

Spire Junior School Prospectus



2025



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Please note that the information in this booklet was correct at the timing of printing. Parents / carers are kept informed of any changes.



Welcome Message

I am delighted to welcome you to our school, where I hope you can get a glimpse into what life is like at Spire Junior School - it is a dynamic, caring and aspirational school to be a part of. I am proud to be the Headteacher at Spire, where the team work so closely together to support and care for our children and families. The dedication of our staff never ceases to amaze me - they truly go above and beyond for our children.

We place great importance on an active partnership between home and school and believe that only through working closely with parents and carers will we be able to achieve the best for our children. We have high expectations of our children regarding their homework, home-reading and uniform but will always offer support to those who need it regarding these. Our pastoral team are always willing to offer help, guidance and information that will best support our young people.

We have exceptionally high expectations of every child in our school, and we encourage them to excel, not only in their academic work, but also in other aspects of their school life. Our Cultural Capital offer is broad and balanced to ensure our children are taught about and experience the wider world. This helps prepare them for their futures as well-rounded citizens with so much to offer the community in which they live. The development of children's social, emotional and citizenship skills is as treasured as their sporting, musical and artistic prowess.

Mrs Charlotte Vernon
Headteacher





School Staff

Our Senior Leadership Team Mrs C Vernon Headteacher Mr I Burbidge Assistant Headteacher Miss A Thompson Assistant Headteacher Miss L Sharman SENDCO Mrs J Melbourne School Business Manager	Our Class Teachers Mr I Burbidge Miss C Carter Miss C Horton Miss S Oldfield Mrs C Sedgwick Miss L Sharman Miss A Thompson
Administration Mrs J Melbourne - School Business Manager Miss T Simpson - Senior School Business Assistant Mrs S Bennett - School Business Assistant Miss R Hearnshaw - School Business Assistant	Pastoral Staff Mrs G Hancock - Pastoral Manager Mrs L Harrison - ELSA / Nurture Practitioner Mr Sam James (Mr J) Family Support Worker
Teaching Assistants Miss N Croser Miss L Davies Miss E Harris Mr M James Mrs C Staniforth Mr G Thomas Miss B Tynan	Higher Level Teaching Assistants Mrs A Spriggs Mrs J Stock
Play Team Miss A Bedford Mrs S Bennett Mrs J Fawcett Mr M James Mrs M Ruane Mrs C Saxton Mr G Thomas	Premises Staff Mr I Baldwin Site Manager Mrs C Saxton Cleaner Mrs J White Cleaner
Governors Mr M Lloyd (Chair) Mrs M Fidler (Vice-Chair) Mrs J Collins Mrs K Hill Mrs G Leggett Mr J Leggett Mrs J Melbourne (Associate) Miss A Thompson (Staff Governor) Mrs V Thompson Mrs C Vernon (Headteacher) Mrs J Walker Miss K Reaney (Clerk to Governors)	



The School Day

Our school gates open at 8.20 a.m. Teachers assume responsibility for the children at 8.30 a.m. until 3.05 p.m., though staff will be on the playground in the morning should a parent / carer need to speak to a member of our pastoral team.

The school does not accept any responsibility for children sent to school before 8.30 a.m. unless they are having breakfast at breakfast club, which starts at 7.45 a.m.

Maths, Phonics/Spellings and Writing are taught in the mornings, where possible. Sometimes, these lessons are delivered in the afternoon to account for other learning, such as external music partnership providers, swimming and PE, due to our hall timetable.

A whole school assembly is held every Monday, where the focus alternates between singing and OPAL. There are other assemblies on Wednesdays and Thursdays at 1.15 p.m. which focuses on different world events, religious ceremonies, or British Value themes. On Friday, our whole school comes together for our Gold Award assembly, where we celebrate the achievements of our children and staff.

We strive to offer our children a range of trips, visits and visitors to develop their cultural capital. If a visit is planned, these will be communicated from your child's class teacher on the termly class newsletter, by letter and then through the 'Dates for your Diary' section of our weekly newsletter.



School Uniform

We expect children to be smart for school and to wear our school uniform. Children should wear:

- Plain jumpers, cardigans or sweatshirts in navy blue
- Polo shirts / blouses / shirts in white
- Trousers, skirts or pinafores in black or dark grey



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- Suitable, sensible black shoes or boots (for Health and Safety reasons)
- Wellies and outdoor clothing for lunchtimes

In the summer children may wear:

- Black or grey tailored shorts or blue checked dresses
- Polo shirts / blouses / shirts in white
- Baseball cap for playtimes

Children are not allowed to wear tops with thin straps or crop tops in the summer due to the danger of sunburn.

Parents / carers may purchase school sweatshirts, fleeces or polo shirts from the School Office. Parents may request a 'Uniform Order Form' from the School Office to order items of clothing with the school logo on. School does hold limited stock of uniform on site.

P.E. and Games Kit

Children should wear plain T-shirts and shorts. Children take part in P.E. in the School Hall in bare feet. They will need pumps or trainers for outside activities. Older children may need football boots or trainers for sports clubs and teams.

Jewellery

Children who have pierced ears may wear one pair of studs or sleepers to school. These must be removed for P.E. and swimming. No other jewellery should be worn to school other than a watch. For Health and Safety reasons, children are not allowed to wear earrings at the top of their ears or have any facial piercing. Any child wearing jewellery that is not permitted will be asked to remove it. Children are responsible for their own property. False nails are also not appropriate in school for health and safety reasons.

Parents / carers are asked to ensure that personal items are not brought to school.





Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to give our children a broad and balanced educational offer to support them to know more, learn more and do more. Our aim is to make learning enjoyable and accessible for all our pupils whilst offering challenge in order to deepen understanding.

As we have mixed-age classes through school, we follow what is known as a 'rolling programme' of study in our curriculum. This ensures that children do not repeat learning in the lower or upper Key Stages but have the chance to build on and deepen their learning and understanding.

Our curriculum leaders for our core subjects are:

Mr I Burbidge - Maths
Miss A Thompson - Writing
Miss C Carter - Reading

At Spire Junior School, we follow some educational schemes of work to support our teaching and learning, including White Rose Maths, Little Wandle Phonics and Kapow Music amongst others. However, these are personalised to our children, classes and teachers to ensure our children have the optimum resources for learning.

Our foundation subjects are organised across the three terms and led by 'driver' subjects, as shown below:



These subjects are delivered through the use of a key question. For example, when Year 3/4 have learnt about the Stone Age in History, they explored the question 'When do inventions become artefacts?'. During the Geography term in Year 5/6, children will be covering work on the rainforest ('Is the Amazon vital for our existence?') and comparing rainforests around the world with local woodlands and forests of the UK.



We believe it is important that our children gain first-hand experiences and opportunities to learn. Where possible, school will secure funding to help contribute to the cost of the visits. Some of our recent trips, visitors, activities and residential have included:

- Willersley Castle Residential
- Whitehall Residential
- Magna Science Trip
- London Houses of Parliament visit
- Southwell Workhouse
- Holocaust Memorial Centre visit and War Veteran visit
- Remembrance Service at Chesterfield Town Hall
- Sheffield Book Awards Ceremony and Sheffield Library visit
- Visiting a local residential home
- Cinema trips
- Working with the team at the local Harvester restaurant
- A visit from our local MP, Toby Perkins
- Showcasing work at a local travel agents
- Mini Police visits
- Visiting the Crooked Spire
- Visits to and from Saints Augustine's Church
- Visits from a local Rabbi
- As a Peak Ambassador School, all our children access free visits to a National Trust location throughout the year.



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School Lunches

Our pupil meals are provided by Derbyshire County Council Catering Service.

Pricing: Pupil Meals - £3.25 per day / £16.25 per week

We ask that payments for meals are made **daily or weekly** for the meals taken by children. We encourage this to be paid in advance of the meal being taken in school and paid for through ParentMail or in cash in a named sealed envelope to their class teacher or the School Office. Menus are available on our school website or on the Derbyshire County Council website. Each weekly newsletter also contains the menu for the following week.

Alongside the meals below, children will also be offered the option of a jacket potato or a sandwich should they wish to choose an alternative.

If your child brings a packed lunch from home, please may we remind you that we promote healthy lunchboxes. For example: fruit, vegetables, sandwiches, wraps or salads.





Safeguarding and Child Protection

We are committed to safeguarding all the children, staff and visitors who attend our school, and follow a number of robust policies around child protection, which can be found below.

Whilst all our staff take responsibility for ensuring the safety of our children, several senior members of our School Leadership Team are designated to take the lead - managing child protection matters, providing advice and support to other staff, liaising with the local authority, and working with other agencies. These are called DSLs (Designated Safeguarding Leads).

Who are the Safeguarding Leads?

- Designated Safeguard Lead - Mrs C Vernon (Headteacher)
- Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead - Mrs G Hancock (Pastoral Manager)
- Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead - Mr Sam James (Family Support Worker)
- Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead - Miss L Sharman (SENDCO)
- Deputy Designated Safeguard Lead - Miss A Thompson (Assistant Headteacher, Designated Teacher for Looked After Children)

Our nominated Safeguarding Governor is Marie Fidler.

Useful numbers:

- Starting Point and Call Derbyshire- Tel 01629 533190 24/7 365 days a year. This service is for concerns that a child is suffering or at risk of significant harm.
- Derbyshire Domestic Abuse Helpline- Tel 08000 198668. Free support, 7 days a week, for parents and carers of children who live in Derby and Derbyshire.
- NSPCC- Tel 0808 800 5000- Support for any concerns related to the safety of a child, including online safety.

Early Help

As a school, we are here to support all of our children and their families. To lead on this, we have a Family Support Worker who works with our wider pastoral team to provide help and signpost services to our families and wider community. Our Early Help offer is shared on our website. If you feel like you would benefit from an Early Help Assessment, please contact school via the school number, or make an appointment with the School Office.



Behaviour Policy

At Spire Junior School, we are committed to creating an environment where outstanding behaviour is at the heart of everything we do. Everyone is expected to maintain the highest standards of personal conduct, to accept responsibility for their behaviour and encourage others to do the same. We aim to be calm and consistent at all times in our dealings with children and we strive for positivity to be at the core of our behaviour management. All staff, children, governors and families recognise that we have the right to learn in a safe and trusting community in which effective learning can take place.

Our school rules are designed to be all-encompassing and clear for all. These rules will be continually referred to by staff. Our school rules are:



Ready: We are **READY** to listen, **READY** to learn. We are **READY** for new challenges. We show each other how we are **READY** every day.

Respectful: We are **RESPECTFUL** to everyone we meet in school. We use kind words and welcome everyone. We listen to other's opinions and share ours in a safe way.

Safe: We are **SAFE** and keep each other **SAFE**. We have kind hands, feet and words. We think about where we are and make smart choices with our actions.

Praise and recognition at Spire are essential elements of our behaviour policy, to encourage children with proportional external rewards, as well as to develop an intrinsic desire to demonstrate our values.

Pastoral Support

To support our children with their mental health and wellbeing, we offer a variety of pastoral interventions and programmes, including, but not limited to:

- Nurture (The Woodland Group)
- ELSA
- Forest School
- Anxiety Gremlins / Anger Gremlins
- Lego Therapy
- Drawing and Talking Therapy
- Sensory Room
- Positive Play

As part of Pupil Voice, we also have an active School Council Group, Global Guardians, Librarians and SMILERS representatives!



Attendance

We are committed to meeting our obligation with regards to school attendance through our whole-school culture and ethos that values good attendance, including:

- Promoting good attendance
- Reducing absence, including persistent and severe absence
- Ensuring every pupil has access to the full-time education to which they are entitled
- Acting early to address patterns of absence
- Building strong relationships with families to ensure pupils have the support in place to attend school

We will also promote and support punctuality in attending lessons.



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Parents / carers are reminded that they should telephone the school on the first day of absence or send a message. There are forms to complete to request leave, such as holiday forms (Leave of Absence in Exceptional Circumstances). These can be requested from the School Office.

If you have any questions about attendance or feel like you need further support, please speak to Mrs Bennett (our Attendance Lead,) the Headteacher or our Family Support Worker.

Our Attendance Policy is available on our school website. We follow the guidance to support set out in the DFE Attendance Statutory Guidance 2024.

Special Educational Needs

The SENCO at Spire Junior School is Miss L Sharman.

The staff and governors of Spire Junior School aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all children; that includes setting suitable learning challenges, responding to pupils' diverse learning needs and overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessments.

The Governing Body and teaching staff will do their best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has SEND (Special Educational Needs or Disability) and ensure that, where the Headteacher or the appropriate governor has been informed by the LA (Local Authority) that a pupil has SEND, those needs will be made known to all who are likely to teach them. Our nominated Governor for SEND is Leanne Asher.

Our SEND Co-ordinator is Miss Leah Sharman. If you have any SEND concerns or enquiries, please do not hesitate to contact Miss Sharman via the School Office or our enquiries email address (enquiries@spire-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk) / the contact form on the website.

PSHE and RSE

Personal, Social, and Health Education (PSHE) is central to giving pupils the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to lead confident, healthy, independent lives and to become informed, active and responsible British citizens. Safeguarding is a key element of PSHE as pupils learn about their own identity, risks, decision-making and how to keep themselves safe.

Our Year 5 PSHE programme is supported by our Mini Police programme. As a pilot school for the scheme, we have been proud partners with Derbyshire police for four years now. The scheme offers excellent opportunities for our children, including using speed guns, operating drones, testing real-life equipment and meeting a range of professionals and teams who work alongside the police to keep us safe.



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At Spire Junior School we believe that effective Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) is essential for young people to make responsible and well-informed decisions about their lives. The RSE programme is integrated as part of the PSHE curriculum (see separate PSHE policy) and is delivered as such that it meets the National Healthy Schools Standard. This school policy is in line with current regulations from the

Department of Education (DfE) on Relationships Education, Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education (Feb 2019).

Relationships Education and Health Education are taught in this school as statutory subjects. Elements of sex education, though non-statutory, are also part of an integrated PSHE programme of work. For the purposes of this policy, we will refer to Relationships Education and Sex Education as combined subjects, as any learning about the physical and sexual aspects of growing up is taught in the context of positive healthy relationships. If you would like to discuss this further, please arrange a meeting with either our PSHE leads (Mrs Watkinson / Miss Thompson) or the Headteacher.

P.E. and Games

Children will take part in one outdoor and one indoor P.E. lesson per week (weather permitting). PE kit should consist of a plain white T-shirts and shorts as well as joggers or a jumper for the colder months of the year. Older children may need football boots or trainers for sports clubs and teams.

For hygiene reasons we expect all children to change for P.E. This should be done in school before and after PE. For those children with specific religious beliefs alternative private changing facilities will be arranged in school. Y5/Y6 pupils are permitted to bring a stick or roll-on deodorant for use after P.E. - no aerosols or sprays please.



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OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning)

We are excited that our school is now part of the Outdoor Play and Learning (OPAL) Primary Programme, which is endorsed and supported by Sport England and runs in hundreds of schools across the UK.

OPAL play revolves around fostering child-led play, where children engage in learning through exploration, creativity, and the utilisation of outdoor spaces to cultivate their play experiences.

Children are granted the freedom to shape their own play, and in doing so, they acquire essential skills such as problem-solving, imagination, negotiation, emotional intelligence, resilience, wonder, and the formation of meaningful friendships. These skills are vital for their overall development.

We hold the belief that providing children with enriched, outdoor play experiences has a profound impact on their overall well-being and is intricately linked to their learning and achievements within the classroom setting.



Religious Education

At Spire Junior School, we conduct an R.E. day every half-term. This means that we can focus on questions and subjects that may need more time to teach than within one lesson per week. We follow guidance from The Derbyshire and Derby Agreed Syllabus and there are questions within the guide that aim to give the children a broad and realistic overview of the world we live in today. We live in a multi-cultural society where the children mix with others, and whilst at Spire Junior School, we teach the main religions that are practised in the United Kingdom today. We learn about Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Judaism and Sikhism. We are proud of our children who all show compassion, tolerance and understanding of the many different views expressed and talked about within the classroom.

Our aim is for each pupil to know about and understand a range of religions and world views, express ideas about the significance and impacts of religions and gain and deploy the skills needed to engage seriously,



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based upon a key question approach. Our intent is to be sympathetic to the beliefs of others and to gain an understanding of people's different values and identities.

School Assembly on a Wednesday covers different religious festivals/ events.

Any parent / carer has the right to withdraw their child from R.E. lessons and assemblies. If you wish to exercise this right, please contact the Headteacher.

Homework

Homework is an important part of the school curriculum for all pupils. At Spire Junior School homework is given for the following reasons:

- To consolidate and reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in literacy and numeracy
- To encourage self-discipline and personal organisation
- To extend school learning
- To allow parents direct involvement in their child's learning

At Spire Junior School we aim to strengthen the link between home and school. We have tried to carefully balance the opportunity for children to continue their learning at home with their families, whilst being mindful that the tasks are not onerous.

Reading: The expectation is that children read at least 3 times a week at home to an adult who records this in their reading diary. Children who read 3 or more times a week are then entered into a raffle for the chance to win a book and hot chocolate out of our reading vending machine.

Spelling: Children will receive a set of spellings and/or phonics sounds. The children are tested on a Friday, so it is expected that they practise these during the week with an adult at home to ensure the spelling rules are embedded. Teachers set these spellings on EdShed weekly too, so that they can practise them via the website.

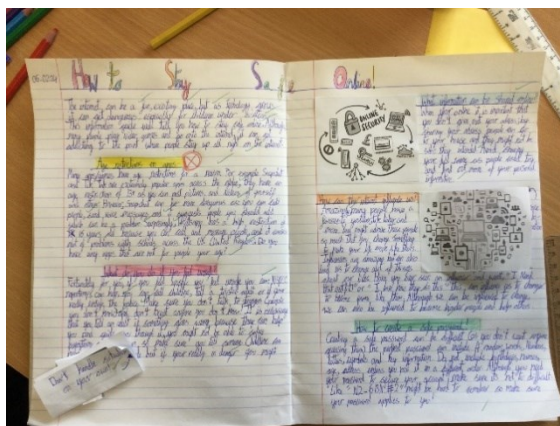
EdShed/ MathShed/ TTRS: The children have log-ins to access the websites mentioned. Although there is not a 'set time' we would like the children to access these for, they are incredibly useful for supporting key skills such as spelling, arithmetic and times table skills- particularly for our Year 4 children to prepare for the Multiplication Check.

<https://www.edshed.com/en-gb/>

<https://www.mathshed.com/en-us/>

<https://trockstars.com/>

Topic: Each term, every class will be studying a different topic linked with our key enquiry focus' History, Geography or Art and Design. The children are expected to produce several pieces of work from the homework Topic Grid. The homework is intended to be fun and enjoyable for the family. If your child completes any of these tasks, please bring them into your child's class teacher, some may even feature in our 'Homework Wall of Fame'.



Breakfast Club

Breakfast is served from 7.45 a.m. in the Craft Room. A member of the school staff supervises the children until 8.30 a.m. The menu for breakfast is healthy. We offer bagels, toast, porridge and a selection of cereals with either milk or squash to drink. The cost of each Breakfast Club session is £2.50. Please book on for any sessions through the School Office.

Every child has a free breakfast at Spire.

Every child is offered a free breakfast in class during our 'form time' prior to registration. This is supported by Magic Breakfast.

Spire Junior is proud to be in partnership with Magic Breakfast, providing healthy breakfasts for our pupils so that they are settled and ready to learn.

Magic Breakfast provides us with nutritious breakfast food to ensure children start their school day in the best possible way. Breakfast gives children the energy needed for the busy school morning, enabling them to focus on their lessons.

Here at Spire Junior, we have a commitment to ensuring no child is too hungry to learn.

After School Club

We offer two different types of after-school provision at Spire Junior School.

Spire Junior School Provision:

Three afternoons a week, Spire Junior School is host to a range of external companies who run after-school provision for groups of children. These are attended on a first-come-first-serve basis from the School Office and tend to last for a term. Some examples of these clubs over recent terms have been:



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- Minecraft Club
- Cooking Club
- Zorb Football
- Construction Club
- Judo
- Forest School
- Basketball
- Street Dance
- Boxing
- STEM Club
- Arts and Crafts Club
- Fimo Clay
- Mini Golf
- Coding and Game Designs
- Martial Arts

Spire Nursery and Infant School After School Club:

Alternatively, we have established links with Spire Nursery and Infant School regarding their after-school provision. Children who are registered with the club are collected from our school playground by a member of staff from each school and walked down to the Nursery and Infant site. This provision runs daily until 5.45 p.m.

If you would like to book your child onto this provision, please contact Spire Nursery and Infants School.





School Contact Information

Headteacher:	Charlotte Vernon
Address:	Jawbones Hill Derby Road Chesterfield S40 2EN
Telephone Number:	01246 234546
Email address:	enquiries@spire-jun.derbyshire.sch.uk
Website:	
Facebook:	
Chair of Governors:	Martin Lloyd
School type	Local Authority Maintained School



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