



William Hulme's Grammar School
The best in everyone™
Part of United Learning

Getting Started in EYFS



2026-2027

Belonging first.
Ambition always.
Excellence everywhere.

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Welcome from Leigh Dalton, Head of School

We are always excited to welcome new families and children into our caring school community and feel privileged to have the opportunity to support your children as they learn and grow into respectable, young people.

Throughout the Primary Phase, our children are encouraged to become independent and enthusiastic learners. We are really fortunate to work in a fairly new purpose-built building, opened in September 2016. The bright and well equipped classrooms are complemented by the facilities that we share with the Secondary Phase, such as the sports pitches, computing suites and the Great Hall, promoting an environment where children can develop fully.

We are a multicultural community and value highly the harmony, tolerance and understanding that we promote. William Hulme's is committed to building on the success that we have achieved so far. We welcome involvement from the local community and we are part of the United Learning group that is committed to bringing out 'the best in everyone'.

There is an emphasis on individual needs throughout the school, with extra support or challenge for those who need it. English and Maths are paramount, but we also value creativity, so we provide a broad, challenging and creative curriculum. Sport and physical education are enjoyed by all pupils, with a strong emphasis on participation for all. Art, music and drama all form part of the curriculum and there are clubs and extra-curricular activities which aim to enrich the children's experiences and involve them in as many positive and exciting activities as possible.

Together we can continue to be a school of which children, teachers, parents, governors and the local community can be proud.



Miss L S Dalton
Head of School (Primary Phase)

Preparing your Child for School

Shoes and Clothes

- Show your child how to dress themselves – encourage and praise them for trying
- Show them how to get their clothes and shoes on the right way round
- Give them plenty of time when leaving the house so that they can practise putting their coats on by themselves
- Help them to fasten their own buttons and zips
- Choose clothes and shoes which will be easier for them to get on and off, eg Velcro shoes (no laces/buckles)
- Make sure all clothes and shoes have your child's name in them
- Point out how they can recognise their own items of clothing
- Make sure that your child is dressed according to the weather and their coat is waterproof
- Your child will need a pair of wellington boots, which will remain in school
- See full details of the Nursery and Reception Uniform on page 6.

Food

- Sit down to meals and eat together as a family
- Show your child how to use a knife and fork correctly and practise cutting food themselves
- Ask them to choose food at the shops which they would like to try
- Get them involved in preparing meals to explore new foods
- Give praise if they eat well or try anything new

Asking for Help

- Encourage your child to have a go at things and to ask for help when they need it
- Model how to ask for help using a full sentence: "Please can you help me?"
- Let your child ask for things in shops and get them involved in choosing and paying
- Tell your child it is okay to ask for help

Talking and Listening

- Turn off screens for a while
- Take time every day to look at a book together – read the story and talk about the pictures
- Talk to your child about the different things you are doing
- Ask them what they can see/hear/smell/feel/taste
- Meet up and play with other children
- Sing songs or listen to music together
- Visit the library to choose a book together
- Give your child clear instructions and praise them for listening
- Practise taking turns with everyday tasks and games at home



Nursery and Reception

Uniform

Items carrying the school logo should be purchased from Monkhouse. **Scan the QR code to visit Monkhouse.**



All other items of uniform, which do not carry the school crest, may be purchased from your supplier of choice.

We want your child to be as independent as possible so please make sure that your child is able to dress and undress themselves easily without having to struggle with zips, buttons or shoe laces.

Pull-up/down skirts and trousers are essential. No sports logos on tracksuit bottoms please.

Uniform List:

- White polo shirt with or without WHGS logo
- Black V-neck long sleeve jumper with or without WHGS logo (no sweatshirts)
- Black trousers or black skirt (must have elasticated waist, no zips or buttons)
- Black/grey socks or plain black tights
- Plain black school shoes with velcro fastening (no laces please)
- Waterproof school coat – any colour
- Wellington boots (any colour)

Optional – Black shorts for summer (must have elasticated waist, no zips or buttons) or blue gingham dress to be worn with white socks or white tights.

PE Kit

- PE bag
- Plain white t-shirt (no collar)
- Navy blue shorts (must have elasticated waist, no zips or buttons)
- Black pumps (no laces)

NB. All clothing and equipment must be clearly marked with the owner's name.

Primary Phase

Uniform

If your child continues into Year 1 at the school, their uniform changes. Again, items carrying the school crest should be purchased from Monkhouse. **Scan the QR code to visit Monkhouse.**



PE Kit is ordered through a different supplier (see below). All other items of uniform which do not carry the school crest may be purchased from your supplier of choice.

All students must wear the following items of uniform that best fits with the gender they identify with. This will be kept under review.

Uniform List:

- School blazer with WHGS logo
- Plain white button-up shirt (to be worn with WHGS logo tie)
- Black school trousers (not 'skinny' style) or black skirt – must be panel or box pleated
- Plain black tights or black/grey socks
- Black shoes, plain, sensible style (Trainers must NOT be worn)
- Optional – Black V-neck long sleeve jumper with or without WHGS logo (no sweatshirts)
- Waterproof school coat – any colour
- Optional – Black shorts for summer or blue gingham dress to be worn with white socks or white tights
- Bookbag or backpack
- Headscarves worn for religious reasons should be plain and of dark colour

Swimming Kit:

- Swimming trunks NOT shorts or one-piece costume
- Swimming Hat (if long hair)
- Towel
- (Please see swimming letter for examples of suitable swimwear)

Games and PE Kit:

Key Stage 1

- Plain white t-shirt (no collar)
- Navy blue shorts (must have elasticated waist. no zips or buttons)
- Black Pumps (no laces)

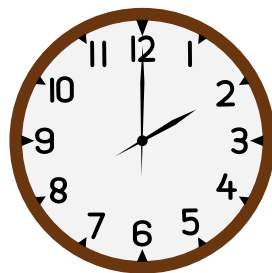
Key Stage 2

- WHGS PE t-shirt – SWi
- WHGS PE shorts – SWi
- WHGS PE navy blue socks – SWi
- WHGS long sleeve training top and pants – SWi
- Trainers
- Shin pads

You can purchase the WHGS PE kit online from SWi (sizes start at 22 inches). Scan the QR code to visit SWi Sportswear.



The School Day



The school day is between 8.40am and 3.10pm.

8.40am – Doors open in Nursery and Reception

3.10pm – End of the school day (Nursery doors open at 3.05pm)

The playground can be quite busy during pick-up times, so we kindly ask all parents and carers to avoid gathering near the door. Please form a line to help ensure a safe and smooth collection for everyone.

It is very important that you let us know, at the start of the school day, if someone different is collecting your child at the end of the school day. If arrangements change, please ensure that you telephone the school office to let us know. Children in Nursery must be collected by an adult. (Reception children can only be collected by a sibling if prior arrangement has been made and they are in Year 10 or above).

School Meals / ParentPay

We strongly encourage all our Nursery and Reception children to have a school lunch. There is evidence that eating a hot cooked meal at lunchtime does improve a child's learning.

Children in Nursery are NOT entitled to a free school meal and parents will need to pay for this. Cash is not accepted in school so you will have to pay for school meals via ParentPay. School meals cost £2.40 per day.

Children in Reception are entitled to a free school meal under the Government's Infant Free School Meal Scheme.

Our meals are cooked on the premises and are planned to provide children with a balanced diet. It is important that you let us know if your child has any allergies or any dietary requirements that we need to be aware of.

Packed Lunch – please ensure that your child's packed lunch is healthy. We are a nut free school. Do not bring nuts. For this reason, we will not allow Nutella or chocolate spread. Cut vegetables like carrots, cucumber and celery into narrow batons. Cut small round fruits like grapes, cherries, berries, strawberries and cherry tomatoes, into small pieces (cut lengthways and then again cut them in halves (quarters)).

Catering accounts must be in credit at all times. The school uses ParentPay for payments. It is an online, secure, payments service which can be accessed from PCs and mobile devices at any convenient time.

A ParentPay account is created for each child, and accounts for different children, even if they are in different schools, and can be amalgamated easily into one account.

Account activation details are sent out when a child is enrolled at school, or on request.

Free School Meals

If your child(ren) are in Reception, Year 1 or Year 2, you do not have to apply for FSM as your child(ren) is(are) entitled to UIFSM. However, if you register for FSM now, the school will get valuable extra funding to enable us to provide enhanced services, such as extra tuition, additional pastoral support and subsidised extra-curricular activities.

Scan the QR code to start your application for Free School Meals.



Once you have registered for FSM you will not need to do so again in the future, even if you are not currently eligible.

You need to complete a fresh application for any child entering Year 7 in a new academic year, irrespective of any previous entitlement.

You will need to make a new application for each child but your information will be remembered to help you to complete multiple applications quickly.

Policies and Important Documentation

All new pupils are required to read and agree to our Acceptable Use of Computer Resources and Internet Access Policy.

The School Code of Practice (Home/School Agreement) should also be read and agreed before your child starts school.

There are also useful policies and information on Data Protection, that parents/carers are advised to read, which can be found on the school's website. **Scan the QR code to view the academic paperwork and to find links to the Policies and Data Protection information.**



Arbor

Parent Portal

We have recently launched the Arbor Parent Portal. This can be used to:

- Check your child's timetable
- Request updates to their personal information
- Receive messages from the school



You will receive an email invite to sign up for the app, and more features will be rolled out over the next academic year. **For more information about the app, please scan the QR code.**

If you are having issues with setting up the app or logging into your account, please contact us at: arbor@whgs-academy.org.

Milk and Snacks

The children are entitled to free school milk, up until their fifth birthday. When your child starts school, we will ask you to complete a claim form for milk so that we can recoup the cost. Once your child is five, the cost of milk is 36p per day, which needs to be paid in advance. Children who do not drink milk are offered water as an alternative.

The school is part of the National Fruit Scheme, so all children under 7, including Early Years children, are given a piece of fruit each morning.

Appointments, Absences and Sickness

Please let us know if your child is going to be late for a session due to a medical appointment. It is also important to let us know, by telephone, if your child is going to be absent due to illness.

If your child has been sick or has had diarrhoea, they should not return to school until at least two full days after symptoms have stopped.

If your child is taken ill at school, we will contact you at home or at work. Please ensure that we have an up to date phone number and the number of a relative or friend who could be contacted in your absence. If you change your number, you must inform the school.

Medicines in School

If your child requires medicine prescribed by the doctor, you may arrange this with the school office.

EpiPens, Inhalers for asthma, and antihistamines can be stored in school, together with the completed dosage forms, and these will be administered by a designated member of Early Years staff.



EYFS

Curriculum

In WHGS Early Years Foundation Stage, our intent is for children to be independent learners who are happy to come to school.

We create opportunities for our children to be explorers, active learners, critical thinkers and risk takers.

We understand that play is a fundamental part of this development and developing children's language and communication skills is central to our practice, as is the need to build strong social and emotional skills.

We plan activities around the children's interests and enhance our classroom provision with resources that will ignite and support their enquiring minds.

Children are expected to tidy up after themselves; this promotes care and respect for their environment and gives them a sense of responsibility.

We consider ourselves partners in your child's learning and welcome observations and information about your child from home.

We implement the curriculum guidance from the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework (Development Matters). Within the EYFS curriculum, there are seven areas of learning and development, which are all inter-connected.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

The curriculum consists of three prime areas, which are essential in nurturing a child's natural development and four specific areas, which provide opportunities for the children to broaden their knowledge and skills. Our practice is shaped by four over-arching principles set out in the Framework:

- A unique child
- Positive relationships
- Enabling environments with teaching and support from adults
- Learning and development

We also understand that children learn in different ways and our planning is guided by the three Characteristics of Effective Learning documented in the Framework.

Playing and Exploring – Engagement

- Finding out and exploring
- Playing with what they know
- Being willing to 'have a go'

Active Learning – Motivation

- Being involved and concentrating
- Keep trying
- Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and Thinking Critically – Thinking

- Having their own ideas
- Making links
- Choosing ways to do things

In order to develop independence, confidence and resilience in our children, a rich and challenging learning environment is provided to inspire all learners to reach their potential.

We do this through:

- Models of excellence
- Teaching and Learning
- Levelled continuous provision
- Responding to children's interests
- Having a growth mindset culture
- Using a Talk for Writing approach
- Observations and assessments
- Interventions
- Local trips and visits
- Involving parents

Education with Character

Whilst we have a very strong academic focus throughout the school, at William Hulme's Grammar School, we believe that there is more to a good education. As well as ensuring our students achieve well academically, we also aim to develop character, compassion and service. Throughout their time here, pupils are expected to contribute to our school community and to society. We want children to try things they cannot do, to persist in the face of difficulty and to become resilient in overcoming obstacles. This is 'the William Hulme's Way'.

With this in mind, we provide a wide range of opportunities and experiences, which seek to help our students become confident, well-rounded and ambitious young adults. Our curriculum and enrichment programme is overflowing with opportunities to try something new and develop new skills.

In addition to our extensive range of extra-curricular clubs, our students enjoy trips to activity centres, performing in front of their friends and families, educational trips and visits, talks from inspirational speakers, as well as countless opportunities to collaborate with their peers at United Learning schools across the country.

We are incredibly proud to deliver an Education with Character; an education which challenges, inspires and excites our students and prepares them for the ups and downs of life.

No two days are the same at William Hulme's; our children are constantly introduced to new and different experiences, designed to prepare them for the next stage of their education and beyond.

The William Hulme's Way

William Hulme's is a friendly, multicultural community that prides itself on producing fully rounded, successful and active members of the community. This is achieved through hard work in and out of the classroom and our emphasis on equality, tolerance and respect.

Our School Ethos is defined by our three school values:

Ambition Charter

I will:

- Show **pride** in everything I do.
- Be **enthusiastic** and say 'yes' to opportunities that come my way.
- Show **resilience** by adapting to overcome obstacles.
- Show **determination**, embracing failure and learning from my mistakes.
- **Challenge** myself and step out of my comfort zone.

Respect Charter

I will:

- **Speak** with respect.
- Respect the **school environment**.
- **Behave** with respect.
- Respect **other students' learning**.
- Respect my **own learning**.

Compassion Charter

I will:

- Be **kind** to everyone, including myself.
- Be **inclusive**, understand, celebrate and embrace diversity.
- Show **empathy**, by being open to others' points of view.
- **Challenge** behaviour that I feel is unkind or morally wrong.
- Be **generous** and help others within the school and local community.



The Hidden Curriculum

We want the Best from Everyone! Our hidden curriculum refers to everything children learn outside of the formal teaching curriculum. It refers to our core values of:

- **Ambition** – to achieve the best for ourselves and others;
- **Confidence** – to have the courage of our convictions and to take risks in the right cause;
- **Creativity** – to imagine possibilities and make them real;
- **Respect** – for ourselves and others in all that we do;
- **Enthusiasm** – to seek opportunity, find what is good and pursue talents and interests;
- **Determination** – to overcome obstacles and reach success.

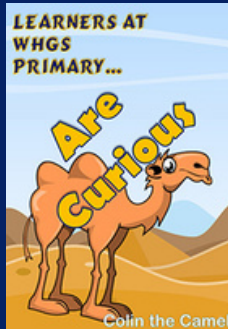
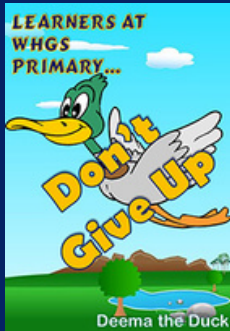
Growth Mindset

At WHGS, we know that children who have a positive attitude towards their learning, will perform well in primary school. Children with a growth mindset believe that intelligence can be developed – it isn't fixed; they thrive in the face of challenge, embrace and celebrate mistakes and they see effort as a key part of their learning journey. Having a growth mindset means being open to and acting on feedback, being a reflective learner and ensuring they are in the learning zone, constantly challenging themselves. Instilling our children with a growth mindset is a priority for the school and the children are enthusiastic about this ethos. We encourage children to take creative risks and to try new strategies with the intention of developing their resilience in the face of a mistake. Mistakes play a vital part in the learning process. When a new mistake is made, this is a crucial learning point and an opportunity for a misconception to be addressed. We praise children for identifying their mistakes and recognising how they have learnt from them.

The Best in Everyone – this is what we embed in our pupils and in order to reach their full potential, we want them to understand how they can be the best learner that they can be. Since introducing the concept, pupils have participated in a range of Growth Mindset lessons, assemblies and truly embraced the language. We, as a school, look forward to continuing on our growth mindset journey.

WHG Learning Powers

In order to support the development of a growth mindset and metacognitive skills, we use eight key learning powers:



We aim to provide the children with the tools to take ownership over their learning: knowing how to learn and learning about how to think. By using these learning powers, children develop their awareness of what makes a good learner. Each week, in our Friday Learning Power assembly, we celebrate the learner of the week (from Reception class onwards) and share how they have successfully demonstrated a learning power!



Term Dates

2026-2027

Autumn Term 2026	
Staff INSET Day	Tuesday 1 September 2026 (school closed for all students)
Staff Planning Day	Wednesday 2 September 2026 (school closed for all students)
Term starts for all students	Thursday 3 September 2026
Half Term (school closed for all students)	Monday 26 October – Friday 30 October 2026 inclusive
School re-opens for students	Monday 2 November 2026
Assessment Day	Thursday 3 December 2026 (school closed for all students)
Staff Planning Day	Friday 4 December 2026 (school closed for all students)
Term ends for students	Friday 18 December 2026 (2.00pm finish)
Spring Term 2027	
Staff INSET Day	Monday 4 January 2027 (school closed for all students)
Term starts for all students	Tuesday 5 January 2027
Half Term (school closed for all students)	Monday 15 February – Friday 19 February 2027 inclusive
School re-opens for students	Monday 22 February 2027
Term ends for students	Thursday 25 March 2027 (2.00pm finish)
Summer Term 2027	
Staff Planning Day	Monday 12 April 2027 (school closed for all students)
Term starts for all students	Tuesday 13 April 2027
Bank Holiday	Monday 3 May 2027 (school closed)
Half Term (school closed for all students)	Monday 31 May – Friday 4 June 2027 inclusive
School re-opens for students	Monday 7 June 2027
Term ends for students	Friday 16 July 2027 (2.00pm finish)
Staff INSET Days	Monday 19 July – Wednesday 21 July 2027

Staff INSET Days	Staff Planning Days	Assessment Day
Tuesday 1 September 2026 Monday 4 January 2027 Monday 19 July 2027 Tuesday 20 July 2027 Wednesday 21 July 2027	Wednesday 2 September 2026 Friday 4 December 2026 Monday 12 April 2027	Thursday 3 December 2026



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Part of United Learning

Spring Bridge Road,
Manchester, M16 8PR

0161 226 2054

enquiries@whgs-academy.org

Visit our website for more information: **www.whgs-academy.org**



@williamhulmesgrammar



William Hulme's Grammar School