

Silverdale School Prospectus



Chorus Education Trust

Welcome to Silverdale School

Welcome to Silverdale School. I am delighted that you are taking the time to find out more about our vibrant and successful community. Whether you are a prospective student, parent or carer, we hope this prospectus gives you a real sense of what makes Silverdale such a special place to learn, grow and thrive.

Our school ethos – *Outstanding Achievement for All* – continues to guide everything we do. It reflects our belief that every young person, regardless of background or starting point, has the potential to achieve beyond expectations. We are ambitious for all our students, and we work tirelessly to ensure they have every opportunity to thrive.

At the heart of Silverdale's success is the exceptional quality of teaching. We have a team of talented, passionate, and dedicated staff who go above and beyond to inspire students and support their learning. Through expertly delivered lessons and high expectations, our students consistently achieve some of the best academic outcomes in the city and beyond.

However, education at Silverdale is about far more than examination results. We believe in providing a rich, broad, and balanced curriculum, with strong provision across science, technology, humanities, the arts, languages, and sport. This gives students the opportunity to discover their strengths, pursue their interests, and develop into well-rounded individuals.

Our vibrant extracurricular programme reflects the diversity and energy of our school community. Whether it's on the stage, in the lab, on the sports field or through volunteering, Silverdale students flourish as individuals and as members of a wider community. We are proud to see them achieving at a national level,

contributing locally, and developing the confidence to make their mark on the world.

We want every student to leave Silverdale not only with excellent qualifications but also with the character, resilience and empathy needed to navigate life beyond school. That's why we place equal importance on pastoral care. Our team of dedicated staff provides consistent support, while our clear behaviour expectations and inclusive culture help students feel safe, valued, and empowered.

Silverdale is a diverse, welcoming and outward-looking school community. With over 30 languages spoken and a wealth of cultural perspectives, we are stronger because of our differences. I am proud to lead a school where students grow not only academically, but as kind, thoughtful and active citizens.

I look forward to working with our students, families and staff as we continue to build on Silverdale's many strengths and ensure our determination to provide every student with the opportunity to exceed expectations remains at the heart of everything we do.

Silverdale is a unique place, full of energy, ambition and care. It's a school where young people are supported to be their best selves, to aim high and to develop the skills and confidence they need for the future. I'm confident that Silverdale is a great choice for any young person looking to learn, grow and enjoy their school experience.

Mr Jim Smith
Headteacher,
Silverdale School



“Silverdale offers children the opportunity of a great education in the best comprehensive tradition.

Parent Power, Sunday Times



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.



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 students regularly achieve some of the best exam results in the city.

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. Our students can work towards awards in the Duke of Edinburgh scheme as well as joining a huge range of clubs as diverse as debating club, choirs, art club and karaoke club. They might want to try their hand at whirlwind writers (a writing competition) or dance, trips to the theatre or interform football or netball competitions.

Our sports department oversee a phenomenal amount of activity throughout the week. As well as the regular football, netball, hockey and badminton clubs, students can also join trampolining and gymnastics, table tennis, athletics, cross country, basketball and tennis 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 guitar and ukulele, keyboard and voices4all clubs.

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 attractions such as Ninja Warrior Adventure Park, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Jump Inc Trampoline 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.

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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. The team includes two emotional support officers 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 and woodwork 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.



“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



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**SILVERDALE
SIXTH FORM**

