

Consett Junior School



This is our school and school badge

School Brochure

May 2025

INTRODUCTION

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome to Consett Junior School! We are delighted to have you with us. For some of you, this may be an exciting new chapter as you and your child begin your journey with us, while others may already be familiar with our ethos and commitment to fostering Positive Relationships. Regardless of your background, I extend a heartfelt welcome to each and every one of you, and I trust that both you and your child will find a long and fulfilling association with our school.

We deeply value the education of your child, as it is of paramount importance to us, just as it is to you. We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is crucial in helping each child realise their full potential. As the term begins, some children may take a little time to adapt to the new environment and routines, which is entirely natural.

Most pupils settle in swiftly and comfortably. Should you have any queries or concerns at any point, please do not hesitate to reach out to us for assistance. I hope the information in this brochure proves valuable, and I look forward to engaging with you in the years to come.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. P Dixon

Headteacher.



BEECHDALE ROAD

CONSETT

CO. DURHAM

DH8 6AY

TEL. AND FAX NO. (01207) 504431

E Mail: consettjunior@durhamlearning.net

Website: www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk

Information may also be obtained from: -

CORPORATE DIRECTOR
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE
COUNTY HALL
DURHAM
DH1 5UJ

Or: -

SCHOOL AND GOVERNOR SUPPORT SERVICES
COUNTY HALL
DURHAM
DH1 5UJ

SCHOOL GOVERNORS

Chair of Governing Body -

Mrs. K. Turner

Vice Chair -

Mrs. E. Horseman

Governors

Mr P. Dixon -	Headteacher
Mrs F. Welsh -	Co-Opted
Mrs. J. Stephenson -	Co-opted
Miss. E. Horsman -	Co-opted
Mr L Burgess –	Parent
Mrs. G. McCreesh -	Parent
Mrs. K. Turner -	Co-opted
Mrs. G Cornes -	Local Authority Governor
Miss. R Waters -	Staff Governor
Mrs A. Fraser -	Co-opted
Mrs R. Forster -	Co-opted
Mr N. Moffett -	Co-opted

STAFF OF CONSETT JUNIOR SCHOOL

Head teacher	-	Mr. P. Dixon (Safeguarding Lead)
Deputy Head teacher	-	Miss. R. Waters (Sendco; GDPR - General Data Protection Regulation)
Teachers	-	Mr. S. Meadows
		Mrs. L. McMahon
		Mrs. K. Taylor

Mr. M. Moore

Miss. K. McNeill

Miss. R. White

Miss. C. Thompson

Miss. H. Clarey

P/T vacancy

School Cllrs.

-

Mrs. D. Gilray

Miss. L. Oselton

Higher Level Teaching Assistants

-

Mrs. D. Gilray

Ms. L. Oselton

Mrs. N. Hannant

Teaching Assistants

-

Miss. M. Atkinson

Mrs. C. Wearmouth

Mrs. R. Wood

Mrs. S. Carr

Mrs. T. Shield

Mrs. R. Watson

Mrs. S. Pattinson

Miss. V. Waters

Miss. S. Metcalfe

School Business Manager

-

Mrs. D. Raine (Safeguarding Officer and Attendance Champion)

Cook	-	Miss. P. Moreton
Assistant Cook	-	Miss. N. James
Supervisory Staff	-	Mrs. Y. Armstrong
		Mrs. J. Hudson
		Miss. V. Waters
		Mrs. K. Guy
		Mrs. S. Slight
		Vacancy
Site Manager -	-	Mr. K. O'Dowd
Cleaners	-	Mrs. S. Smith
		Mr. B. Millhouse
		Vacancy

Correct at time of completion – subject to alteration.

OUR SCHOOL

Consett Junior School opened its doors in 1974 as a modern purpose-built open plan school. Over the years, we have made many thoughtful additions to our building and site. Serving the vibrant town of Consett, we proudly welcome pupils from Delves Lane, Shotley Bridge, Blackhill, Moorside, Leadgate, and beyond.

Nestled on an extensive, tree-lined area, our school features a delightful allotment, a serene memorial garden, a charming log cabin, an outdoor gym, and a variety of play equipment. We take great pride in our outstanding achievements across academic, musical, technical, artistic, and sporting realms, fostering an environment where learning is both enjoyable and rewarding.

Encouraging pride in themselves and their school, our children are equipped with essential skills for life in the twenty-first century. Our exceptional resources meet the demands of the National Curriculum and prepare students thoroughly for National Tests. Upon graduation, most pupils transition smoothly to Consett Academy, where many go on to achieve excellent qualifications.

Transfers on 1st September 2024 were:

Consett Academy – 42

Wolsingham – 6

Walbottle Academy – 1

Whitworth Park Academy - 1

THE ORGANISATION

The school is organised into eight classes, which are mixed ability and form the basis of our teaching groups for the year ahead. Our pupils are encouraged to work in various settings, including small and large groups, class situations, and independently. As they progress through school, children are nurtured to become more independent and responsible—skills essential for their future academic journeys. We are fortunate to have a range of highly skilled and dedicated support staff throughout the school, who assist in diverse classrooms catering to a variety of needs. They also provide bespoke interventions during designated times, which help children either catch up or face new challenges with confidence.

VISION, VALUES AND MORAL PURPOSE

Our aim is to place the child at the centre of all that we do, enabling them to flourish both academically and as an individual. With high expectations, our dedicated staff strive to help your child grow and achieve, working collectively to ensure we are the best we can be in teaching, support, and fostering a vibrant community.

Our Vision

Consett Junior School is a friendly and caring place. We aim to support our children and their families to achieve their full potential, allowing our children to grow and develop their talents in a nurturing environment within both the school and the wider community. Our dedicated staff are passionate about their work, placing children at the heart of everything we do. We strive to provide a myriad of exciting opportunities, both within and beyond the curriculum. Children can join the school band, shine in a whole school performance, or showcase their skills on the sports field; the opportunities are open to all. At Consett Junior School, we firmly believe in giving each child the best possible start in life.

Our Values



At Consett Junior School our Values mean:

Fun: Recognising that our learning experiences should be fun, engaging, and educational. That by adding additional challenge, children can grow and achieve.

Adventure: Allow opportunities to try new things, to innovate and develop new ways forward. Life begins at the end of our comfort zone.

Integrity: Having grand expectations in all that we do, rewarding those who work hard – but allow for us all to make mistakes and moving on from this.

Humility: Laying the foundations together that will guide us throughout life, recognising and supporting those in need and supporting those who need our help.

Family: We work in partnerships with children, staff, and families together, to allow our children to grow and achieve. Remembering that by developing positive relationship with all, we can achieve anything.

Our Moral Purpose

To be our absolute best, we use these opportunities to learn and help others learn. While we do not possess all the answers, we have identified a few crucial steps in the right direction. We understand that being a great school is achievable only through cooperation with others.

Together, we strive to:

To provide a happy, safe, and caring environment for the children to learn and achieve their full potential. We aim to enrich their love of learning through diverse opportunities within the school and the wider community. By offering appropriate challenges and support, we maintain high expectations for all. Moreover, we are dedicated to ensuring all our families are supported, enabling the children we care for to have the best start in life.



CURRICULUM

At our school, we seek to provide all pupils with a broad, balanced, and relevant curriculum tailored to their individual needs. The aim of our curriculum is to encourage pupils to become competent, self-reliant children with an understanding of the world around them. The curriculum encompasses all the planned activities our school organises to promote learning, personal growth, and development. It includes not only the formal requirements of the National Curriculum but also a diverse array of additional opportunities designed to enrich our children's experiences. We are committed to offering an ever-growing range of possibilities available to our pupils across all year groups. For further information regarding our curriculum, please visit our school website.



CURRICULUM ORGANISATION

Whilst the National Curriculum is taught and covered by the school, the subjects may or may not appear as separate named subjects on your child's timetable. For instance, a considerable amount of English work takes place during lessons labelled as Art, Drama, or Science. Likewise, topic or thematic work allows pupils the opportunity to explore aspects of History,

Geography, Science, and Technology and Computing in an integrated manner. Throughout the academic year, pupils will experience a balanced curriculum; however, there may be varying degrees of emphasis placed on different subjects at different times. It is important to note that the National Curriculum, as delivered in this school, is a legal requirement, and ordinarily, no pupil may be excused from it.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION/COLLECTIVE WORKSHIP

Our Religious Education curriculum is taught according to the Agreed Syllabus for Religious Education in Durham. While R.E. is a distinct subject, our teachers thoughtfully create cross-curricular links. We cherish our connections with local churches through regular visits and guest speakers at our assemblies.



SAFEGUARDING AND CHILD PROTECTION

At Consett Junior School, we regard the safeguarding of children as our main priority. We believe that we all have the right to be happy, to be safe, and to learn. We all share the responsibility to make this a reality.

Our safeguarding policies encompass all areas of school life, including the vetting, informing, and training of staff and visitors. We promote safer and happier behaviours and lifestyles among our children while fostering strong links and providing support for parents and carers. We ensure that our premises are safe, pleasant, and fit for purpose, and we deliver a curriculum offering positive, life-affirming learning experiences. Additionally, we take measures to guarantee safer activities and

environments outside the school.

All staff maintain an up-to-date understanding of safeguarding issues and can effectively implement the relevant policies and procedures. They are trained to recognise and respond to significant changes in children's behaviour, any deterioration in general well-being, unexplained bruising, signs of neglect, or concerning comments made by children. Furthermore, our commitment to maintaining privacy and confidentiality is paramount.

SEX AND RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

The school Governors have determined that, in accordance with DfE (Department for Education) guidelines, Sex and Relationship Education should form part of the educational provision made for pupils at the school. This essential topic is gradually introduced through a comprehensive Health Education programme. Throughout the four years of Junior School, some lessons will involve collaboration with health care professionals, while other relevant subjects will be integrated into the Science curriculum, ensuring a holistic approach to education.

HOMEWORK

The expectation is that all children will read, complete spellings, and tables practice. Year 6 homework focuses on revision for SATs (Statutory Attainment Tests).

READING

At Consett Junior School, we implement a programme called Accelerated Reader. Much like any other reading scheme, it is graded in difficulty; however, the distinguishing feature of this scheme is the vast array of books available across various levels, encompassing both fiction and non-fiction. Children can select their own reading material within their designated level, fostering greater independence and emphasising reading for pleasure.

At the conclusion of each book, an electronic quiz is administered to assess children's comprehension of what they have read. Once they exhibit a sufficient level of understanding, they are encouraged to progress to the next reading level.

For those requiring additional support, our trained staff deliver Phonic Interventions tailored to individual needs. Children will also bring home reading books linked to this scheme, and we actively encourage parents and family members to engage with them. This collaborative effort greatly contributes to instilling a lasting love of reading. We are fortunate to have a delightful bespoke library and reading area that enriches our reading experience.



FEEDBACK POLICY

The school operates a carefully considered and structured feedback policy designed to help pupils understand the reasons behind their errors. Highlighting every mistake can be counterproductive, particularly in areas where students may already be struggling or lacking confidence. To maximise learning, feedback is often delivered verbally and corrected 'live,' thereby providing pupils with immediate opportunities to revise their work. As students advance through their educational journey, the aim is for them to develop greater independence and the ability to self-correct more frequently. As their confidence increases, the level of instructional support will be gradually reduced, fostering enhanced autonomy in their learning.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS/LEARNING DISABILITIES

Many pupils experience difficulties at some stage during their educational career. Specific challenges are addressed individually or within small group settings, ensuring that each child's unique needs are recognised and supported. In most instances, children facing difficulties will continue to engage with tailored work within their classroom environment. In certain circumstances, it may be possible to provide additional support through the involvement of an extra teacher or support assistant, enhancing the learning experience.

There are occasions when a child may be withdrawn from the class to receive focused attention, either in small groups or on an individual basis. Since the needs of pupils can vary greatly, there is no singular approach adopted; the school adapts its strategies accordingly. Communication with parents is integral to this process. Families of pupils identified as potentially benefiting from extra support are contacted by the school, invited to collaborate in discussing concerns and potential

solutions.

If the school is unable to adequately meet the pupil's needs despite varied provisions, further assistance may be warranted. Parents will be engaged in discussions to evaluate the situation, and if necessary, the expertise of external professionals can be sought, ensuring no outside agency is involved without parental consent.

FAMILY CO-OPERATION

Relationships play such a huge role in the life of the children we are fortunate enough to have in our school. For this reason, we place great emphasis on creating positive relationships. Two-way communication is vital to the progress of the children, and collaborating on shared aims is essential. We strongly encourage parents to reach out if they have any concerns regarding any aspect of school life, as most problems can be easily resolved, and the sooner we are informed, the better. Additionally, a great deal of information can be gleaned from our school website and app, which enable messages to be disseminated rapidly.





MANAGEMENT OF BEHAVIOUR AND DISCIPLINE

It is recognised that children may only reach a high standard of achievement when they are working in a constructive, industrious atmosphere. Children are expected to always conduct themselves in a suitable manner and to have regard for the safety and well-being of others. Our focus is very much about the positive, we believe that praise helps children achieve. We

have a Positive Relationship policy that focus on praise.

There is a clear route of progression in our policy - most incidents are successfully dealt with in this way but on occasions it may be necessary to ask parents to visit school so the issues can be discussed in a calm, constructive and supportive way.

Our policy is noticeably clear, we will teach the children what makes good behaviour, we have clear and firm expectations, these are woven into our daily school life.

MUSIC

We place a great emphasis on music as a National Curriculum lesson, recognising the value of specialist music teachers. To fulfil this, we have a dedicated Brass teacher in school every week. Throughout the academic year, every child will receive a half term's introduction to Brass, at no cost to our families, as we consider this experience as valuable as English and Maths.

Moreover, we are incredibly fortunate at Consett Junior School to have our own Brass Band, expertly taught by Miss Waters. These groups perform regularly during coffee mornings and are invited to various events in the local community, especially during the Christmas season, but increasingly throughout the year. Additionally, we are privileged to maintain a strong connection with 'White River Brass', a distinguished musical ensemble comprised of players from the world-renowned 'Black Dyke Band'.

SPORTING AIMS

Sport in school should contribute significantly to the overall education of young people, guiding them to lead full and valuable lives through purposeful physical activity. A balanced programme of physical education enables children to understand their bodies and discover their physical potential.

Through physical education, we aim to cultivate essential social, interpersonal, and cognitive skills by encouraging pupils to engage in meaningful activities that enhance their physical competence. Participation in physical activity fosters not only physical development but also instils confidence and self-esteem as children experience success across various pursuits.

Moreover, we place a strong emphasis on personal safety, ensuring pupils recognise its importance during activities. By developing aesthetic and artistic awareness through movement, we enrich their educational experience. Our school proudly participates in the local School Sports Partnership, valuing collaborative engagement. We strive to involve every child throughout the year in available festivals and competitions, fostering inclusivity and a sense of community.

PE/GAMES

All children are expected to take part in PE and Games, as mandated by the National Curriculum. Jewellery should not be worn in school, and watches must be removed for safety reasons. If earrings must remain in place, they should be covered

with plasters or tape; this applies only to studs, as no other type of earring is permitted. Pupils must dress appropriately for lessons. On their PE days, children are required to come to school in their PE kit. During colder months, they must also wear their school jumper or cardigan; other jumpers or hoodies are not acceptable.

Appropriate clothing is as follows:

Plain black or blue shorts/jogging bottoms/leggings.

Plain white T-Shirt

A pair of Gym/Training shoes.

Footwear should be suitable for use outside on the playground or the field. Pupils need different shoes for PE and not the same shoes worn for a normal school day.



SWIMMING

Swimming is a core component of the National Curriculum and therefore is compulsory for all children. It is also a vital life skill. Currently, we have two swimming sessions each week, with the timings designated by the Local Authority. The specific days and timings will be communicated at the beginning of the academic year.

MEDICAL

Please notify the school of any special medical problems which may affect your child whilst at school. During school hours, minor cuts and scrapes will be treated on-site. In the event of a serious accident, such as a suspected broken arm, parents will be contacted immediately. If we are unable to reach you, your child will be taken to either Shotley Bridge or University Hospital Durham for initial treatment, while the school continues to endeavour to reach parents. It is crucial to ensure that emergency contact details are accurate and regularly updated.

MEDICINES

If a child requires medication during the school day, we will ensure its administration, provided that parents complete the necessary form granting permission for the school to do so. In accordance with Government regulations, we maintain emergency inhalers and a defibrillator on the premises. Any medication administered must be in its original container, clearly labelled with a pharmacy prescription. Medications without a prescription label cannot be given.

It is crucial to note that no child is allowed to carry medication on their person. In the event that your child contracts an infectious disease—such as whooping cough, measles, mumps, or chicken pox—please consult your doctor to determine when it is safe for them to return to school without posing a risk to their peers. Furthermore, children experiencing sickness and diarrhoea should remain at home for a minimum of 48 hours. Your cooperation in these matters is greatly appreciated.

SCHOOL HOURS

Year 3 and 4

Start time: 8.40 am – Children are left at the school gate to walk into the yard, no parents/carers should be in the school yard on a morning.

Lunchtime: 12.00 am – 13.00 pm

End of Day: 3.25 pm – collection is from the main school yard. This is the only time parents/carers should be in the yard.

Year 5 and 6 times

Start time: 8.40 am

Lunchtime: 12.00 pm – 1.00 pm End of Day: 3.30 pm

Lesson start times:

School starts at 8.55 a.m.; therefore, ALL children must be in the school yard for this time as this is the time the bell rings. Access to the yard is from 8.40 a.m. and NOT before, unless they are accessing breakfast club. As there is no access to the

yard before 8.40 a.m., you should not be leaving your children any sooner than this, as school are not responsible for the child prior to the gates being opened, unless in Breakfast Club.

Morning Session start	8.55 a.m. – 12.00 noon
Lunch 1	12.00 p.m. – 1.00 p.m.
Afternoon Session	1.10 p.m. – 3.25/30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

We place a strong emphasis on good attendance, recognising that regular attendance at school is crucial for a child's educational progress. In cases of unavoidable absence, we ask that parents keep the school well informed regarding the reasons for a child's absence, especially if it is likely to be prolonged. We prefer notification via telephone call, email, or text on the first day of absence, as letters are often not handed in promptly.

It is important to note that failure to inform the school of an absence will result, by law, in the child being recorded as absent without authorisation, which will be reflected in the child's school records. If no communication is received by 9.15 a.m., a text message will be sent to ascertain the reason for their absence. In instances where no information has been provided, Mrs. Raine will attempt to contact the parents or carers directly. Should formal monitoring of attendance become necessary, you will be informed, and the appropriate processes will commence.

For the school year 2023/24, the total unauthorised absence rate was recorded at 1.13%. We actively recognise and reward excellent attendance, providing a certificate and meal for children with 100% attendance for the full academic year (September to July). Additionally, we reward termly attendance; the year group with the highest attendance receives a monthly reward, and the class group with the highest percentage is afforded a non-uniform day.

According to OFSTED, an attendance rate of 96% is considered acceptable. Any absence below 96% will be monitored closely, and should a child's attendance drop below 90%, interventions will be initiated and may be referred to the Local Authority. Our overall school attendance for 2023/24 was 95.19%.

Parents collecting children requiring medical treatment during school hours (such as dental or doctor appointments) are requested to notify the school. This helps maintain an accurate record of pupils on site, which is vital in case of emergencies or fire drills. Please be advised that students will not be permitted to leave early unaccompanied; they must be collected by a named responsible adult from the main entrance.

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

Due to amendments (April 2013) that have been made to the Department for Education's Pupil Registration Regulations to address attendance issues, it has been made clear to headteachers that they should not grant leave of absence during term time unless there are "exceptional circumstances". The law does not grant parents or carers an automatic right to take their child out of school during term time. Consequently, instances of unauthorised holidays during term time, which result in 5 days or more of unauthorised absence within any period up to a maximum of 10 rolling school weeks, will be addressed rigorously.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

It is especially important that we should be able to contact parents or a named responsible adult in case of an emergency. Parents are asked to complete an information sheet, which the school can refer to in such situations. If there is no telephone at home, the number of a nearby relative or friend is required.

Should parents change their address, telephone/mobile numbers, or place of work, it is imperative that they notify the school of these changes as soon as possible. We utilise 'Reach more Parents' (Weduc) to send app, email, and text messages to parents; thus, regular updates of new mobile numbers are essential. An enrolment code for our app will be provided, which can also be downloaded from the Apple or Google Play store.

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals are cooked and served on the premises, proving popular with the children due to their nutritious content and value for money. We offer specially tailored menus for children with specific medical conditions, developed in consultation with parents, medical practitioners, and our school cook.

Packed lunches can be brought to school, provided we receive written notification of your intent to do so, with a two weeks' notice period required. Please note that the responsibility for the safety and condition of these packed lunches lies with the child.

For families seeking guidance on the nutritional content of packed lunches, advice is readily available from the school. Additionally, please be aware that hot food in flasks or containers (e.g., soups, pot noodles, hot chocolate) is not permitted on school premises. We utilise a system called Cypad, an interactive software that allows your child to select their meal each morning during registration.

DINNER MONEY

As from September 2024, school meals were raised to £2.81 per day. At the time of printing this brochure, we had not been made aware of any future price rises. It is essential that we receive two weeks' notice for any changes from school meals to packed lunches, as children cannot swap between the two during the week; they must choose either a meal or a packed lunch for the entire week.

We utilise the ParentPay online system for all payments related to dinner money and breakfast club, and we do not accept cash in school. If your dinner money payments fall into arrears, you will be notified when the amount exceeds £10. Should your arrears reach £50, your child will be transitioned to packed lunches, and the school's income team at the Local Authorities (LA) will be informed of your outstanding payments. If you are experiencing difficulties with payments, we encourage you to contact the school to arrange a payment plan.

BREAKFAST CLUB

We have a daily Breakfast Club with supervision (£2.50 per day), starting at 7.45 a.m. until the start of the school day. Children must not arrive before 7.45 a.m. and should enter through the main entrance, where they will be admitted and signed up by a member of the Breakfast Club staff. Children will remain in the hall until their class begins, at which point they will either be taken outside for a brief break or escorted to their class.

It is important to note that children who do not attend the Breakfast Club should not be on the school premises. We also offer free breakfast to children eligible for free school meals or who have been entitled within the last six years. While not all schools provide this service, we are fortunate to have a high uptake of our Breakfast Club and are in a strong financial position to continue offering it. Please ensure you pay through ParentPay, and there is no need to pre-book a place for the Breakfast Club.

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Our after-school clubs are run as enrichment clubs and not as childcare. This year, 78% of pupils have attended at least one club, which reflects our commitment to providing diverse opportunities. Our clubs encompass a wide range of activities, from sports and crafts to reading and nurture clubs, ensuring variety for all children in our school community.

The clubs change every half term and are facilitated by our dedicated staff and external coaches. They typically run for one hour and are allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, with payment processed through ParentPay to secure a place.

It is essential to note that our clubs are not after-school childcare and may not be consistent due to reviews conducted each half term. If you require after-school childcare, you will need to make alternative arrangements. Please ensure you book your child's place when they go live on the app, as pre-booking is not permitted.

Some examples of our clubs are:

Half term one example:

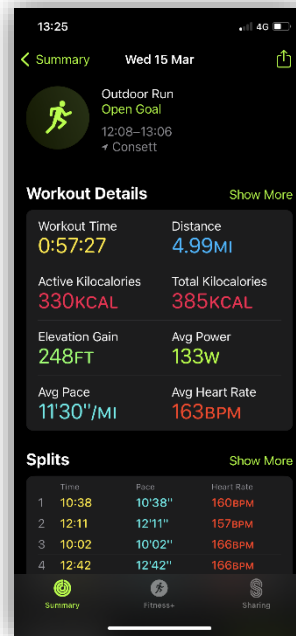
Monday – Year 3/4 Basketball or Lego

Tuesday – Karate (external coach – open to all year groups) or Year 5/6 Games Club

Wednesday – Baking or Gymnastics

Thursday – Selected pupils Nurture Club and Computing

Friday – Year 4/5 Craft Club or Art



LUNCH SUPERVISION

Children staying at school for lunch are supervised by ‘Lunchtime Supervisors.’ Behaviour expectations remain as they would as if lunch were supervised by a class teacher. Standards and expectations remain high.

SCHOOL SECURITY

The very design of the school building means that no member of the school staff or pupils need be out of sight of others while in class areas. All entrance doors are fitted with one-way security locks, which prevent entry from outside the building while

still allowing a quick form of exit from inside in case of fire or emergencies.

All visitors, including parents, must report to the main entrance at all times of the school day. Under no circumstances are parents or relatives permitted onto the school playground when children are outside, ensuring the safety of all children and staff.

Workers and visitors to the school will be required to provide some form of identification. Upon admission, visitors must sign the visitor's book and note their times of arrival and departure, thereby maintaining a secure environment for the school community.

PLAYGROUND SECURITY

When children are allowed out at breaktimes, at least two members of staff will be on duty at any one time. In the event of any concerns regarding strangers near the school or stray dogs, pupils will be brought inside while the matter is investigated by a senior member of staff. At the conclusion of break time, staff on duty will ensure that the door is securely closed and locked. A similar system will be implemented during lunchtime, where up to six lunchtime supervisors will be present alongside the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher, who will hold overall responsibility for the safety and well-being of the pupils.

BUILDINGS SECURITY

The building has six external CCTV cameras, protecting the school site. These are in operation at all times of the day. We have a secure fence all around the school, gates are locked during the day while children are on site.

UNAVOIDABLE CLOSURE

Whilst we hope it will never be necessary, there may be occasions when, due to circumstances beyond our control, it is essential to close the school. In times of severe weather or heating breakdowns, we may have extraordinarily little notice of such closure. Should it be required, we will promptly notify all parents and carers via an app and text message. Additionally, announcements will be made on the DCC site and the school website. Local radio, typically Radio Newcastle, may also broadcast relevant information. In any doubt, parents are advised to telephone the school directly. Please note that we do not communicate through Facebook or other social media platforms.

PERSONAL PROPERTY IN SCHOOL

Children are not expected to wear jewellery or to bring valuable personal items to school. The school cannot accept responsibility for the loss of, or damage to, any such items. While teachers may occasionally hold valuables for pupils, such as during PE lessons, the responsibility for these items remains with the pupils at all times.

Parents are strongly advised not to permit their children to bring anything of value to school, including mobile phones or electronic games. Should there be exceptional circumstances requiring a child to bring a phone, it must be handed to their teacher in the classroom and kept switched off throughout the school day.

DATA PROTECTION

Our school is compliant with the Data Protection Act and follows all procedures within this act.

LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY AND CHARITY WORK

Children in the Brass Band regularly play at the local Care Homes and at events held in the community, bringing joy and connection to our neighbourhood. This year, we have warmly welcomed the Princess' Trust into our school, with plans to develop this valuable partnership moving forward. Additionally, we have had the honour of hosting the Consett Rotary Club, who present a yearly award to a pupil who makes a significant contribution to school life. Over the past few years, the school has been actively involved in events and developments at Consett and Blackhill Park, regularly visiting for a range of enriching activities linked to art, science, allotments, and outdoor education.

CHARITY

We make a conscious effort to try to focus on at least one charity event during the academic year.

We also support other one-off events, such as Comic Relief and Children in Need, these are usually in the form of non-uniform days and planned activities.

We will be discussing with our school council and wider population what worthy cause we should focus on in 2025/2026



SCHOOL CLOTHING

The school has a uniform which we hope parents will provide consisting of:

Royal Blue Sweatshirt/Cardigan

Grey or Black

Skirt/Trousers/leggings

Gold Polo Shirt

Blue/White Dress (optional)

Black or Grey Shorts (optional)

Only black shoes must be worn with school uniform (no white or coloured trainers except for PE).

Royal Blue Sweatshirts, Gold Polo Shirts, Royal Blue Sweat cardigans, PE Shirts/Shorts/String Bag, Dresses, Tracksuits, Reversible Waterproof Jackets, Fleece Jackets, School Bags and Hats can be ordered from our online uniform provider 'Tots to Teams.' A supply of Sweatshirts and Polo Shirts are no longer kept in school but can be ordered at any time online. All these garments offer excellent value for money and are made from hard-wearing, machine washable fabrics, specially decorated with our school logo. It is essential that all items of children's clothing has the child's name clearly marked on them. The wearing of earrings or nail varnish is not allowed in school.

Please make sure that school uniform and coats have children's names in them. There are many children in school who has the same size clothing.

ACADEMIC YEAR 2025/2026 (TERMS)

School holidays for the 2025/26 academic year

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Summer 2025	Friday 18 July 2025	Tuesday 2 September 2025
Autumn half-term 2025	Friday 24 October 2025	Monday 3 November 2025
Christmas 2025	Friday 19 December 2025	Monday 5 January 2026
Spring half-term 2026	Friday 20 February 2026	Monday 2 March 2026
Easter 2026	Thursday 2 April 2026	Monday 20 April 2026
May Day 2026	Friday 1 May 2026	Tuesday 5 May 2026
Summer half-term 2026	Friday 22 May 2026	Monday 1 June 2026
Summer 2026	Monday 20 July 2026	

School holidays for the 2026/27 academic year

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Summer 2026	Monday 20 July 2026	Tuesday 1 September 2026
Autumn half-term 2026	Friday 23 October 2026	Monday 2 November 2026
Christmas 2026	Friday 18 December 2026	Monday 4 January 2027

Holiday	Closing date	Date re-opens
Spring half-term 2027	Friday 12 February 2027	Monday 22 February 2027
Easter 2027	Thursday 25 March 2027	Monday 12 April 2027
May Day 2027	Friday 30 April 2027	Tuesday 4 May 2027
Summer half-term 2027	Friday 28 May 2027	Monday 7 June 2027
Summer 2027	Wednesday 21 July 2027	

Further dates **(including staff training dates)** can be found at

<https://www.consett-jun.durham.sch.uk/parents/school-holidays/>

BRINGING CHILDREN TO SCHOOL

Would drivers please note that if transporting children to school, the school operates a voluntary one-way system from 8.40 – 9.00 a.m. and 3.15 – 3.40 p.m. (subject to change if staggered times are still in place). Cars entering Beechdale Road are requested to follow a one-way system along Elmdale Road onto Oakdale Road, where children can be safely dropped off and collected. It is important that cars then continue back along Beechdale Road. Unfortunately, parking in the vicinity of the school has become problematic; many parents currently park on Ashdale Road and walk down to meet their children. Please adhere to these requests to ensure your child can enter and leave school safely.

Do not block driveways to houses or park on pavements when collecting children.

- Observe the “No Unauthorised Vehicles beyond this point” sign, the double yellow and the yellow zigzag lines (“Keep Clear”). There is an elevated risk of a fine for failure to comply even for dropping off.
- Do not bring cars into the school drive and car park – even to turn around. (Unless there are medical reasons).
- Please inform anyone who will be bringing or collecting your child (including taxis) of these rules and one-way system.
- There are now double yellow lines outside the school gates – please do not stop on these, as parking fines have already been issued to some people.

ASSESSMENT

Our Assessment lead is Miss White. We conduct informal quizzes and mini tests regularly; these low-stakes assessments provide both children and adults within the school an opportunity to comprehend various aspects of learning. Additionally, we implement termly tests for Year 3, 4, and 5. These assessments, used in conjunction with teacher evaluations, help determine each child's standing in relation to their peers, while also allowing them to experience the nature of tests they will encounter in their future academic careers. In Year 6, students undertake SATs every May, which were suspended during the pandemic and the period of school closures. We are pleased to reintroduce these assessments for the current academic year.

The last results that were shared Nationally are below:

National Results Y6	2022/2023					2023/2024				
						Each child equals to 2%				
	Reading	Writing	SPAG	Maths	Combined	Reading	Writing	SPAG	Maths	Combined
School %	75	80	75	78	67	68	82	74	66	56
National %	73	71	72	73	60	73	73	72	72	60
Difference	+16	+8	+3	+5	+8	-5	+9	+2	-6	-4
Average Scaled Scores	104		105	104		104		104	104	

ATTENDANCE

Autumn Term 2023 - 95.27%

Spring Term 2024 - 95.53%

Summer Term 2024 - 94.80%

Whole School Academic Year - 95.19%

ATTENDANCE SUMMARY

Autumn Term 2023

No. Students	Year Group	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Present R/C: Students (Count)	Auth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Auth. Absent R/C: Students (%)	Auth. Absent R/C: Students (Count)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Students (Count)
62	Year Y5 (2023/2024)	96.05%	62	3.29%	59.68%	37	0.66%	15
50	Year Y6 (2023/2024)	95.01%	50	3.99%	78%	39	1%	12
56	Year Y3 (2023/2024)	95.01%	56	3.66%	67.86%	38	1.33%	14
58	Year Y4 (2023/2024)	94.56%	58	4.9%	77.59%	45	0.54%	11

Spring Term 2024

No. Students	Year Group	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Present R/C: Students (Count)	Auth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Auth. Absent R/C: Students (%)	Auth. Absent R/C: Students (Count)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Students (Count)
50	Year Y6 (2023/2024)	95.91%	50	3.68%	62%	31	0.41%	4
62	Year Y5 (2023/2024)	95.72%	62	3.87%	66.13%	41	0.4%	10
56	Year Y3 (2023/2024)	95.36%	56	4.18%	60.71%	34	0.46%	9
58	Year Y4 (2023/2024)	95.14%	58	4.11%	68.97%	40	0.75%	11

Summer Term 2024

No. Students	Year Group	Present R/C: Marks (%)	Present R/C: Students (Count)	Auth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Auth. Absent R/C: Students (%)	Auth. Absent R/C: Students (Count)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Marks (%)	Unauth. Absent R/C: Students (Count)
62	Year Y5 (2023/2024)	95.45%	62	2.53%	50%	31	2.02%	22
50	Year Y6 (2023/2024)	94.99%	50	3.28%	56%	28	1.73%	14
57	Year Y3 (2023/2024)	94.37%	57	2.75%	64.91%	37	2.88%	25
61	Year Y4 (2023/2024)	93.85%	60	4.44%	67.21%	41	1.71%	19