

# Dear Colleagues

I have been the Head of South Kirkby Academy since April 2022 and feel very privileged to tell you more about our wonderful school.



South Kirkby Academy is a vibrant, inclusive and nurturing school whose vision is to transform life chances for children through providing excellent teaching, learning and opportunity. We are a forward-thinking and constantly improving school with a skilled team of staff who are dedicated to providing the very best for our children.



The children at our school are an absolute delight. Our **SKA Golden Rule** underpins day-to-day life at South Kirkby Academy: we expect everyone who attends, whether they are young or old, to make sure that everyone is safe, happy and learning.

We also follow five **SKA Values** which are to be **respectful, kind, inclusive, safe and independent**.

Our curriculum is underpinned by the saying '**Life Outside Kirkby**' whereby children are encouraged to explore life outside our community through learning and opportunity.

Our main current school improvement priorities are:

- Improve outcomes in reading, writing and maths.
- Further improve quality of education by developing the academy's curriculum offer.
- Improve the quality of assessment practice.
- Further develop the curriculum offer of learners with SEND.
- Improve attendance.

We are excited about the opportunity to appoint a new member of staff to add to our fantastic team and look forward to working with the successful applicants to continue improving South Kirkby Academy from strength to strength.

We want our new colleagues to have highly developed emotional intelligence and the ability to build effective relationships with all stakeholders.

As part of Waterton Academy Trust, we take the well-being of all stakeholders as high priority as well as valuing the importance of work-life balance, and professional development.

Please do not hesitate to contact school to arrange a visit – we would love to show you around. I look forward to hearing from potential candidates.

**Mr Adam Potter**  
**Headteacher**

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Each day is different – we are lucky to work within a strong and supportive team, where every member is valued and held in regard for their contributions to our community. Our children and families are at the centre of everything we do and only the best is good enough for them. You know you are making a difference working at South Kirkby Academy.

**Samantha | Assistant Headteacher**





# About Our School

South Kirkby Academy is a smaller than average sized primary school based in the heart of an ex-mining community. South Kirkby is a town in the city of Wakefield in West Yorkshire. The town forms half of the civil parish of South Kirkby and Moorthorpe and has a population of approximately 11,000. South Kirkby is served by two railway stations. The town was first mentioned in 1086 in the Domesday Book, and South Kirkby retains the site of the original Saxon settlement. The town is also home to South Kirkby Colliery football club, who have competed in the FA Cup many times in their history.



We are proud to be part of Waterton Academy Trust and were rated **GOOD** by Ofsted in April 2023.

**"Leaders are determined that pupils gain knowledge and experience to succeed at school. They have high expectations of pupils. Pupils achieve well. Staff know their pupils and their families well. They look after pupils and ensure they feel safe. Pupils behave well in school." – Ofsted, 2023**

Our curriculum is designed and driven to meet the needs of our unique school community: improving social skills, vocabulary acquisition, and teaching about equality and diversity are the key drivers. Staff at South Kirkby Academy strive to make learning irresistible, foster a love of learning through providing first-hand experiences and share a vision of expanding children's understanding of 'Life outside Kirkby'.

Our aim is for all children to be immersed in a curriculum rich in opportunity and experiences for each of the 760 days they are with us in order to develop their cultural capital, equip them with the knowledge and skills required for success at school and beyond. Our children are encouraged to be brave, explore, discover, learn and dream big.

At South Kirkby Academy, we broadly follow the National Curriculum as its design ensures a breadth of knowledge is taught in a memorable and awe-inspiring way.

Our inclusion manager and team of pastoral staff deliver a unique curriculum, providing support, motivation and guidance to help children overcome obstacles to their learning. This pastoral offer ensures that family issues, mental health problems and lack of confidence do not present a barrier to children accessing the full curriculum. Children with SEND access a broad curriculum and receive high quality teaching adapted to their needs to ensure they are successful.

## Why Choose South Kirkby Academy?

We are an inclusive and nurturing school with embedded core values. Everything we do has the child at the forefront of our decisions. We have a great team of teaching and support staff led by a supportive SLT. I truly love my role at SKA.

**Marie | Learning Mentor**

The support received from Waterton Academy Trust is invaluable. The school improvement team work with children, teachers and leaders alike to raise standards across the setting. High quality CPD at each stage of a teacher's career is prioritised to ensure practice is current and the best it can possibly be.

**Gemma | Assistant Headteacher**

I love being part of an amazing, supportive team in a place where no two days are the same.

**Joanne | Senior Admin Officer**

As P.E. lead, I am proud of the sporting opportunities we offer our children. We offer a broad and engaging P.E curriculum showcasing alternative sports such as orienteering, Zumba and korfbal as well as traditional sports such as football, rugby and gymnastics. Outside of P.E lessons, we offer a comprehensive range of after-school clubs which allow children the opportunity to be active, gain confidence and develop social skills. We take part in fortnightly sporting competitions through Waterton Academy Trust and the children are proud to represent the school, especially wearing their brand-new team kits.

**Jamie | Teacher, P.E & Science Lead**

Since joining SKA, the opportunities that have been given to me with regards to CPD and development, have been amazing. The staff across school are extremely supportive of each other and the atmosphere across school shows this. In terms of subject leadership, I feel well supported not only within school but across the Trust and know there is a team of people you can always turn to for support and guidance. It's without doubt an excellent place to work.

**Lucie | Teacher & English Lead**

