



PARKSIDE
COMMUNITY SCHOOL
Small School • Strong Values • Great Experiences

INFORMATION BOOKLET



EMBARK
FEDERATION

A Welcome from the Headteacher



It is a real pleasure to welcome you to Parkside Community School. Choosing the right secondary school is a big step, and at Parkside we want you to feel confident that your child will be supported, challenged and inspired every day. We are proud to be a small school with a big ambition – combining high standards in learning with a culture of care, respect and opportunity.

Our students benefit from a broad, ambitious curriculum taught by dedicated teachers who are passionate about helping young people succeed. At the same time, we place great importance on personal growth, developing resilience, confidence and character so that our students are ready for the challenges of the future.

Parkside has a strong tradition of achievement, with many of our students going on to outstanding results and exciting next steps. Just as importantly, they leave us as confident young people who know how to contribute positively to their communities.

What makes Parkside truly special is its sense of belonging. As a small school, every child is known and valued, and we work closely with families to ensure that all our young people feel safe, supported and motivated to be the best version of themselves.

I warmly invite you to visit us and see our school in action. I am sure you will feel, as I do every day, the warmth, ambition and pride that make Parkside Community School such a special place to learn and grow.

Mr Andy Kelly
Headteacher

Join our Community

Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will ever make. At Parkside, we pride ourselves on being a small, safe and happy school where every child is known, valued and supported. Our size means we can truly get to know each of our young people as individuals – their strengths, their challenges, and their dreams – and guide them every step of the way.

Kind and Supportive Teachers

Our staff go the extra mile every day. We build strong, positive relationships with our students and their families so that every child feels encouraged, safe, and ready to learn.

Excellence in Learning

At Parkside, every young person is supported to achieve exceptional progress, no matter what challenges they face. High expectations and personalised support ensure that every child can shine academically.

Unrivalled Care and Wellbeing

We know that young people thrive when they feel happy and secure. That's why we place equal emphasis on social, emotional and physical wellbeing, giving students the confidence and resilience to succeed.

Opportunities Beyond the Classroom

We believe in developing the whole child. From enriching cultural experiences to character-building activities, our students gain the skills and values they need to make a positive contribution to society.

A True Community School

Parkside sits at the heart of its community. We are proud to serve our young people and their families, creating a welcoming environment where everyone belongs.

Values That Matter

Resilience, Respect, Responsibility and Community – these values guide everything we do. They shape our students into confident, caring and ambitious young people, ready to thrive locally, nationally and globally. At Parkside, only the best is good enough. We never stand still – we are relentless in our desire to improve further, because your child's future deserves nothing less.

Our Curriculum

We are proud to offer a broad, balanced, and ambitious curriculum that empowers every student to thrive academically, socially, and personally. Our curriculum is carefully designed to reflect our school's mission and values, ensuring that all learners are supported to achieve their full potential. We believe that education should inspire curiosity, foster resilience, and prepare students for life beyond the classroom.

Through a rich blend of subjects, enrichment opportunities, and tailored support, we aim to nurture confident, respectful, and ambitious individuals who are ready to contribute positively to their communities and the wider world. Our curriculum is not only a foundation for academic success - it reflects our commitment to equality, diversity, and lifelong learning. Our Year 7 curriculum is designed to ensure a smooth transition from primary school, laying strong foundations for academic success and personal growth.

In Year 7-9 students experience a wide range of subjects that nurture both academic and creative talents:

Art & Photography
Computing
Design & Technology
English
Geography
History
Mathematics

Music
Physical Education
Personal Development
Philosophy & Religious Studies (PRS)
Science
Spanish



In Years 10-11 all students continue to study:

English
English Literature
Geography or History
Mathematics

Personal Development
Philosophy & Religious Studies (PRS)
Physical Education
Science

Students then have the opportunity to choose to study 3 additional subjects from:

Art
Business Studies
BTEC Sport
BTEC Health & Social Care
Creative IMedia
Design & Technology

Geography
History
Photography
Separate Sciences
Spanish
RE



Assessment and Feedback

Each subject is taught by specialist teachers who bring learning to life through engaging lessons and practical experiences. Students are assessed regularly through a combination of classwork, projects, and formal assessments. Feedback is shared with students and parents to support progress and celebrate achievement.

Homework

Homework is set regularly to reinforce classroom learning and encourage independent study habits. Tasks are carefully designed to help students consolidate knowledge, practise key skills, and begin to develop deeper understanding by connecting new learning to prior knowledge - supporting the development of strong cognitive schemas.

Literacy & Reading

At Parkside, we take literacy seriously.

We know it is the foundation of academic success and empowerment across the whole of a student's life. The ability to read, write, speak, and listen with confidence opens doors to every subject, every career, and every aspect of a student's future.

We are committed to creating a culture where literacy is valued and celebrated.

Our vision is for every learner to be able to access complex ideas, express themselves effectively, and participate fully in an increasingly complex and challenging world.

We know that students have complex literacy needs, and our diagnostic intervention programme enables us to intervene early, where needed, to support all students to progress. Alongside this, our universal offer celebrates and encourages literacy and storytelling for all.



Positive Culture

A positive culture is the foundation of every child's success; we celebrate effort, progress, and achievement through a whole-school rewards system.

This recognises students not just for academic excellence, but also for kindness, resilience, leadership, and contribution to our community. You will see many of our students proudly wearing their rewards badges, which range from Bronze to Diamond. These badges are awarded termly and reflect the progress and achievements students make across the school.

Students also earn reward points every day for positive behaviour and success, which they can save and spend in our dedicated Reward Shop. The prizes in the shop are chosen through student voice, ensuring that the rewards are meaningful and motivating. Current items include Uno cards, footballs, hair bows, highlighters, and much more. This gives pupils an immediate and tangible sense of achievement, encouraging them to set goals and take pride in their progress.

Alongside day-to-day praise in lessons, we hold termly rewards events, providing every student the chance to shine. Our approach fosters pride, belonging, and motivation - ensuring that every child feels valued and inspired to be their best.

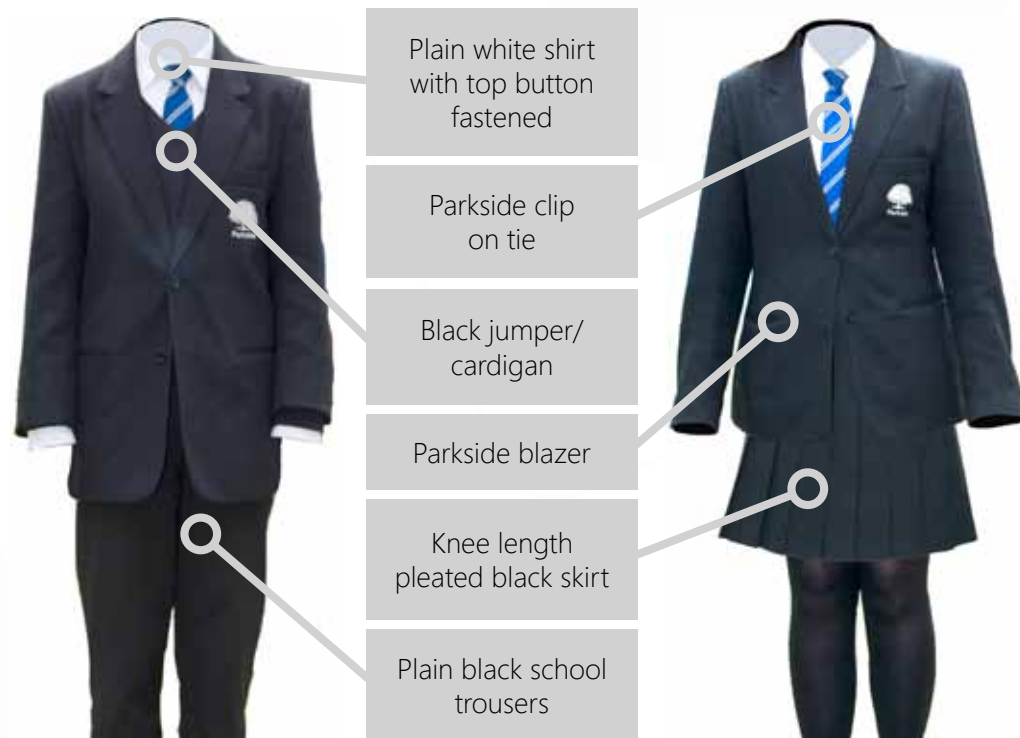


UNIFORM

We take pride in a smart and consistent uniform that reflects our core values of **Resilience, Respect, Responsibility, and Community**.

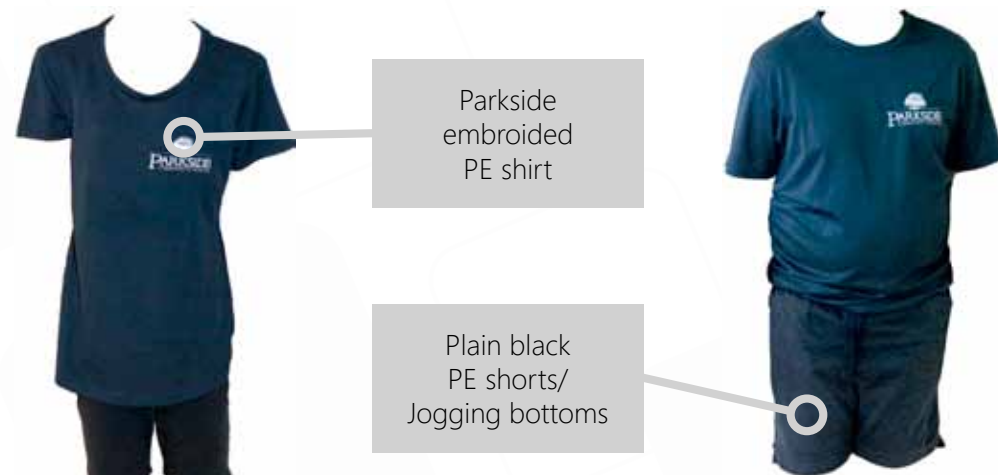
Our uniform helps create a positive learning environment and ensures all students are prepared and ready to engage with school life. As students join us in Year 7, they are provided with their first blazer and tie free of charge.

Uniform Requirements



Plain black shoes only

Shoes should be plain black leather or faux leather with black soles and sides. No logos / badged shoes are allowed.



SAFEGUARDING

Clear, Calm, Consistent and Caring

The school has an open and positive safeguarding culture that promotes the welfare of and puts students' interests first. The school follows the latest statutory guidance in **'Working together to safeguard children'** and **'Keeping children safe in education'**.

Special Educational Needs Universal, Targeted and Specialist Support

At Parkside we have the highest expectations for all students. Inclusive practices across the school identify and meet the needs of **SEND** students helping to remove their barriers to learning, participation and belonging and lead to the highest positive impact on student outcomes and life chances.

All staff are members of the Safeguarding Team and are responsible for safeguarding children.

Mr Mills
Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL)

Mrs Michell
Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL)

Mrs Browes
Safeguarding Officer and Mental Health Lead



Personal Development

At Parkside Community School, Personal Development and our Personal, Social, Health, and Economic (PSHE) education curriculum is designed to empower students with the knowledge, skills, and attributes they need to thrive in modern Britain. Our curriculum is carefully crafted to address the specific needs of our students, equipping them with the tools to overcome adversity and achieve their potential.



Personal Development is built around five key pillars:

Core Values, Aspiration, Health and Wellbeing, Relationships, and The Wider World. Through a comprehensive, inclusive, and student-centered approach, we aim to nurture well-rounded individuals who are prepared to succeed in all aspects of life.

Through personal development and our PSHE curriculum, we strive to develop confident, resilient, and compassionate individuals who are prepared for the challenges of the modern world. We are dedicated to ensuring that all students, regardless of their background, have access to high-quality PSHE education that supports their personal, social, and academic development.



Extracurricular

Trips, Residentials, Rewards

At our school, we pride ourselves on providing a rich and varied wider curriculum that allows every child to explore their interests, develop new skills and nurture their talents. Alongside their academic studies, students have the chance to take part in a broad range of extracurricular activities. From Art Club, where students help create some of the incredible sculptures displayed around our school site, to Chess Club and Needle Felting, there is something for everyone. We also offer a wide selection of sports clubs, providing opportunities for both fun and competition, and those who love to sing are warmly encouraged to join our vibrant school choir. Older students are also invited to take part in the highly regarded Duke of Edinburgh Award programme (DofE), which builds resilience, teamwork and independence.

Beyond clubs, we believe in giving students experiences that expand their horizons and create lasting memories. Students enjoy opportunities such as residential visits, rewards trips to theme parks, and a variety of subject-specific excursions - for example, a visit to London to bring History learning to life. We even take our learning abroad, with our most recent international trip being to Tuscany, offering students the chance to experience new cultures while deepening their understanding of the curriculum.





If you have any further questions please contact the school on:

Tel number - (01246) 273458

Email - info@parkside.derbyshire.sch.uk

Find us on:

