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The School Staff

Head Teacher:	Mrs V Brown	SENCO:	Mrs S Stowe
Assistant Head Teachers:	Mrs P J Taylor Mrs S Duckett	Pupil Well Being Co-ordinator:	Mrs D Wright
Business Manager:	Mrs G Greenaway	ICT Co-ordinator:	Mrs S Speakman
Classroom Teaching Staff:	Mrs S Birch Miss L Bolton Mr M Clegg Mr K Frankish Miss E Johnson Mr B Laycock Miss K Lysons Mrs S Mitchell Mrs K Morgan Mrs K Nuttall Miss A Robinson Mr M Sharples Mrs E Smallridge Mrs S Stowe Miss J Wormald Mrs M Faux Miss G Wright	Classroom Support Staff:	Mrs G Ansbro Mrs B Begum Mrs S Berresford Miss C Braysford Mrs S Followell Miss W Dawson Miss V Gregson Mrs J Grimshaw Mrs I Haq Mr S Jones Mrs L Joyce Mrs D Loftus Mrs R Martin Mrs D Mears Mrs Z Percival Miss S Halliwell Miss V Radomskij Miss S Riley Miss B Gullick Mrs R Thomson Miss Z Zamir Mrs A Sandiford Ms L Nolan Miss J Starkey
		Site Manager:	Mr M Mears
		Catering Manager:	Miss L Hawsworth

Our School



Avondale School has a prestigious history. It was built in 1930 as an all girls Secondary School and was responsible for educating a generation of young ladies in Darwen.

The school became a Primary School in 1965 for pupils aged 4-11. This Secondary School heritage means that the building is spacious and well equipped. A large hall with stage and a gym are just some of the prominent features. The school also has extensive playing fields nearby which are used for many of the schools extra-curricular and sporting activities.

The school has enjoyed an excellent reputation over many years. Staff are totally committed to the children, the school and the community and this was evidenced when Ofsted visited our school in July 2023. The school was judged to be 'Good' overall.

As a school we had already self-evaluated ourselves and the Inspector agreed with ALL of our judgements.

Our judgments were:

EYFS: **Outstanding**

Behaviour and Attitudes: **Outstanding**

Quality of Education: **Good**

Personal Development: **Outstanding**

Leadership and Management: **Outstanding**

Overall Effectiveness: **Good**

The Inspector said:

- There is a strong safeguarding culture.
- Pupils are calm, respectful, kind and have positive relationships with each other.
- Leaders are ambitious for all pupils, including those with SEND and those that are disadvantaged.
- Pupils develop and achieve well so that they are prepared for each stage of their education.
- Teachers use subject knowledge effectively to deliver the curriculum.
- Leaders have prioritised teaching of reading and staff deliver phonics effectively so that most pupils are well prepared for their next stage.
- Pupils are safe and happy.
- In lessons, pupils enjoy learning without interruption.

All key factors go together to make Avondale a special place for... **learning, smiling and remembering.**

Our Vision & Our Aims

Our Vision

We want our children to be proud of themselves, Avondale school and the community we serve. Avondale school has a positive ethos which includes mutual respect, supportive relationships and encourages pupil voice. Reading and language are at the heart of our Avondale curriculum. Pupils are provided with memorable learning experiences, through a balanced progressive curriculum. Through our 'Avondale Adventure' we promote high expectations for behaviour and achievement. Our aim is for all pupils to be educated citizens, thus making a positive contribution to the community. This will help get them ready for life in a diverse, developmental and ever-changing world.

Our Aims

We are committed to developing a learning environment which is:

- Happy
- Safe
- Caring
- Exciting
- And full of opportunities.

Avondale is dedicated to pursuing excellence through:

- A stimulating and well-resourced environment.
- Enthusiastic and energising staff.
- The development and encouragement of everyone at Avondale.
- Raising self-esteem and awareness of others.
- Encouraging respect.

We aim to deliver an exciting and relevant curriculum through:

- Excellent and enthusiastic teaching.
- Innovation
- Encouraging reflection and consideration for others.
- Providing opportunities to broaden creativity and self-worth.
- Celebrating achievements with each member of our school community.



School Policy

Special Needs

All pupils have their own special needs, and will work at a pace largely dictated by their own ability. For this reason much of their school work will be programmed to the individual pupil's level within the class. This is particularly evident in English and Mathematics.

Special Educational Needs

If any pupil has special educational, behavioural or medical needs, the school will do its utmost to provide for these. Class teachers will normally try to meet the needs of all children, through high quality teaching, as they help them to learn. However, when a teacher feels that a child has special educational needs (SEN), the SENCo ("Special Needs Co-ordinator") will work with the class teacher to draw up, monitor and review special educational programmes for the child. The SENCo leads a team of support staff who run intervention programmes, which help pupils to access the National Curriculum programme of studies at the appropriate level. It may be that a child's SEN requires an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP), which is a promise by Children's Services to give the child extra help. In this case, with parental permission, the Educational Psychologist may need to assess the child's needs so that special outside help can be provided. Parents will play an important role in this process and will be kept informed at all times. Parents' comments will always be sought and valued at Avondale. Any child with special medical needs will be given the best possible care by staff, who in turn co-operate with parents and other outside agencies. If parents have any concern about their child's progress, they should initially contact the class teacher.

Religious Education

Avondale Primary School follows the Local Authority's agreed syllabus. RE contributes dynamically to children's education in school by provoking challenging questions about meaning and purpose in life. Our Avondale children will learn about the main religions of the world, about people who don't follow any religion as well as learning about respect and tolerance and how to agree or disagree respectfully.





Relationships & Sexual Education

Our PSHE curriculum promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of pupils, preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life. We aim to provide our pupils with an age appropriate RSE programme that is tailored to their physical and emotional maturity. Relationship and sex education is part of the national curriculum, though parents have the right to remove children from the 'sexual' aspects of the lessons (except for those parts included in statutory Science national curriculum). Support from parents is great and a full copy of RSE lessons covered in each year group is available on the school website.

Collective Worship

Avondale School has no affiliation with any Church or religious organisation. Key principles covered include respect, tolerance, patience, kindness, self control and peace. Collective worship takes place every day and all religions are valued, as is diversity and individuality. Due to the size of the school, separate assemblies are conducted for both KS1 and KS2 pupils with whole school assemblies on Monday's and Friday's. The contents of these assemblies are broadly Christian in character. Assemblies also support our school PSHE (Personal, Social & Health Education) scheme. Parents may exercise the right to withdraw their children from these assemblies if they so wish by informing the Headteacher of their decision.

Pupil Premium

Pupil Premium funding is given to publicly funded schools for raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils and closing the gap with their peers. The Government has identified different groups of pupils eligible for the Pupil Premium Grant. These include pupils who have been entitled to free school meals at any point in the last 6 years (known as Ever 6 FSM) and looked after children. Funding is also provided for service children. Whilst funds are largely used to support learning they are also used to develop the 'whole child' and include activities designed to improve self-esteem, behaviour, aspirations and attitudes to learning. In making provision for socially disadvantaged pupils, we recognise that not all pupils who receive FSM will be socially disadvantaged. The school also recognises that not all pupils who are socially disadvantaged are registered or qualify for FSM.

Having Fun - Staying Safe



Creative Curriculum

The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all children. We believe that children should be 'active learners', fully involved in their own learning. A strong emphasis on investigative and expressive work ensures that our children are highly motivated and confident.

Keeping Safe

Children learn about hazards in their local area. The dangers of deep water, canals, busy roads and fire are constantly stressed to them. Visitors from the road safety team, police and fire brigades confirm and extend these messages.

Extra Curricular

Our extra-curricular programme is extremely comprehensive. Sporting achievement is a high priority and the number of clubs for football, netball, cross-country, multisports, cricket and swimming to name but a few, reflect this. However, music, dance and drama are also hugely popular with the pupils, so we have two choirs and a number of dance, drama and other clubs.

Forest Schools

At Avondale we have a forest school area where children take part in, and gain a love for, outdoor learning. Over the year all children get an opportunity to engage in forest school sessions. We also regularly visit the local woods for our sessions. During forest school, children may:

- Build dens, light fires and build shelters
- Try out rope swings and paddle in the water
- Forage and cook on an open fire
- Complete outdoor crafts & games
- HAVE FUN!

Behave Well

Learn Well, Behave Well, Enjoy Success

- Good manners and respect for other people and their property is of paramount importance and the key to success in all walks of life.
- High standards of behaviour are important to maintain the stable and happy atmosphere in the school.
- If behaviour problems occur parents are asked to discuss the situation with our pupil wellbeing team, the Behaviour Lead or with the Headteacher with a view to improving the situation. At this point total support for the school is expected.
- In extreme cases a period of exclusion from the school for the offending pupil may occur for serious instances of misbehaviour. This may be at dinner time or for the whole school day.

Anti Bullying Policy

Bullying at Avondale School will not be tolerated in any form whatsoever, either verbally or physically. We appreciate that name calling, constant teasing and taunting can be just as disturbing as physical assault. Staff are always vigilant and deal with such incidents swiftly and firmly. If we receive a complaint from parents about bullying we will investigate it within 24 hours and involve the parents of both parties if necessary. Bullying is extremely rare at Avondale and if everyone works together we will keep it that way.

Parents are asked to:

Listen to their children and contact the school if they have any concerns. However, parents need to be aware that every disagreement that children have should not be labelled bullying. We rely upon the common sense of parents to discriminate between childish play and genuine nastiness. If you are in doubt ask the school for advice.



School Rules

Avondale Adventure

As children complete their Avondale Adventure, we ask that everyone follows our school values. Everyone at Avondale must:

- Respect one another, showing kindness, courtesy and good manners.
- Make the right choice and take responsibility for their own actions and any consequences without making excuses. Consider the needs of others at all times.
- Make the most of learning and use lesson times fully, never stealing anyone else's learning time as everyone has the right to do well at Avondale.
- Be kind to everyone - no one has the right to hurt any other person by word, thought or deed.
- Do your best in all aspects of school life. Move around school in a safe and sensible way. Take every opportunity you are given.
- Be resilient - keep on going, even when things can be a bit tricky. If at first you don't succeed try, try and try again. Sometimes we learn best when we make a mistake.



All children are ambassadors of the school, so these rules apply whenever children are wearing their uniform and wherever this may be.



Every Child Matters at Avondale

We want our children to be healthy:

- Healthy food is always on our school menus.
- Exercise is a big part of our school life.
- Children should bring water bottles into school to drink water throughout the day.

We want our children to stay safe:

- Health and safety is a major priority at our school.
- Children learn about balancing danger and risk in safe environments.

We want our children to enjoy and achieve:

- We have high expectations of all children.
- We celebrate success at all levels.

We want our children to make a positive contribution:

- We use excellent role models to inspire our children.
- We value community involvement and unselfish behaviour highly.

We want our children to achieve economic well-being:

- We teach children the importance of hard work.
- We teach children the importance of a resilient attitude applied to creative thought.

Safeguarding & Child Protection

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

- All school staff are trained in safeguarding and are aware of warning signs of abuse and neglect.
- Staff will report any disclosures from children or issues of concern to the designated staff.
- Parents will be informed of any such concerns at the earliest opportunity.
- In extreme cases the school is legally obliged to contact Social Services prior to informing parents. Thankfully, this is a rare occurrence but sadly not unprecedented.



Every Child Matters at Avondale

Equality

Avondale Primary School duly respects the human rights of all our pupils and staff and pledges to provide equal opportunities for all its pupils, staff and other members of the school community. The School will pursue its equality objectives to eliminate unlawful discrimination and harassment; promote equality of opportunity; and promote good relations and positive attitudes between people of diverse backgrounds in all its activities. The School is committed to equality principles, and will work consistently to ensure that all pupils and staff are encouraged to achieve their full potential; a culture of respect for others is engendered and differences between people are recognised and celebrated. The school will endeavour to create a community where pupils are well prepared for life in a diverse, multicultural society.

Sweets, Toys and Damaged/lost Equipment

Our school is committed to the healthy school standards so we have a NO SWEETS policy. All Foundation Stage and KS1 children are provided with a piece of fruit as part of the national fruit scheme. Pupils may also bring a piece of fruit from home. Toys and personal belongings are NOT permitted in school. Any toys brought to school will be confiscated and parents will have to collect them from the office.

- Parents will be asked to meet the cost of replacing any damaged or lost books or equipment.
- Parents may also be asked to meet the cost of repairing or replacing damaged property when the damage or loss is the result of a child's behaviour.

Language

School sees language and oracy as very important aspects of the curriculum. We are a Voice 21 Oracy School and our curriculum is underpinned with enhanced language opportunities. All children are assessed using the Wellcomm Language Assessment tool, so that we can provide bespoke support where it is needed. In addition, we also employ a Speech Therapist to work with our children.

Medical Matters

The school needs to be made aware of any relevant issues concerning a child's health, learning difficulties and home circumstances. Any information given by parents will be treated as confidential. It is important that parents provide an emergency telephone number so that we can contact them if their child is taken ill at school. The school must be informed of any changes to the emergency contact details.

Diarrhoea and Vomiting - If your child has **sickness and diarrhoea** please keep them at home for at least 24 hours after the symptoms stop. If you need any advice, please contact the school office.

Every Child Matters at Avondale

Medicines Are Not Permitted in School

However, there will be occasions when a child may need to take a prescribed medication during the school day. Should this arise then the following policy is in place:

- If a child requires antibiotics 4 times a day then the school will agree to administer the medicine.
- If your child requires antibiotics to be given 3 times a day then these must be administered at home.
- Any medication must be brought to the school office where it will be stored in a locked fridge.
- The medicine must be clearly labelled with the child's name and class.
- A medical form must be completed and signed by the parent giving instructions and permission for the medicine to be administered.
- School cannot accept any responsibility for missed medication.
- It is the responsibility of the parent to ensure the medicine is collected from the school office when needed. Medication will not be sent home with a child.

Emergency Procedures

Emergency fire procedures are in place and termly drills take place. School has a lockdown procedure that can be implemented when necessary.

Absenteeism

For safeguarding reasons should a child be absent on any day the school **MUST** have received either a telephone call or other communication before 9.00am giving the reason for absence. The school will check all absences for which a reason has not been given. Parents please note that holidays should not be taken during the school year other than in exceptional circumstances and only then by application to the Headteacher. Avondale School averages >96% attendance - which is in line with national figures.

Following Government guidelines we **cannot** give permission for holidays within term time and parents may be subject to a fine should they choose to do this.



Parent - School Links



Arrival at School

The school day begins at 8.45 am. In the morning the Foundation Stage children may be brought directly into their classroom. The doors to the EYFS Unit are open from 8.40 am. Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children are expected to arrive punctually in time for school starting. Doors into school open at 8.35 am, when morning work will be available until 8.45 am. At this time the bell will sound and the register will be taken. If your child arrives late then they must enter school via the main office.

Collection from School

The school day ends at 3.15 pm. At the end of the school day the foundation stage and Year 1 children can be collected from their classrooms by a **named adult**. Year 2 and KS2 children should be collected from the school yard. Parents are responsible for making arrangements for the safe collection of their child at the end of the school day. School should be informed of any changes to the usual routine.



Policy Statement on Homework

At the beginning of the new academic year from September, all parents will receive information from the class teacher informing them of the regular requirements concerning homework. We are expecting that all our Avondale children will read five times per week (10-15 minutes five times a week for KS1 and 15-20 minutes five times a week for KS2). This can include their school reading book, library book, a free read book or even a bedtime story. Spellings will be set online (Purple Mash for Y1-4 and Google Classrooms for Y5 & 6) every Friday to practise for a spelling review the following Friday. Maths work, with a focus on number and times tables, will be set online via My Maths every Friday to be completed for the following Friday. It is an expectation that all homework set is completed by all children. If you are struggling with the homework set; getting your child to engage or don't have access to online devices, then please contact your child's class teacher and we will look at how we can support you and your child.

Communication with Parents

There are regular Parents' Evenings where parents are able to discuss their child's progress with the teacher concerned. If any problems arise between these meetings, please contact the school. We will be pleased to help. In addition, parents are frequently invited to Open Evenings, Assemblies and Concerts held throughout the year. Regular newsletters keep parents up to date with the day-to-day operation of the school. Also, we update the website regularly and use a text messaging service to keep parents updated with events. Please therefore notify the school office of any changes to your telephone number or email address.

School Visits

Educational visits are arranged each year for most year groups. All children should take part in these events, as they are an important part of school life and enrich the children's learning. It is important to note that no compulsory charges may be made for these visits. Instead, voluntary contributions are sought from parents. Unless the majority of parents agree to contribute towards the cost of each trip in question then the trip may not take place.

Looking Good at Avondale

School Uniform

There is a school uniform for Avondale School. Embroidered sweatshirts, cardigans, polo shirts and PE hoodies can be obtained from Grays Schoolwear in Blackburn. They offer an online ordering, and a click and collect service. If parents do opt to make their own arrangements to purchase the uniform the shades are white, bright red and grey. The uniform for all children is:

- White polo shirt
- Bright red sweatshirt/sweater/cardigan
- Light grey skirt/pinafore (knee length)/trousers
- Summer red and white checked dress
- White socks when wearing skirts/pinafores/dress
- Dark socks when wearing trousers
- Black robust shoes (these should be flat/low heeled and suitable for playing out). No trainers please.
- Children in Year 6 wear a blue jumper/cardigan.



Special Clothing

Parents are informed at the beginning of the school year the times of gym, sport, swimming etc. when special clothing is required at school for their children in each particular class. Parents are also asked to ensure that their children have the correct clothing in school on the specified days. In addition, all classes undertake art activities and it is therefore ESSENTIAL that pupils are provided with an old shirt etc. which can be worn over their clothing. Overalls are not provided on a class basis and damage to clothing can no longer be reimbursed by the school.

P.E. Kit

It is **compulsory** for all children to wear a plain white t-shirt, black shorts and black pumps. Non branded black leggings/tracksuits can be worn in winter and for outdoor activities. ALL clothing should be clearly labelled with the child's name.

Please Help Us

No hair gel, 'fashion haircuts', coloured hair, nail varnish or trainers. It stops arguments between pupils, and unhealthy competition about fashion awareness.



Jewellery

No jewellery in school. Ear studs only are allowed but they must be either removed or covered with plasters (provided from home) for P.E. and/or swimming lessons.

Seasonal Weather

Please ensure that sunscreen is applied before school in the summer months and that your child has a sun hat. In winter children should wear a suitable coat, hat and gloves. Parents are welcome to provide suncream, though children should be able to apply it themselves.

School Policy

Lunchtime

There are three choices:

- School Meals - a choice of menu is available, including vegetarian. All children in KS1 (Reception, Year 1 and Year 2) are eligible for free school meals if they would like one. We currently charge £12.50 per week for KS2 payable in advance, each Monday.
- Packed Lunch brought from home (including a drink) - for safety reasons do not send any bottles, glass flasks, etc. Sweets and/or chocolate bars are not permitted as food items in a packed lunch.
- Return home for lunch - when parents take full responsibility.

The school is committed to healthy eating principles.



Complaints

The school has an official complaints procedure. This enables parents to let the school know formally if they are unhappy with anything we do. Most complaints never reach the official stage and are sorted out amicably by good communication between both parties. Please contact us if you need more information.

Lost Property

The school cannot accept responsibility for lost property, but we regularly sort out items and return them to their rightful owners. Please help us by not sending children to school in expensive 'branded' products - see uniform policy. **To assist this process all items must be named clearly.** Five minutes spent marking coats/jumpers etc can save much upset for children and parents. Unnamed items are kept in our lost property box for a term and then disposed of.

School Results 2026

End of Early Years - Baseline Assessment

Children in Early Years are assessed using the EYFS profile. This profile summarises the pupil's attainment in relation to the 17 early learning goals (ELG) descriptors. Early Year's staff carry out assessments which are primarily based on observing a pupil's daily activities and events. In the final term of the year a review of all information from all sources is used to make a judgement for each pupil. The judgement will say whether the pupil's learning and development is:

- Not yet at the level of development expected at the end of the EYFS (emerging).
- Best described by the level of development expected at the end of the EYFS (expected).
- Beyond the level of development expected at the end of the EYFS (exceeding).

% OF CHILDREN AT THE EXPECTED LEVEL AT THE END OF THE EYFS	
SCHOOL	NATIONAL AVERAGE
64%	72%

Year 1 Phonics Screening Test

83% of pupils in Year 1 attained the expected standard in the Phonics Screening test, national figure stands at 80%

End of KS1 - Year 2 results

At the end of Year 2 our Avondale children undertake the non-statutory end of Keystage One assessments. These assessments reflect the more challenging National Curriculum which was introduced in 2014. The children are assessed against the end of Keystage expectations in reading, writing and maths and are awarded the gradings.

Working towards the expected standards - Not at the expected standard yet but working within KS1 expectations.

Expected Standard: Working at the expected standard for a child at the end of Year 2.

Greater Depth: Working at greater depth within the KS1 expectations, with a strong understanding of the curriculum.

END OF KS1 RESULTS	SCHOOL	NATIONAL AVERAGE
READING (Expected Standard)	85%	70%
READING (Greater Depth)	26%	18%
WRITING (Expected Standard)	76%	63%
WRITING (Greater Depth)	11%	9%
MATHS (Expected Standard)	76%	71%
MATHS (Greater Depth)	26%	16%

School Results 2026 (Continued)

Multiplication Tables Check

53% of our children scored 100% in the tables check.

80% of our children scored 22 or above in the tables check.

Average score for 2026 was **22.5** - emerging national for 2025 **21.6**.

End of Key Stage Two (Year 6)

The results of the SATs (tests) are reported using a scaled score, where a score of 100 represents the expected standard, and a scaled score of 110 - 120 means that a child is working at a higher level of attainment. The highest possible score is 120 and the lowest is 80.

Children were awarded one of the following Teacher Assessment judgements in writing:

Expected Standard: Working at the expected standard for a child at the end of Year 6.

Greater Depth: Working at greater depth within the expected standard, with a strong understanding of the curriculum.

END OF KS2 RESULTS	SCHOOL	NATIONAL AVERAGE
READING, WRITING & MATHS (Expected Standard)	72%	63%
READING, WRITING & MATHS (High level of attainment)	12%	8%
READING (Expected Standard)	84%	75%
READING (High Level Of Attainment)	32%	30%
READING (Average Scaled Score)	106.9	106.0
WRITING (Expected Standard)	77%	73%
WRITING (Greater Depth)	16%	13%
SPELLING, PUNCTUATION & GRAMMAR (Expected Standard)	79%	74%
SPELLING, PUNCTUATION & GRAMMAR (High Level Of Attainment)	44%	30%
SPELLING, PUNCTUATION & GRAMMAR (Average Scaled Score)	108.2	105.0
MATHS (Expected Standard)	86%	75%
MATHS (High Level Of Attainment)	30%	27%
MATHS (Average Scaled Score)	106.9	105.0

Governing Body



Co-opted Governors

Mr Iain Schofield (Chair)
Mrs Emma Lowe (Vice Chair)
Mr Mike Smith
Mrs Katie Holden
Ms Jade Johnson
Mrs Karen Morgan
Mr Paul Curry

Authority Governor

Ms Natalie Banks

Parent Governors

Mrs Helen Brimelow
Mr Chris Hill

Staff Governors

Mrs Vicky Brown
Mr Ben Laycock





Avondale primary school

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