



Whitburn Church of England Academy

An Academy with Specialist Status in Maths and Computing

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'Excellence for All'

June 2026

Year 6 Welcome

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted your child has been given a place at Whitburn Church of England Academy for September 2026. To help aid a smooth transition I am providing some information about the transition events taking place over the next few weeks and some key information to help you and your child prepare for this exciting chapter in their lives.

This letter will provide information on:

- Induction Days
- Year 6 Parents/ Carers' Information Evening
- Tutor Groups
- Equipment
- Reminder about Summer School
- Free School Meals
- Uniform

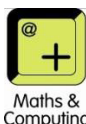
If you have any queries relating to transition please contact me via the main Academy Office.

I am sure your child will be happy and successful here and staff are looking forward to meeting them in person at the Academy.

Yours faithfully

Mrs Henderson
Transition Lead

Document available in large font, alternative language or audio format on request



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Registered Office: Whitburn Church of England Academy, Whitburn, Sunderland, SR6 7EF

Year 6 Induction Days – Information for Students

In order to support the transition from Year 6 to Year 7 we will be welcoming Year 6 students to the Academy on **Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July**. Students should wear their usual Primary School uniform.

Prefects will be at the academy gates to show students into the **Lecture Theatre** and your child should **arrive between 8:45am and 8:55am**.

Lunch will be at approximately 12:10pm in our Dining Hall, 'Food for Thought' and this will cost £5.00 for both days (£2.50 each day). Please can students bring in the money for **both** days on Thursday 10th July. Students can select a choice of lunch from a range of hot meals, sandwiches and salads. Your child will need to bring a non-fizzy drink or a filled water bottle. Students can bring a packed lunch if they prefer.

On the Induction Days, students will:

- Meet key staff such as the Form Tutor and Inclusion Support Assistant
- Meet the Prefects who will support the induction process into Year 7
- Enjoy several sample lessons, which will include PE so **your child must remember to bring trainers on both days**

On Thursday 9th July, your child should bring in the letter they have written to introduce themselves to their new form tutor. This letter should mention interests, hobbies, skills and what they are looking forward to when they join us at Whitburn.

Your child will **leave school at 3:20pm** but can wait in the Lecture Theatre until **3:30pm** for one of the scholars' buses, which go to South Shields, Cleadon and East Boldon. There are also regular public bus services to other local areas.

Parents/carers who wish to transport their child to and from the Academy on the induction days **must not drive onto the academy site to drop them off or pick them up**. Please note the approach road (Rackly Way) to the Academy is very congested at this time of day, we encourage parents/carers to use the Whitburn Bents carpark (near Latimer's) to drop off and collect children.

Year 6 Parent/Carers' Information Evening

The transfer to secondary education is an important milestone in children's lives and to prepare for this, we would like to invite you to a **parent/carers' evening** which will start at **4.15pm** and end no later than **5:30 pm** on **Thursday 9th July**. Please enter via the **Septimus entrance**. Prefects will be on hand to direct you. However, we ask that you **do not enter the site until after 4.00pm**, as many of our students will be leaving the site until this point due to after school clubs. *Please note that there is no parking available on site except for Blue Badge holders by prior arrangement.* Please be considerate of local residents when parking off-site and **we encourage you to walk to the academy where possible**.

On this evening, you will be able to:

- Attend a brief talk about our Academy, our expectations and Academy life. This will take place at **4:15pm prompt** in the **Septimus Hall**.

- Be given information about **ParentPay** which your child will receive on Induction Day.
- Share any new information concerning your child with us and ask any queries arising from Induction Day to key staff who will be available from **4:00pm** till **5:30pm** in the **Sports Hall**. This includes; the Pastoral Year Lead, the Transition Lead, the Inclusion Support Assistant for Year 7, the SENCo, our Medical Officer and senior staff. **Please note that we already have a wealth of information gathered from your child’s primary school so there is no expectation to meet with staff unless you feel it is necessary.**
- Purchase a calculator for use in September (see below for more information).

Tutor Groups

When students come to the Academy they will be placed into one of eight tutor groups.

Tutor Groups							
P side				Q side			
W	H	I	T	B	U	R	N

When allocating students to tutor groups, we aim to have a mix of **ability, gender and feeder schools** within each class. We also take into account the recommendations from Year 6 staff and aim to keep students with at least one of their **peer group**, as identified by their Year 6 teacher.

Students register with their tutor group every morning and have a fortnightly PSHE lesson together. 7W, 7H, 7I and 7T will form the P side of the timetable and 7B, 7U, 7R and 7N will form the Q side.

Students will also be placed in to teaching groups which will not be the same as their tutor groups, though these will not be confirmed until September.

Your child will find out their tutor group and meet their fellow tutees on the **Induction Days**, which will take place on **Thursday 9th and Friday 10th July**. They will be able to let you know the name of their tutor when they return home.

Please remember that one of the benefits of starting secondary school is the opportunity to mix with and meet over 200 new peers who have the potential to become lifelong friends. Whilst I appreciate this can seem a daunting prospect for some students and their parents/carers, it also provides an opportunity for pupils to develop **social skills** and **emotional resilience**. All students, regardless of their tutor group, can easily arrange to meet together at break, lunchtimes and before or after the school day.

Please note it is highly unlikely any changes will be made to tutor groups after Induction Day.

Summer School – Reminder

Thank you to those who have signed up for the Year 6 Summer School. This will run from **Wednesday 22nd July to Friday 24th July 2026**, from 9:30am to 3:00pm each day and it is expected that your child will attend **all three days (or two for those joining from schools in Sunderland Local Authority)**.

Your child will need to bring a water bottle and a packed lunch each day, as well as suitable clothing and footwear for sports activities. Students who are eligible for Free School Meals will be provided with a daily packed lunch. Please contact Miss Devine via the Main Academy Office by Monday 13th July if your child will need a packed lunch provided for them over Summer School.

Calculators

As you know, your child will need to bring their own equipment each day for all their lessons. This includes a pen, a pencil and a ruler. In addition to their basic equipment, students will also need to have their **own** calculator which they bring in each day for use in many different subjects.

The calculators that are recommended by all examination boards are the Casio fx-83GT CW + ClassWiz [Casio fx-83GTCW+ Scientific Calculator Black \(UK Version\) - Upgrade from previous fx-83GTCW model: Amazon.co.uk: Stationery & Office Supplies](#). These are currently available on Amazon with prices ranging from £15.98 to £18.49 (though the price does fluctuate). They are also available in most supermarkets. We would request that these are the only calculators you buy for your child, as it will last them until they have completed their GCSEs and all scientific calculators have slightly different features so a different model may disadvantage your child.

We will also have some of these calculators available to buy for **£14** at the Parent/Carer Information evening on 9th July.

We would like to ensure that all students are prepared for learning when they start with us in September from day 1, and so we would like to suggest that you aim to buy the correct calculator for your child before the Summer Holiday begins, to avoid any missed learning when they start with us in September.

If your child is Pupil Premium, please contact the academy and we will organise a calculator for them starting with us in September.

Mobile Phones

As we are sure you are aware, the government recently changed its guidance regarding mobile phone use in schools so students are now **not allowed to use their phones whilst on school site**. We are aware that many of our students need their mobile phones on their journeys to and from school so in order to meet the government requirements and the needs of our students we have introduced the use of mobile phone pouches for their time on site. Students will each be given a pouch which will **remain theirs for their entire time at Whitburn**. They will put their phones in to the pouch as they approach the school site and the pouches will be locked magnetically. Students are then **only able to unlock** the pouches **when they are leaving the school site**.

The phone pouches will be given to each student on the first induction day with instructions on how to use it. They will be expected to use the phone pouches during the induction days, over Summer School and immediately when they come in in September so it is vital that they are kept safe over the Summer holidays.

Students are responsible for their own pouches and any loss or damage will result in a charge for replacement. If students forget their pouches, then they will be sanctioned (as per the behaviour policy).

Free School Meals – An Entitlement

One of our roles as an Academy is to assess eligibility for free school meals. We wish to ensure that **all** families with children who are entitled to free school meals benefit from that entitlement.

Is your child eligible?

Your child may be able to get free school meals if you get any of the following:

- Income Support
- income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- support under Part VI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- the guaranteed element of Pension Credit
- Child Tax Credit (provided you're not also entitled to Working Tax Credit and have an annual gross income of no more than £16,190)
- Working Tax Credit run-on – paid for 4 weeks after you stop qualifying for Working Tax Credit
- Universal Credit - if you apply on or after 1 April 2018 your household income must be less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including any benefits you get)

Children who get paid these benefits directly, instead of through a parent or guardian, can also get free school meals.

It is essential that the Academy has an up to date list of students who are eligible for free school meals so that appropriate monies are paid into our cashless catering system in a timely manner. All claims for free school meals will be treated in the strictest confidence and handled sensitively by the Academy.

It is important to note that students eligible for free school meals are automatically eligible for Pupil Premium funding in the subsequent year. This additional funding entitles students to further financial support; for example with school trips, uniform costs, music tuition and learning resources.

If you feel that that your child is eligible for free school meals, whether or not they have previously benefited from this entitlement, **you can check and apply online at** <https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>. You will need your National Insurance number. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact the Academy and **we will be happy to check on your behalf**.

Please note that you MUST re-apply for Free School Meal entitlement before your child joins the Academy, even if they are already receiving them at Primary school.

Please do not hesitate to contact the Academy Business office if you have any queries concerning free school meal entitlement.

Academy Uniform

Students are expected to have their Whitburn Church of England Academy uniform ready for September. Our uniform policy is outlined on our website and is [linked here](#)

The basics of both school uniform and PE kits can be purchased from many High Street stores. However, the uniform suppliers who supply our **jumpers, pleated skirts, ties and PE kits** can be found from the suppliers listed below:

School Uniform

Initial Images – Rekendyke Industrial Estate, South Shields <http://www.initialimages.co.uk/>
0191 455 8128

Badged items

Jumpers - Prices from £20.99 - £22.99

Cardigans – Prices from £21.99 - £23.99

Academy ties – £5.99

Black Charleston Pleated Skirt – Prices £15.99

Michael Sehgal & Sons Ltd - Unit 17, Airport Industrial Estate, Kingston Park Avenue, Newcastle Upon Tyne <https://www.michaelsehgal.co.uk/schools/whitburn-academy/>

Badged items

Jumpers - Prices from £17.80-£23

Cardigans - Prices from £18.50 – £22.20

Academy tie - £6.00

Black Banner Charleston Pleated skirt - Prices from £15.95 - £19.95

School Ties are also available from the School Business Office £6.00

Academy PE Kit

All PE kit is available from our current supplier shown below. Prices for the full *basic* kit are approx. £42.36. If you do not want to purchase the school PE kit you may choose to source a plain royal blue t-shirt and shorts.

Bolam Sports – Rekendyke Industrial Estate, South Shields [0191 454 8381](https://bolampremiersportswear.co.uk/whitburncea) and online at <https://bolampremiersportswear.co.uk/whitburncea>

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Main Academy Office. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your child to the Academy.