



In the Pursuit of Excellence



Gosforth East Middle School is a middle school for children of 9-13 years. It has a maximum intake of 116 in each year group.

Our mission statement: **IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE**

For us to achieve this aim for all our children we must engage our whole school community in delivering the highest quality of teaching and learning.

This will be achieved in an embracing, stimulating and caring environment geared to the best possible support for our children.

Our aspirations and expectations are of the highest order. We want the children to fulfil their potential academically, socially, morally and culturally and it is the role of our teaching and support staff, in partnership with yourselves, to enable this to happen.

The most recent Ofsted report from January 2009 stated; *'This is a good and improving school. It has several outstanding features including pupils' personal development and well being. Pupils thoroughly enjoy all the school has to offer. This is reflected in their very high levels of attendance and the pride they show in being pupils of Gosforth East.'*

In the Pursuit of Excellence



We look forward to your child joining us and making the most of their time at GEMS.

Tim Stout
Head Teacher

Our latest OFSTED Inspection Report comments:



“It is a good and improving school with several outstanding features including pupils’ personal development”

“The curriculum and other activities are outstanding because they have been carefully devised and provide exciting learning opportunities”

“Teaching and learning is good because a strong team of teachers and support staff provide stimulating, enjoyable lessons”

“Relationships are very positive and based upon mutual respect”

“The school is a very harmonious community”





Our curriculum is aligned to the National Curriculum whilst allowing creativity and independent learning to blossom.

CORE SUBJECTS: English, Mathematics, Science and ICT.

FOUNDATION SUBJECTS: History, Technology, Music, Geography, French, Art, Physical Education, Religious Education, Personal, Social and Health Education and Citizenship

The Curriculum

A large, faint watermark of the school's logo is visible in the background of the lower half of the page. The logo features a circular emblem with the words 'GOSFORTH EAST MIDDLE SCHOOL' around the perimeter and a central design.

- Pupils begin Spanish at KS2 and French at KS3
- Religious Education is included as required by the 1988 Education Reform Act i.e. the syllabus follows that agreed by Newcastle LEA - reflecting Christian tradition and other principal religions.
- Science and PHSE together, integrate sex education into their programme of work.
- Wherever possible we seek to integrate multi-cultural and equal opportunities throughout the curriculum and to full integrate pupils with special educational needs into the life of the school.
- Citizenship/PHSE is taught as a subject in all year groups and is also integrated into other areas of the curriculum.
- We believe that pupils' abilities should be recognised and valued. Appreciation of their achievements makes an important contribution to their development and provides a good role model for other pupils to emulate.
- The Gifted and Talented programme allows us to identify able children and attempt to extend their skills, not only across the school curriculum, but also in the form of extra curricular workshops.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEED



The Special Educational Needs of the great majority of children should be identified and met in mainstream school. The teachers at GEMS accept the responsibility for teaching children with special needs by

- a) an emphasis on early identification through effective transition with our feeder schools so support is in place
- b) providing support and provision for children identified as having a need at anytime in their middle school career
- c) the involvement of the appropriate outside agencies

We consider meeting children's needs is a partnership between professionals and parents, and that all concerned should work sensitively through the process of identification, assessment and decision making to minimise the potentially damaging effects of labelling that child.



KEY STAGE 2

Years Five and Six

Teaching in Key Stage 2 is mainly class based involving mixed ability groups except for mathematics.

Key Stage 3 teachers work closely with the class teachers to provide specialist skills and knowledge.

Certain subjects such as art, music and design technology are taught by specialist teachers. Spanish is taught throughout Key Stage 2.

Key Stages 2 and 3



KEY STAGE 3

Years Seven and Eight

In the final two years of school, pupils are taught by subject specialists in most areas of the curriculum.

Mathematics, Science and French are organised into ability groups to facilitate the development and monitoring of pupils' interests and abilities.

The progress of all pupils in the school is monitored and tracked through our computer database.





There are many structures to ensure the effective pastoral care of the pupils

Pastoral Care and Homework Policy

We aim to provide a caring and stimulating environment for every pupil and this, together with support from home, should promote good self image, self confidence and self reliance, thus ensuring each pupil's all-round development.

CLASS TEACHERS form the support team for each year group as the first point of contact - monitoring student progress and attending regular meetings.

YEAR TUTORS, supported by their teams of class teachers, each take responsibility for one of the four year groups. This responsibility covers the personal and social development of the pupils and their academic progress.

PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP is enabled by means of one-to-one meetings during formal Parents' Evenings as well as at informal occasions. The school's open-door policy is conducive to effective parent/teacher relationships.

One or two points from our Ofsted Report:

- *standards are above average because good teaching and good behaviour lead to high quality learning*
- *the very good behaviour and attitude of the pupils has a positive effect on the quality of their learning and attainment*



HOMEWORK POLICY



The partnership between home and school is reinforced by the homework policy. Parents monitor the completion of homework assignments and formally record this with a date and signature.

They are encouraged to comment upon the work set and to see in it the opportunity to provide an extension of the learning experiences of their children. The amount of homework given will be appropriate for the pupil's age and ability. Planners are provided to record the setting and completion of homework, as well as parents' comments.



RECORDING ACHIEVEMENT

Achievement and Extra Curricular

Formal Records of Achievement are prepared annually with years 5 and 7 receiving an RoA in Spring and years 6 and 8 in the Summer Term. These show progress during the year, giving details of the National Curriculum to enable teachers to identify each pupil's level in order to set appropriate learning targets.

The records are sent to:

PARENTS - in order that they can assess their child's progress.

THE HIGH SCHOOL - to act as an information source for the form tutors.

We recognise the importance of continuity in learning, and work closely with Gosforth Academy, the other Middle Schools and the First Schools in Gosforth.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Pupils' learning is enhanced and enriched by the provision of extra-curricular clubs and activities and we are fortunate in being able to offer a considerable number of activities which depend on staff availability and pupil interest.

An example of some recent offerings:

SPORTS Soccer, Rugby, Judo, Fencing, Kick and Boxit (Aerobics), Netball, Athletics and Basketball

ARTS Choir, Theatre Club, Art Club, Recorders, Guitar, Wind Band and Ceilidh Band

GENERAL Airwaves (science), Challenge Club





We want all our pupils to have the best possible chance of success and this is a declaration of our commitment. This is a two-way process and lasts throughout your child's time at our school. It will help us to help your child get the most out of his/her opportunities here. We are committed to providing an environment that encourages all children to maximise their potential.



Expect us to:

YOU CAN EXPECT US TO:

- provide your child with qualified, experienced and supportive staff
- respond promptly to any concerns
- provide a caring and supportive atmosphere
- keep you informed and up to date about developments within the school
- provide your child with a safe, secure, pleasant and accessible environment
- provide you with regular reports on your child's progress
- respect differences within our school in accordance with our Policy for Equality of Opportunity
- offer advice, information and support



**We expect
you to:**

ENCOURAGE YOUR CHILD TO:

- take pride in the excellent name of Gosforth East Middle School
- take pride in themselves
- follow school rules
- take responsibility for his/her own learning
- attend regularly and punctually
- support the school's Homework Policy and ensure completion of assignments on time
- be considerate of the rights of others at all times

We welcome comments on our declaration

Please let us know if you have any suggestions about how we can improve our service to you.



This letter extract from a satisfied parent is included as an endorsement of the aim and mission of the school:

IN THE PURSUIT OF EXCELLENCE

“Our children.... have enjoyed sympathy, firmness, challenge and reward in just the right measure.... The school has dealt with us as parents, too.... We have been informed and consulted when we needed to be, and always felt that the concerns we had were given a fair hearing and an effective response.

The Gosforth area is lucky to be served by such a group of people. We offer our thanks for all the well-planned lessons, the school visits, the shows, the orchestras, the sporting events (we wouldn't have guessed Sarah's talents had it not been for you!)....

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