



## Prospectus





# The **SMALL SCHOOL** with the **BIG HEART**

## WELCOME to Browney Academy

Browney Academy is a thriving primary school filled with smiles. Children here are bright, bubbly, hard working and caring.

Being headteacher at Browney Academy gives me enormous pride. Our school is going from strength to strength with improvements in both our physical environment and our performance. Students can now be found enjoying our brand new Woodland Village playground - a top of the range facility unique to schools in this area and we were recently awarded good by Ofsted with some areas outstanding.

Although SATs are important, they are only a part of the primary school experience and every day children at Browney excel in many other ways. They are creative and enthusiastic, they sing and dance, they help each other, they are kind and compassionate, they are curious and interested. They build things, make up stories, write poems, play sports, grow plants, carry out experiments, care for animals, play games and 1000 other things.

As a parent I know that choosing a primary school for your child is a hugely important decision - you want to know that they will be cared for, nurtured and given the best education possible. At Browney Academy we offer your child just that; a robust and rounded education, framed with care and sprinkled with fun and happiness - we are the small school with the big heart.

**Catherine Harris,**  
Headteacher



Browney Academy is improving rapidly in response to the very effective leadership of the headteacher and executive headteacher.

Ofsted 2017

# BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT BROWNEY...

After converting to an academy and joining the North East Learning Trust in March 2014, big things have been happening at our small school.

Our most recent improvements have included the addition of our brand new Woodland Village outdoor play area, complete with a tepee and hobbit house as well as a new look, open plan reception area, new uniform and new interior learning walls.

This year we had a great set of SATs results with pupils excelling in all areas. In particular, their grammar, punctuation and spelling was almost 10% higher than the national average with an 86% pass rate. Reading and writing were also excellent at 86%.

The huge improvements to our school have resulted in a growing number of pupils on roll; numbers have risen from 72 to 111 in just three years.







Governors and staff are working together exceptionally productively to ensure that the school is a happy and welcoming place where pupils have every opportunity to thrive.

**Ofsted 2017**

# SMALL SCHOOL BIG HEART

From the moment they step through the door in reception class, to their final farewells as Year 6s off to secondary school, every child is treated as a special member of our Browney family.

It's a family where many generations of children have learned and a place where these traditional values, passed through decades of teaching and learning, are now coupled with a fresh creative and dynamic approach to primary education. We are extremely ambitious and encourage all children to work to the very best of their ability in all subjects. We offer stimulating learning experiences to ensure that every child has access to an exciting and inspirational education.

What sets our school apart is the individual attention, care and support that we are able to offer each child - sometimes being small has big benefits! We pride ourselves on our ability to nurture children's natural talents and develop the knowledge and skills they need for further development through a personalised approach to learning.

Our school is a safe and secure environment in which everyone can learn together and develop as individuals. We believe that by working alongside parents and the community we can develop a real partnership to benefit our children.

We are currently extending our sporting provision and now have both netball and football teams competing in the local leagues. Annually, we take the older children away on residential trips to support the development of outdoor and adventurous learning. We also use a range of music providers to teach the children keyboard and brass.

Children in Reception benefit from outstanding teaching and make rapid progress in their learning. The early years programme is splendidly planned, resourced and managed.

Ofsted 2017

# RECEPTION

Our Reception class is our Early Year Foundation Stage, the youngest class in our school. The children are carefully nurtured and know that everyone is around to help them learn and make new friends. This is where their learning begins.

Children learn using many different learning styles: visual resources, sensory objects and through play. In maths, children learn to count, to add and take away numbers and explore patterns and shape. Children learn English skills through communication and language activities such as role play.

Children will also learn the alphabet and high frequency words through phonics and begin to learn to write, how to hold a pencil and form letters correctly. Other subjects are taught through play, exploration and our exciting 'WOW' topics.

Reception children have an older buddy in school. They help the children to settle in and show them where things are in school. Over their first year in school the buddies work together on many exciting activities and (often) form strong friendships.







This is a school  
rooted in  
ambition  
and high expectations, where  
everyone is encouraged to be  
the best they can be.

**Mrs Martindale**  
Year 1 & 2 teacher

# YEARS 1 & 2

In our Year 1 and 2 Key Stage 1 class, children build upon the many experiences they gained in reception, whilst introducing them gradually to a more formal structure for learning.

In this class, we aim to develop children's abilities and confidence as readers, writers, communicators and mathematicians. In maths, children build upon number recognition, begin to partition numbers and are introduced to calculations. They continue to learn about shape, learn to tell the time and work with weight and measurement. Children's English skills are developing rapidly too, they learn to read and write more complex sentences and are taught basic grammar and punctuation.

Children are also taught other subjects in creative and fun ways including: geography, art, design and technology, science, physical education, information communications technology, music, history and religious education.



I love my class because there is a really friendly atmosphere and we always work in teams to help each other learn.

**Sophie**

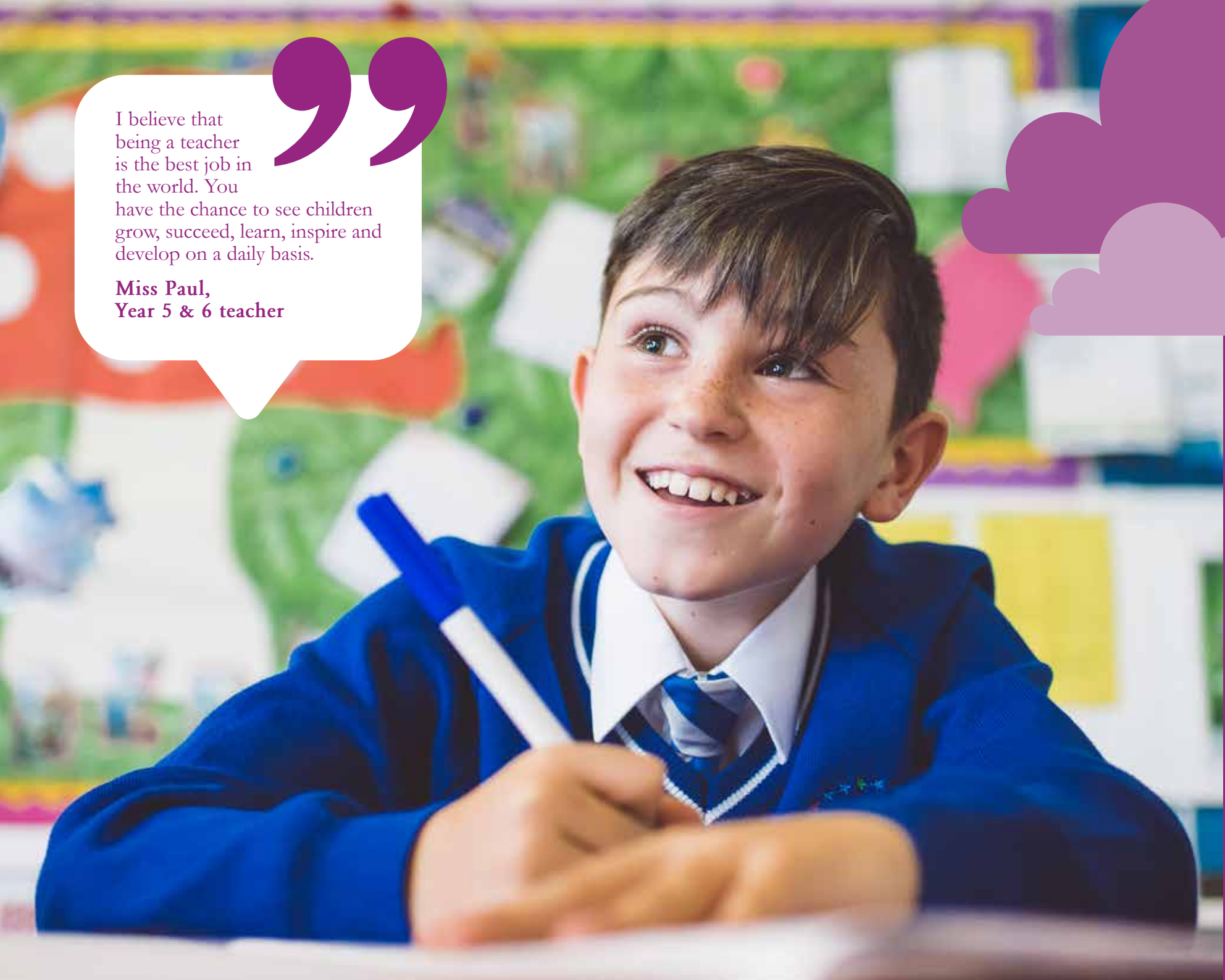
# YEARS 3 & 4

This is our lower juniors Year 3 and 4 class. This is an exciting time as children are introduced to new activities such as modern foreign languages. Maths and English are taught every morning in our class, as well as daily grammar and spelling activities. In the afternoon, we teach the foundation subjects.

Children are becoming more mature learners where basic skills become a big focus. In maths, children learn to calculate in their head; this is known as mental maths. They learn to calculate units of time, convert units of measure and learn the times tables up to 12x12. In English, children are able to read a much wider range of texts. For most children, reading has moved on from decoding words to understanding the meaning, and they are able to recognise features and styles. Writing skills are taught and children are able to use a broader vocabulary to create characters and dialogue, and more interesting adjectives to describe their settings.







I believe that being a teacher is the best job in the world. You have the chance to see children grow, succeed, learn, inspire and develop on a daily basis.

**Miss Paul,**  
Year 5 & 6 teacher

# YEARS 5 & 6

As children enter upper Key Stage 2, we really start to see them blossom into the young adults that they will soon become. Each individual pupil has their own skill set that is supported. There is a much more specific focus and dedication within the core subjects of maths, writing, reading and science than in previous year groups, as we prepare for Standard Attainment Tests (SATs), yet we aim to make all of the learning that takes place as personalised and enjoyable for the children as we can; every single day!

Meeting authors and illustrators such as Adam Bushnell and Liz Million are among some of the many ways in which we bring literacy to life at Browney Academy. We introduce children to books that will ignite their imagination and their love of reading; the Harry Potter collection and books by authors such as Michael Morpurgo and David Walliams are amongst our favourites. Children are encouraged to read at home as often as possible, through their own choice of authors and genres from our extensive library, which increases their vocabulary and spelling skills to add to the valuable work that we carry out in class.

Many children find their time in this class catalytic, as they find resources, skills and abilities within themselves that previously lay undiscovered. Acting as role models and buddies to the younger children in school, they build a sense of pride and an ability to nurture, whilst their independent tasks and duties such as librarians, playground leaders and monitors instil a sense of self-belief and achievement. Pupils often find this time of primary education the most memorable of their childhood – we certainly remember each and every one of them on their journey through education.



# OUR LEARNING ETHOS

## AMBITION AND ACHIEVEMENT

- Ensuring success for all
- Having high aspirations for achievement and future success
- Celebrating all achievements
- Providing and expecting the best for and from all pupils

## POSITIVE ATTITUDES

- Providing good role models
- Encouraging respect and good manners
- Expecting outstanding behaviour
- Developing excellent communication and social skills
- Having high expectations
- Developing relationships

## UNIQUE CHILD

- Taking care of the whole child in a small and personalised environment
- Providing life experiences
- Ensuring equality
- Encouraging child initiated learning
- Developing independent learners
- Understanding that every child deserves the best



for TOMORROW  
is doing your best  
**TODAY.**

at someone's  
cloud.

# SCHOOL INFORMATION

Before your child starts with us, you will be given several opportunities to visit the school in order to feel fully prepared for school life at Browney Academy.

Special meetings are organised allowing you to meet with staff and become familiar with school procedures so that, as a parent, you feel at ease with the transition into primary education.

The school day starts at 8.50am and ends at 3.15pm.

School uniform consists of:

- grey skirt/trousers
- white shirt
- blue school cardigan or jumper
- school tie
- sensible shoes

At Browney Academy we offer wrap around care from 8.15am - 4.15pm every day. This includes a breakfast club and a sports club in the afternoon. As well as this we also offer a range of exciting extra curricular activities and clubs to enhance and enrich children's development including football, gymnastics, art and more.





“  
At Browney,  
we are a family.  
We work  
closely with parents and the  
community and pride ourselves  
on knowing each child  
individually.

Catherine Harris, Headteacher

# HOW TO APPLY...

If you would like your child to attend Browney Academy you will need to complete an online application form by visiting:

**[www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions](http://www.durham.gov.uk/schooladmissions)**

If you do not have access to the internet, you can complete a paper application by contacting County Durham Local Authority on **03000 265 896**.

The deadline for applications is in January (see admissions website for the exact date).





# NORTH EAST LEARNING TRUST

In March 2014 Browney Academy joined the North East Learning Trust, a highly successful multi-academy education Trust which spans the region.

The Trust's vision is simple and shared by all schools who join the family; that 'every child experiences excellence every day'.

The Trust's founding school, The Academy at Shotton Hall, has achieved great success for their children by securing some of the best outcomes in the country. In 2016 the school achieved the best GCSE results in County Durham and they have also been awarded two consecutive outstanding judgments from Ofsted.

Shotton Hall is also a National Teaching School training the next generation of teachers and ensuring the highest standards of teaching are instilled from the outset. This means the Trust can access a steady stream of consistently high quality staff to meet workforce needs across its schools.

Being part of the Trust gives Browney Academy access to outstanding leaders who are involved in the regional and national development of education. The Trust CEO sits on the Regional Schools Commissioning Board. The CEO and Deputy CEOs are all National Leaders of Education and practising Ofsted inspectors.

Browney Academy will also have access to a wide network of specialist teachers and other experienced professionals to support them on the road to outstanding.





**Browney Academy**

Harle Street  
Browney  
County Durham  
DH7 8HX

*browney@durhamlearning.net*

**0191 378 0562**

**[www.browneyacademy.co.uk](http://www.browneyacademy.co.uk)**

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**North East  
Learning Trust**

