



Our Prospectus



Co-op Academy
Priesthorpe

Message from Principal, Martin Blacoe

I am privileged to be able to welcome you, as Principal, to Co-op Academy Priesthorpe. We are a popular school, which prides itself on being at the heart of the community it serves.

The academy has a very special ethos, which visitors continue to comment on. Equity and equality are key drivers for us in ensuring all students have the opportunity to excel within a highly inclusive and supportive community.

We have the highest expectations of our staff, students and parents and strongly believe that embracing rather than avoiding challenge is critical if our students are to achieve the exceptional outcomes they are capable of. This ensures our students become independent, life-long learners equipped with the knowledge and skills they will need to become successful adults, both in the workplace and beyond.

Co-op Academy Priesthorpe serves a diverse community and is extremely proud of the empathy, tolerance and respect its members show each other. These qualities underpin our total commitment to develop the whole child, academically, socially and emotionally.



Since joining the Coop Academies Trust, we have benefited from working closely with our sponsor.

Co-operative values, such as self-responsibility, equity and honesty, have been at the heart of community development and regeneration for the Co-op for over 150 years. We know that these values and our close links with our sponsor, which includes having their representatives on our governing body, have helped to accelerate our Academy improvement.

Please feel free to visit us at any point during the working day. Simply telephone to let us know a convenient time.





Vision & Values

Our academy's vision and aims reflect the aspirations we have, not only for our students but our community as a whole; a community committed to the very best teaching and learning.

At Co-op Academy Priesthorpe, we always:

Work together as a community, committed to great teaching and learning, securing exceptional student outcomes as a result.

Embrace co-operative values, promoting life-long learning, cultural diversity and social justice across our communities

Recognise that every child is an individual who has the potential to excel

To inspire all students to love learning and leave Priesthorpe with exceptional outcomes, equipped and motivated to contribute fully to life within their own communities and beyond.

Foster values in students which lead to strong relationships, built on compassion, empathy and respect.

Embrace co-operative values, promoting life-long learning, cultural diversity and social justice across our communities

Develop resilient and aspirational students, who openly embrace challenges with enthusiasm

We bring our Vision and Values to life through the Co-op Ways of Being

**Do
what
matters
most**

We make sure everyone can achieve great things, academically and personally

**Be
yourself,
always**

We bring our best self to the academy, and respect others for doing the same

**Show
you care**

We show kindness to everyone in our community; students, parents and carers, and staff

**Succeed
together**

Cooperating is what makes us different; we're better and stronger when we work together

Co-op Academies Trust

Working together to make our academies better and communities stronger.

The Co-op Academies Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust comprising primary and secondary academies based in three distinctive hubs; Greater Manchester, Staffordshire and Merseyside, and West Yorkshire, each with their own Regional Director and each of which is sponsored by the Co-op.

The Trust works with us to support the academy in making key decisions and in improving standards for everyone. Representatives from the Co-op sit alongside parents/carers, staff and other local representatives on our Academy Governing Council.

Through a great education we are changing the lives of young people across the north of England. Built on the same principles as all cooperatives across the world, the Trust works with academies to empower teachers and young people to work together for a better education and a better community.

The Trust has consistently been one of the highest performing multi-academy trusts in the Government's Multi-Academy Trust League Table and has also been recognised by the Sutton Trust Charity as one of the top performing multi-academy trusts for disadvantaged students. What makes the Trust unique is that they are sponsored by the Co-op Group. That close relationship means that the Trust and its academies benefit from all of the business expertise that has seen the Co-op grow to one of the most respected, successful businesses in the country.



A photograph of several students in a classroom, wearing dark school uniforms. They are seated at desks, focused on their work. One student in the foreground is writing with a pen. The background is slightly blurred, showing other students and classroom elements.

**2022 and 2023 whole
academy progress outcomes
above national figures**

Our Curriculum

At Co-op Academy Priesthorpe we provide an ambitious and exciting knowledge-rich curriculum for students, filled with opportunities to experience new things, learn, grow, reflect and question the world around them. We continually evaluate and adapt what we offer to make sure it is high quality and provides inclusive opportunities for all, with the thread of the co-operative values and principles running through it.

The curriculum in Year 7 is designed to help transition from primary school. From this foundation, students are introduced to new subjects and are helped to develop knowledge and skills in the context of more specialist areas. Literacy and numeracy are essential for preparing students for Key Stage 4 and beyond, and therefore, supporting and developing students' skills in these areas is a central focus.

At Key Stage 4, all students study a compulsory core curriculum, which includes English, Science, Maths and PE. Some students also study a Modern Foreign Language. The remainder of curriculum time is filled with option subjects. Students study four subjects from a wide range of option choices. Staff support students to identify the best option courses, which will support career aspirations and offer them the best opportunities for success.

A young boy with dark hair, smiling, is wearing a dark blue school suit with a white shirt and a dark tie. He is holding a red cricket ball in his hands. The background shows a building with a blue sign that reads 'Co-op Academy Pri'.

Co-op Academy Pri

In mathematics and science, the curriculum is well planned. Pupils achieve particularly well in mathematics.
(OFSTED 2020)

Student Enrichment

Our learning experiences extend beyond the classroom and across subject boundaries. All students have opportunities to participate in local, national and international trips, activity days and other events, which support and add value to their learning.

In Year 9 and 10, for example, students have the chance to visit the World War 1 battlefields of France and Belgium. For students in Years 7 and 8, there is the opportunity to take part in a cultural trip to Normandy in France. Year 8 students also have the chance to visit London. Trips, such as these, help to develop self-confidence, independence, and resilience.

Student Leadership forms a major element of our Personal Development programme. Sports Leaders, for example, work closely with other West Yorkshire Co-op academies, both Primary and Secondary, and plan, organise, and deliver competitive events throughout the year. Duke of Edinburgh Awards are also a core feature of our leadership programme. Beyond this, there is a huge range of other extra-curricular activities, including a year-long programme of House competitions. Whether it is competitive sport, dance, music, or many other recreational activities, there is something on offer for everyone.





There is a range of opportunities for pupils to take part in activities outside of the normal school curriculum, such as drama and music (OFSTED 2020)

Relationships & Support

Visitors to the academy regularly comment on the excellent relationships and caring ethos of the school. We are proud of the support systems we offer our students and the inclusivity that underpins them.

We want every student to achieve and succeed at Co-op Academy Priesthorpe. Each year group has a team of staff who are dedicated to those students, and committed to making sure everyone is safe, happy and working hard. They support and guide students throughout their journey with us.

- Every student is allocated a Coach who will be their first point of contact for any support they may need. Our team of Coaches is made up of teaching and support staff, who usually make the journey from Year 7 to 11 with their Coaching group. Students meet with their Coach on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays at the start of the school day. This gives a great opportunity for Coaches to check-in, check-up, and check-out with their students at the start, mid-point, and end of the week. The small groups, usually of a maximum of 12 students, enable personalised support and strong relationships with both students and parents.
- Students also have a Year Manager; a non-teaching member of staff who is on hand to support students in their education. They work closely with students and their families to overcome any barriers to learning and to give them a platform to achieve great things, academically and personally.
- We also have a team of highly experienced SEND staff, an Attendance Team, Safeguarding Officers, and strong links with our local Community Cluster, to make sure that every child's needs can be supported.



Supporting students with SEND

At Priesthorpe we pride ourselves on our consistently strong track record of being a highly inclusive school.

We ensure high quality teaching is delivered, which is well matched to students' needs and abilities. This means we make adjustments to our lessons to embrace all students and offer specialist SEND provision and bespoke student intervention where needed. Year 11 progress outcomes for students with SEND are, consistently, exceptional, and continue to be significantly above national figures.



Transition to High School

We understand how daunting the move from Primary to Secondary school can feel, and we have dedicated Key Stage 3 Leaders, who make sure everything goes smoothly.

All Year 6 pupils joining us come to a Transition Day in July where they sample lessons and meet their new Coach. Parents and carers are also invited to the academy to join students at the end of the day, where they can meet key staff. Our Key Stage 3 Leaders visit each Primary school to talk with the Year 6 teacher so that we have a detailed understanding of each child's experience at Key Stage 2. All the above ensures transition is supportive and enjoyable.



Co-op Academy Priesthorpe

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