Morning break:	10.30 - 10.45
	Lunch:	Y1 11.55 – 12.55 Y2 11.55 – 12.55
	School ends:	15:10
<u>Middle School</u>	School begins:	08.40
	Morning break:	10.30 – 10.45
	Lunch:	12.00 – 13.00
	School ends:	15.10
<u>Upper School</u>	School begins:	08.40
	Morning break:	10.45 – 11:00
	Lunch:	12.00 – 13.00
	School ends:	15.10

School gates open just after 8.30 am and the bell will ring at 8.35am. We ask that all children assemble on the school yards and enter once the staff are there to greet them. There is a 10 minute window for the children to arrive. School starts at 8.40am but doors will remain open until 8.45am. Please remember this is not a playtime and for safety reason we ask that children do not use the willow maze or astro turf play areas. In order to reduce congestion, we would be grateful if Parents and Carers would refrain from coming into the corridors at this time. Please contact the office if they need to speak with class teachers. Similarly, at the end of the day, unless it is raining, we ask that Parents and Carers wait outside the building when collecting children from school. To meet fire regulations, the children need to be able to move freely along the corridors to the exits, without being obstructed. Parents and Carers wishing to speak with class teachers at the end of the school day may of course do so, as soon as the children have departed safely.

Assemblies

Assemblies are held regularly throughout the week in phases and on Fridays we all come together for a whole school celebration. We often welcome visitors to our assemblies such as the Salvation Army, Hexham Community Church and St Hilda's Church.

Medicines in School

Whenever possible, medicines should not be brought to school. With the exception of inhalers for asthma, no medicines or tablets should be taken to the classrooms. Where medication is prescribed three times daily, these should be taken at home. However if necessary we are happy to administer medicine to children so that they don't miss valuable school time.

If your child needs medication our policy is as follows;

- Make sure the medicine is correctly labelled with your child's name and dosage needed.
- Bring all medicines to the school office.
- Complete a medicine administration consent form stored in the office.
- Your child's teaching assistant will administer the medicine at the required time.
- Remember to collect at the end of the day!

Please see our 'Supporting Children with Medical Conditions Policy' which complies with the 2015 DFE document.

Many of our children now use inhalers for asthma; these must be left permanently in the classroom, clearly marked with the child's name, and spacer so that they can be administered under adult supervision, whenever they are required. Your doctor will prescribe two inhalers so that one can be left in school at all times. Some children have Health Awareness Plans and these are reviewed regularly with the school nurse, Deputy Head Teacher or the school SENDCO.

Safeguarding

The school are committed to safeguarding children and have regular audits of their safeguarding procedures. The safeguarding team in school are;

Head Teacher Mrs Marsden, Deputy Head Teacher Mr Forster, EYFS leader Mrs Gordon, Miss McGee (attendance and admin), SENDCO Mrs Dunn, Mental Health lead Mrs Phoenix, Upper School lead Mrs Haith, Mr Frost (Online Safety Lead) and Governor Mr S Jackson.

It is vitally important that the school has an address or daytime telephone number where Parents and Carers or a named responsible person can be contacted in the event of illness or accident to a child at school. Please advise us of any changes of address or emergency contact telephone numbers in writing, as promptly as possible.

Health and safety

For the safety of our children we would like to draw parents' attention to the following points regarding health and safety:

- We operate a 'no dogs' policy and would ask that you do not bring them onto the premises.
- Only children in KS2 9Y3 – 6) may come to school on their bikes and a helmet is advised.

- Bikes or scooters must be pushed and not ridden once inside the school gates.
- We operate a no smoking/vaping policy in the school building and the school grounds.
- We ask you to remember that you are in a school environment and any form of bad language is unacceptable.
- We operate a zero tolerance policy to shouting or aggressive behaviour towards children, staff or other adults whilst in the school grounds or at the school gate.

Attendance

We are required by law to account for all children's absences from school, both authorised and unauthorised. We must insist therefore that Parents and Carers contact school before 9:15 on each day of absence. We cannot authorise absence for holidays in school time and fines may be issued. Our School Attendance Officer checks all class registers weekly. Any unaccounted for or persistent absence is automatically followed up if no explanation is received a fine will be issued. We ask that children attend school every day unless they are very poorly; Miss McGee our attendance officer organises weekly rewards for classes with the best attendance. There is strong evidence that children who achieve highly in school have full school attendance so we ask all Parents and Carers to encourage their children to take part in our 100% attendance competition.

Safeguarding Procedures

We are committed to safeguarding all of the children in our care and we take all concerns about safeguarding very seriously. (Please see our safeguarding leaflet for more details). Parents and Carers are responsible for their children's safety at home. Whale Hill School works in partnership with families to keep children safe. Teachers and other professionals have a statutory duty to assist Children's Services in any enquiries about a child who may be at risk of harm. The Head Teacher (Mrs Marsden) is the Nominated Person for Child Protection in school and to whom any child protection concerns must be reported. Parents and Carers are requested to complete a form indicating the names of all adults who will collect their children from school.

In the interests of safety we ask Parents and Carers to train children to walk on the footpaths around school. At no time should children approach the school through the vehicle entrances or cut across the car parks. A crossing patrol is provided on Fabian Road and there is a pelican crossing on Birchington Avenue. Children should always make use of these facilities when crossing either busy road. We regret that there is no provision for the parking of Parents and Carers' cars in the school car park during school hours. Parents and Carers should not bring cars onto the school site except in an emergency or by prior arrangement with the Head Teacher. Please help us to keep the children safe by parking carefully and legally in the school locality.

Complaints about the school, curriculum and other related matters

There is a procedure for considering complaints from Parents and Carers relating to the school issues. Complaints in the first instance should be addressed to the class teacher; and if the complaint is not resolved then a senior member of staff and then the head teacher. If Parents and Carers are not satisfied the complaint will be dealt with by the Governing Body in line with the Steel River Academy Complaints Policy. Ultimately, Parents and Carers may report their complaint to Ofsted. Please ask for a copy of the school's complaints policy if you would like more information or it can also be found on the website.

Pupil Premium

The government believes that the pupil premium, which is additional to main school funding, is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most. The pupil premium was introduced in 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals in the last six years. School also receive funding for children who have been looked after by the local authority continuously for more than six months. The money at our school is used to provide specific interventions and support a range of enhanced learning experiences. More information can be found in our Pupil Premium Policy (included on our web site).

End of Year Attainment

Whilst we assess children's progress throughout their time in school; we summarise children's attainment formally at the end of each year through both school-based and national assessments. This informs the planning for the teacher receiving the class and ensures continuity and progression for the children as they move through school. The data that we collect in Reception, Year One, Two and Six provides essential information for the Local Authority and Government to monitor the overall effectiveness of the teaching and learning provided by the school.

- Foundation Stage is the first part of children's education and describes their education from birth to the end of the reception year.
- Key Stage 1 is the second stage of children's education and describes their time in year 1 and 2.
- Key Stage 2 is the third and final stage of children's primary education and shows the results of their learning in Y3-Y6

National Curriculum Tests

The results of these tests are used by the government to compare schools across the country. Attainment is reported in terms of the % of children in school who meet the expected standard. The government use scaled scores to report the outcomes of these tests to ensure they can make accurate comparisons of pupil performance over time. Pupils scoring 100 or more have met the expected standard on the test and those with scaled scores below 100 have not met the standard.

Our standards for 2024 compare very favourably with the rest of the country:

KEY STAGE 2	% Met the Expected Standard Whale Hill 2025	Nationally
Reading	93%	75%
Writing	87%	72%
SPAG	94%	73%
Maths	94%	74%
Combined reading, writing and maths	85%	62%

We are so pleased that we have such hard-working children and strong support from our parents and carers at Whale Hill School. This is what you say about us:

These comments were recorded on the July 2025 questionnaires:

Brilliant school, very informative and organised. Staff are always friendly and approachable, my daughter is always happy to go to school and never complains. Couldn't wish for a better school for my daughter to attend.

The nursery staff are lovely x

This year all of the staff from headteacher to receptionist to teacher and teaching assistants have all help my son with his needs this year and I am very thankful.

I am very pleased with the school, the support has been excellent in every way.

A brilliant school, I'm glad both my kids got to go to this school

Amazing school! Amazing nurturing staff!

Whale Hill School are brilliant at keeping parents up to date with anything fantastic school all round

An incredible school which has cared and nurtured both my daughters right from nursery to year 6. The opportunities they have had to flourish and build reliance has been exceptional.

The best school around by a long stretch! Glad I have another one joining as my middle child is leaving

