

Silverdale School Prospectus



Chorus Education Trust

Welcome to Silverdale School

Our school ethos is 'Outstanding Achievement for All' – which embodies our ambitious, yet inclusive, approach. We go to great lengths to ensure that every student can achieve beyond expectations, so that they can get the very best start in life.

We achieve this by recruiting and retaining some of the very best teachers, who work extremely hard to engage and inspire our students through high quality teaching.

Whilst our exam results are consistently some of the best in the city – and frequently within the wider region – we believe education is about so much more. We have worked hard to retain the broad range of subjects we offer, as we believe that students should receive a rounded education, covering science and technology, humanities and the arts, languages and sport.

Our extracurricular activities are as diverse and varied as our students. We have national sporting champions within our student body, as well as poets, performers and artists, award-winning scientists, geographers and mathematicians. Our students travel the world but also contribute to our local community.

We want our students to become positive, engaged members of society. Our teaching ensures that they develop a global view, founded on tolerance and respect for others, along with the skills to question and actively make a difference.

We also want to equip them with the emotional resources needed in today's fast-moving and demanding world. We do this by providing pastoral support at every level in school, with staff dedicated to supporting our students – and specialists who are there when additional help is needed. This is balanced with clear expectations about acceptable behaviour and a sanctions and rewards system that is fair, clear and consistently applied.

We are a diverse community, with over 30 languages spoken by staff and students. We have wonderful, resourceful students who bring a whole range of views, talents and experiences into our school community. I am extremely proud of them all and hope you will consider joining us soon.

Mrs Sarah Sims
Head of Silverdale School



“As a family, we knew that Silverdale was the right choice for our children because the school recognises that each of them is different. Whether their talents lie in academia or the arts, sport or science, they are given the support and opportunities they need to flourish.”

Parent of Silverdale student

CHORUS EDUCATION TRUST

Silverdale is the founding school of Chorus Education Trust. We believe there is strength in working together, whilst recognising and valuing the unique character of each school.



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For any school to maintain consistently excellent academic outcomes in a time of huge change in examinations and course content, is an excellent achievement. Silverdale offers children the opportunity of a great education in the best comprehensive tradition.

Parent Power, Sunday Times

Outstanding results at all levels

Our school has a proud record of consistently outstanding exam results at all levels: in GCSE, A-level and vocational subjects. Silverdale School was named North State Secondary School of the Decade by the Sunday Times Schools Guide in 2021. This was based on a decade of outstanding results and progress.

We achieve this through offering our students a broad and balanced curriculum. We are proud to continue to offer a curriculum that goes beyond the EBacc suite of subjects, valuing the arts and humanities just as much as science and languages.

In Years 7 to 9, students study: English, maths, science, modern foreign languages, history, geography, religious education, physical education (PE), music, drama, art, computer science, design and technology and PSHE (personal, social, health and economic education).

When students progress into Years 10 and 11 we also offer the choice of some new subjects, which include: 3D design, business studies, health and social care, imedia, hospitality and catering, food preparation and nutrition, and sociology. Students can also choose to take a qualification in their home language.

Students who stay on in our Sixth Form can choose from even more new subjects, including: media studies, psychology, applied science and further maths.

We run regular revision sessions for GCSE and A-level, and we provide a breakfast club and after-school homework club, so our students can call upon continued support from staff.

Experienced staff who are specialists in their subject

Silverdale's excellent reputation means we are able to attract high calibre candidates every time we advertise a teaching vacancy. We are extremely proud of the fact that our teachers are specialists in the subjects they teach, bringing with them expert knowledge and skills. Indeed, many of them also train other teachers across the region who want to gain subject knowledge.

Having a sixth form as part of the school is also a big advantage: many of our staff teach A-levels and are able to draw down this learning for younger students, helping them achieve beyond the requirements of GCSEs and preparing them for post-16 education.

We also run the South Yorkshire Teaching Hub which provides initial teacher training and ongoing professional development for teachers in our region. This means we are training the next generation of teachers, as well as providing continuing professional development to our colleagues across the region. Our staff are at the cutting edge of educational developments, continually developing their practice to ensure our students receive the very best education.



Beyond the classroom

School life at Silverdale is about so much more than just academic achievement. Our staff work tirelessly to provide enrichment activities that truly broaden our students' experiences. Students take an active role in school life through the Student Council, whereby elected representatives raise students' issues directly with the school's leadership team.

Clubs and activities for all

We provide activities that will appeal, no matter where a student's interests lie. Our annual school musical sees students perform on stage, as well as contribute to the live band. Those with culinary interests can take part in Masterchef competitions and they can also work towards awards in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. There is a wide range of clubs available to join, including the debating society, choirs, 'the Dice' (tabletop games), coding, drama, props, creative and Spanish clubs.

Our sports department oversee a phenomenal amount of activity throughout the week. As well as the regular football, netball, hockey and rugby clubs, students can also join badminton, table tennis, handball, cross country, basketball and athletics clubs, amongst others. Silverdale sports teams have a strong track record of accomplishments – in Sheffield, the region and nationally.

Musicians and budding musicians can learn to play a variety of instruments and can play with the school orchestra as well as a range of musical groups, such as the samba band, string group, swing band and rock school.

Trips and visits

Trips and visits form an important part of our students' Silverdale experience. Silverdale students have had the opportunity to visit Spain and France; and join field trips for geography and biology in the Peak and Lake Districts. They have learned about business through visits to Cadbury World, Jaguar and Alton Towers, and visited local universities, theatres and museums. They attend careers and apprenticeship fairs and maths challenge tournaments. They scale the heights during climbing weekends. The annual 'trip day' sees Silverdale students visiting Leicester Space Museum, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, going ice skating and exploring our beautiful green and pleasant local area.



I have joined lots of sports clubs in my first term. Everyone's been really friendly and helpful, and I've made even more friends.

Year 7 student

Preparing students for life

As well as providing our students with a strong academic foundation, we ensure they have the skills, knowledge and connections that will help them take their next steps in life.

Our independent careers advisor provides a range of support for students, including one-to-one interviews when they are considering their options post GCSE and A-levels. Students can also benefit from careers fairs, mock interviews and mentoring by local business-people.

In Year 10, students undertake work experience to develop an insight into the world of work and to build on skills developed in the classroom.

Throughout their time at Silverdale, students have opportunities to present their work, both within class and to the wider school community, helping them refine their presentation and communication skills.



Students at Silverdale come from a range of backgrounds and the teachers really open their minds to the world. It has certainly helped my children look outside the bubble of their lives.

Parent of Silverdale student



No one left behind

At Silverdale we believe in 'Outstanding Achievement for All' and, as part of this ethos, we are committed to meeting the needs of all our students. This means providing support to students, both emotionally and academically. Every student can call upon their form tutor and key stage team for help, but we also have two teams that provide additional support.

Our **Learning Support Team** helps students with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to access their education. They work hard to build positive working relationships with the families of our SEND students, and are committed to being clear and honest about how we plan to meet a student's needs. They work alongside a wider team of intervention leaders,

keyworkers and teaching assistants. However, the most important part of our team is the teachers, each of them helping to ensure that all students have access to an outstanding education.

Our **Safeguarding, Inclusion and Wellbeing Team** helps students who may need emotional support or help with mental health issues. They include an Emotional Wellbeing Support Coordinator who can provide support to students from our Wellbeing Room and also signpost them to further services.

We also have an Integrated Resource to meet the needs of deaf and hearing impaired students, so you will often see students using sign language around school.

Modern facilities in a tranquil location

We are fortunate to have a modern building with excellent facilities to support a broad curriculum. Our new block (completed in August 2023) further enhances our wealth of specialist teaching spaces.

Our sporting and performance facilities include an athletics track, long-jump pits and built-in throwing areas for athletics, rugby and football pitches, astroturf pitch, tennis courts, table tennis tables, basketball courts, a playground, indoor sports hall, activity/dance studio, auditorium and drama studio.

Our design and technology workrooms include 3D printers, laser cutters, digital sewing machines, computer suites, wood and metal work equipment.

Our classrooms have interactive whiteboards and include a large number of fully equipped science laboratories. Each corridor includes a student breakout area, with soft seating and computers.

The building also has a restaurant and snack bar, library and purpose-built sixth form facilities.

Our Student Council has produced a 'Park and Stride' map which shows parents where they can drop off students.



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My daughter went through some major life changes during her time at Silverdale. The staff went well beyond what I expected and treated her with dignity and compassion, ensuring that she still achieved her best whilst offering support and understanding when she needed it.

Parent of Silverdale student

Find out more about joining Silverdale School



Chorus Education Trust

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**SILVERDALE
SIXTH FORM**

