



Prospectus



A young boy with dark hair is looking down at a book he is holding. The book has a blue cover with a white illustration of a character. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be a bookshelf.

Welcome to Browney Academy

Browney Academy is a thriving primary school on the edge of Durham. In our most recent Ofsted inspection we were rated 'good' with three of the five inspection areas classed as 'outstanding' - the highest grade possible.

Being headteacher at Browney Academy gives me enormous pride. We are a first choice school for many local families and who happily and enthusiastically recommend our school to others.

Through our rich curriculum and extensive variety of extra-curricular opportunities, children at Browney Academy are able to excel in many ways. They build things, make up stories, write poems, play sports, grow plants, carry out experiments, care for animals, play games and 100s of other things every single day. They are creative and enthusiastic, they sing and dance, they are kind and compassionate, curious and interested. Our pupils also enjoy playing on our Woodland Village playground - a top of the range facility that's unique to our school.

As a parent myself, I know that choosing a primary school for your child is a hugely important decision; you need to know that they will be cared for, nurtured and given the very best education possible. At Browney Academy we can offer your child just that; high quality teaching and learning, in a caring and happy environment where children are challenged and encouraged to do their best and have fun.

We think of ourselves as the small school with the big heart - we hope you will too.

Catherine Harris
**Catherine Harris,
Headteacher**

“You are all simply amazing.
We would not have got to
where we are today if it wasn't
for your **SUPPORT AND
ENCOURAGEMENT.**“

Parent

About BROWNEY ACADEMY

Over the past few years, Browney Academy has seen many great improvements including the installation of our Woodland Village outdoor playground complete with a tepee and hobbit house!

We've also transformed the interior of our beautiful Victorian building into a colourful and inspiring learning environment and added a fantastic early years outdoor play area.

Academic performance here is excellent with pupils consistently excelling in their SATs - for a full breakdown of our results, please visit our school website.

We are currently extending our sporting provision and now have both netball and football teams competing in the local leagues.

Annually, we take the older children away on residential trips to support the development of outdoor and adventurous learning.

We also use a range of music providers to teach the children keyboard and brass.

GOOD TO KNOW

Before your child's first day, you can visit school several times to meet the staff and to become familiar with school procedures.

The school day is 8.50am - 3.15pm. School uniform is: grey skirt/trousers, a white shirt, a blue school cardigan or

jumper, school tie, and sensible shoes.

We offer daily wrap around care from 7.30am - 5.30pm including a breakfast and sports club in the afternoon. We also offer a range of exciting extra-curricular activities and clubs including football, gymnastics, art and more.



"I'm so pleased my child is
**PART OF SUCH A SPECIAL
SCHOOL** and I can't
thank you enough for your
help with home schooling."

Parent



“Governors and staff are working together exceptionally productively to ensure that the school is a **HAPPY** and **WELCOMING** place where pupils have **EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE.**”

Oftsted

THE SMALL SCHOOL WITH THE

Big Heart

From the moment they step through the door in Reception class, to their final farewells as Year 6s off to secondary school, every child is treated as a special member of our Browney family.

It's a family where many generations of children have learned and a place where traditional values are coupled with a fresh creative and dynamic approach to primary education. We are extremely ambitious and offer children stimulating learning experiences to ensure they experience an exciting and inspirational education.

What sets our school apart is the individual attention, care and support that we are able to offer each child - sometimes being small has big benefits! We pride ourselves on our ability to nurture children's natural talents and develop the knowledge and skills they need for further development through a personalised approach to learning.

Our vision is simple - that every child experiences excellence every day. To support this, our dedicated and talented staff work to instil our learning ethos:

Fostering ambition and success for all by:

- having high aspirations and celebrating achievement
- providing and expecting the best for and from all pupils.

Promoting positive attitudes by:

- providing good role models
- encouraging respect and good manners
- expecting outstanding behaviour
- developing excellent communication and social skills
- having high expectations.

Recognising each child is unique by:

- taking care of the whole child in a small and personalised environment
- providing valuable life experiences
- ensuring equality
- encouraging child initiated learning
- developing independent learners
- understanding that every child deserves the best.

"Children in Reception benefit from **OUTSTANDING TEACHING** and make **RAPID PROGRESS IN THEIR LEARNING**. The early years programme is splendidly planned, resourced and managed."

Ofsted

Welcome to **RECEPTION**

Our Reception class is our Early Years Foundation Stage - the youngest class in our school. Children are carefully nurtured here and know that everyone is around to help them learn and make new friends. This is where their learning begins.

In Reception, children learn using many different learning styles: visual resources, sensory objects and through play. In maths, children learn to count, to add and take away numbers and explore patterns and shape. Children learn English skills through communication and language activities such as role play.

Children will also learn the alphabet and high frequency words through phonics and

begin to learn to write, how to hold a pencil and form letters correctly. Other subjects are taught through play, exploration and our exciting 'WOW' topics.

Reception children have an older buddy in school. They help the children to settle in and show them where things are. Over their first year the buddies work together on many exciting activities and (often) form strong friendships.





“This is a school **ROOTED IN AMBITION** and high expectations, where **EVERYONE IS ENCOURAGED TO BE THE BEST THEY CAN BE.**”

Miss Hutchinson

KEY STAGE 1

In Years 1 and 2 children build upon the many experiences they gained in Reception, whilst gradually being introduced to a more formal structure for learning.

In this class, we develop children's abilities and confidence as readers, writers, communicators and mathematicians. In maths, children build upon number recognition, begin to partition numbers and are introduced to calculations. They continue to learn about shapes, learn to tell the time and work with weight and measurement. Children's English skills develop rapidly too,

they learn to read and write more complex sentences and are taught basic grammar and punctuation.

Children are also taught other subjects in creative and fun ways including: geography, art, design and technology, science, physical education, information communications technology, music, history and religious education.

Lower

KEY STAGE 2

Years 3 and 4 are an exciting time as children are introduced to new activities such as modern foreign languages. Maths and English are taught every morning, as well as daily grammar and spelling activities. In the afternoon, we teach the foundation subjects such as history, geography, art, music, PE and computing.

Children become more mature learners where basic skills become a big focus. In maths, children learn to calculate in their head; this is known as mental maths. They learn to calculate units of time, convert units of measure and learn the times tables up to 12x12. In English, children are able to read a much wider range of texts. For most children,

reading has moved on from decoding words to understanding the meaning, and they are able to recognise features and styles. Writing skills are taught and children are able to use a broader vocabulary to create characters and dialogue, and more interesting adjectives to describe their settings.



"I LOVE MY CLASS
because there is a
REALLY FRIENDLY
ATMOSPHERE and we
always work in teams to **HELP**
EACH OTHER LEARN!"

Sophie



Upper KEY STAGE 2

As children enter Years 5 and 6 we really start to see them blossom. Each individual pupil has their own talents and skills that are nurtured and supported.

There is a more specific focus and dedication within the core subjects of maths, writing, reading and science than in previous year groups, as we prepare for Standard Attainment Tests (SATs).

Many children find their time in this class catalytic, as they find resources, skills and abilities within themselves that previously lay undiscovered.

Meeting authors and illustrators such as Adam Bushnell and Liz Million are among some of the many ways in which we bring literacy to life. We introduce children to books that will ignite their imagination and their love of reading; the Harry Potter collection and books by authors including Michael Morpurgo and

David Walliams are amongst our favourites. Children are encouraged to read at home as often as possible, through their own choice of authors and genres from our extensive library, which increases their vocabulary and spelling skills to add to the valuable work that we carry out in class.

Acting as role models and buddies to the younger children in school, they build a sense of pride and an ability to nurture, whilst their independent tasks and duties such as librarians, playground leaders and monitors instil a sense of self-belief and achievement. Pupils often find this time of primary education the most memorable of their childhood – we certainly remember each and every one of them on their journey through education.

**“I BELIEVE THAT BEING A
TEACHER IS THE BEST JOB
IN THE WORLD.** You have
the chance to see children grow,
succeed, learn, inspire and develop
on a daily basis.”

Miss Paul

"AT BROWNEY, WE ARE A FAMILY. We work closely with parents and the community and **PRIDE OURSELVES ON KNOWING EACH CHILD INDIVIDUALLY."**

Catherine Harris
Headteacher

How to APPLY...

If you would like your child to attend Browney Academy you will need to complete an online application form by visiting:

www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions

If you do not have access to the internet, you can complete a paper application by contacting County Durham Local Authority on **03000 265 896**.

The deadline for applications is in January (see website above for the exact date).





Supported by the NORTH EAST LEARNING TRUST

Browney Academy is part of the North East Learning Trust (NELT), a successful family of 12 schools across the North East.

NELT has a proven track record of school improvement with all schools under their wing having sustained or improved their Ofsted gradings at their first inspection following sponsorship.

NELT is widely regarded as providing some of the best education in the county, and indeed the country, with children making significant progress from their starting points, achieving impressive exam results, and going on to access a range of well-respected further and higher education opportunities including courses at some of the UK's most elite universities.

The Trust is also heavily involved with teacher development. It boasts its very own teacher training arm, North East SCITT, that trains the next generation of teachers and ensures the highest standards of teaching are instilled from the outset. It is a National

Teaching School Hub, one of 87 centres of excellence across England that provide high quality training and development to teachers throughout their careers. Not only that, but the Trust's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, is a National Research School, one of just 23 in England, that up-skill teachers using cutting-edge research.

Joining the Trust has given Browney Academy access to outstanding leaders who are involved in the regional and national development of education. The Trust CEO, Lesley Powell CBE, is a member of many regional and national education boards and advisory groups. The CEO and Deputy CEOs are National Leaders of Education and the Trust also employs a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support schools on their paths to becoming outstanding.



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**North East
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