



Co-op Academy
Walkden

Prospectus

Contents

Welcome	4
Co-op Academies Trust	7
Ways of Being	8
Year 6 Transition	11
Teaching & Learning	12
Our Curriculum	15
Community Projects	16
Pupils	19
Extra Curricular	20
Careers	22
Pastoral	25
Safeguarding & SEND	26
Attendance	29
Ofsted	30
What Next?	33
Contact	34

Welcome

Dear Parents and Carers,

Thank you for your interest in Co-op Academy Walkden for the next stage in your child's education. Choosing a school where your child can be happy, safe, and able to reach their full potential is incredibly important.

At Co-op Academy Walkden, our pupils access the very best education through a truly broad and balanced curriculum and a wealth of additional opportunities. We're ambitious and we want our pupils to be the best versions of themselves, to be successful and to secure positive futures. We achieve this by rooting everything we do in our strong co-operative values.

Our curriculum is delivered by dedicated, passionate teachers and support staff. We strive to nurture a love of learning and to equip our pupils with the knowledge and skills to reach their full potential. We have a diverse range of extra-curricular clubs, educational trips and inspirational guest speakers. This helps pupils to become well-rounded and knowledgeable members of the community.

As part of Co-op Academies Trust, we are challenged to create outstanding learning communities - to maintain the highest standards and deliver the best outcomes for all pupils. Throughout its 150 year history, Co-op has maintained its focus as a force for good in the community. In our Academy, it's our mission to be a force for good as a centre of excellence in Walkden and the surrounding area.

I hope you find the information in this prospectus useful. However, visiting our state-of-the-art facilities, and meeting our amazing staff in person, is the best way to get to know us.

I look forward to meeting you.

Matt Hacker | Principal

A man with a beard and short hair, wearing a dark grey suit, white shirt, and a pink tie, is walking towards the camera in a school hallway. He is smiling. The hallway has wooden floors, green lockers on the left, and large windows on the right. The background is slightly blurred. Large, faint, grey circular graphics are overlaid on the image.

Our pupils access the very best education through a truly broad and balanced curriculum and a wealth of additional opportunities.



Co-op Academies Trust

We are part of Co-op Academies Trust, a group of academies united by the values underpinning the co-operative movement; self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity and solidarity.

Co-op Values

The Co-op's commitment to education is nothing new, when the co-operative movement started in the mid-nineteenth century, it provided educational activities for members and their families. To this day, education is one of the underpinning principles of the movement globally.

The Co-op has a clear purpose of "championing a better way of doing business for you and your communities". It is owned and governed by its members and membership is open to everyone who shares the Co-op values and principles.

We show these values by working together for everyone's benefit and playing a full part in the community. As an ethical leader, The Co-op exists not just to serve its communities but to help them live their best lives.

The Trust

Our sponsors work with us to support the Academy in making key decisions and in improving standards for everyone. Representatives from the Co-op sit alongside parents/carers, staff and other members of our governing body.

What makes our Trust unique is that we are sponsored by the Co-op Group. That close relationship means that we benefit from all the business expertise that has seen the Co-op grow to one of the most respected, successful businesses in the country.



Ways of Being

No matter what we do, they are the way that we do it...

**Do
what
matters
most**

What matters most is ensuring that our pupils achieve the best possible outcomes.

We make a positive difference to our children through showing exemplary professional behaviours.

**Be
yourself,
always**

We bring our best self, and we each contribute a bit of our own unique personality and respect others for doing the same.

We understand that we are all unique and bring our own strengths to work.



Show you care

We care about our pupils,
their parents, our colleagues and
wider communities, now and
for the future.

Our focus remains on doing our
best for our children and giving
them the best start in life.

Succeed together

Co-operating is what
makes us different; we are
better and stronger when
we work together.

We recognise that what
we achieve is achieved
together.



Year 6 Transition

We care about making each pupils' transition from primary to secondary as smooth and enjoyable as possible.

Once you're allocated a place with us, we will contact you and your primary school to meet your Year 6 teacher and begin your exciting journey.

Before September you will visit us on our Transition Days, where you will get to attend lessons, meet new teachers, and make new friends. It helps you experience a day in the life here at Walkden!

Our values underpin everything we do, including your transition into secondary:

- We'll do what matters most in supporting you throughout your transition
- We encourage you to be yourself, always, helping you discover your unique talents and strengths
- We show we care by providing a safe learning environment and taking time to listen to you and your primary school at every step
- We will succeed together - helping you to develop your love of learning, create independence and academic self-discipline

Choosing the right secondary school is one of the most important decisions you can make. If you haven't yet visited us, we welcome you to come and see the Academy for yourself and experience all we have to offer.

Do you have any questions?

Email walkden.transition@coopacademies.co.uk for support.
We look forward to meeting you in the future.

Teaching & Learning

We focus on building strong relationships with pupils and creating classrooms that are structured, purposeful and engaging.

At Co-op Academy Walkden, our Teaching and Learning Principles are built on a belief that every pupil can achieve excellence. We create classrooms where pupils are challenged, supported and inspired to develop the knowledge, skills and confidence needed for success in school and beyond.

Lessons are designed to ensure pupils think deeply, participate fully and take ownership of their learning. We believe every pupil should have the opportunity to contribute, practise, make mistakes and improve in a positive and purposeful learning environment.

Our teachers are experts. Through strong subject knowledge, careful preparation and responsive teaching, staff provide clear explanations, purposeful practice and high-quality feedback that help pupils overcome misconceptions and achieve success.

Our shared approach to teaching is supported by Teach Like a Champion, a collection of evidence-informed techniques that help create calm, focused classrooms where learning time is maximised.

These strategies provide consistency for pupils while allowing teachers to use their expertise to adapt their teaching to the needs of their classes. We revisit knowledge regularly to strengthen understanding and ensure learning is secure in long-term memory. Literacy and oracy are embedded across the curriculum, with explicit strategies to develop vocabulary, confidence and the ability to communicate ideas with precision.

Inclusive excellence is central to our approach. We use assessment, feedback and targeted support to ensure every pupil can access ambitious learning, regardless of their starting point. Where pupils need additional support, our strategic approach to literacy, numeracy and intervention provides extra layers of guidance, including opportunities for small-group and one-to-one tuition.

We are equally committed to developing our teachers. Professional development is at the heart of our culture: staff refine their practice, collaborate with colleagues and learn from examples of excellence. We believe great teaching is never finished; by investing in our teachers, we provide pupils with the best possible learning experience.





**Teachers use their
expert knowledge
to help pupils build
their understanding
of key concepts
over time.**

Ofsted 2023



**Pupils engage
enthusiastically in
their learning and
are well motivated
to succeed.**

Ofsted 2023



Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to do more than just teach subjects; it's a journey that promotes confidence, builds character, and inspires a lifelong love of learning.

We believe in providing a broad range of educational experiences that empower every pupil to reach their full potential.

Our Key Stage 3 curriculum establishes strong foundations across core subjects while also developing a wide range of creative and practical skills and knowledge. This well-rounded approach ensures pupils are exposed to diverse learning experiences from the very start of their secondary education.

As pupils progress to Key Stage 4, their curriculum becomes more specialised. This allows them to tailor their studies to their individual strengths and interests, preparing them for future success in their chosen GCSE subjects and beyond.

We believe that a great education extends far beyond the classroom. Our commitment to character building is central to what we do. Through our dedicated Personal Development curriculum, as well as our pastoral care and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), we support pupils in becoming emotionally and socially confident young adults. These programs equip them with the essential transferable skills needed to thrive in both further education and the professional world.



Community Projects

Working for our community is what we do. And whilst we are creating better futures for the people around us, we are fully committed to demonstrating our Co-op Values.

We do what matters most by building positive relationships with our neighbours through sharing our events and activities with local community members.

We show we care by contributing to our community and charities through meaningful social action. We work closely with local charities, such as *Salford Step into Action* and *The Big Local*, to support families with school uniforms, food vouchers, Christmas gifts and prom wear. We also run awareness campaigns throughout the year, helping pupils to become equality pioneers.

Our pupils care about the people and the environment around them. We extend our outreach to the local community by carrying out community action, such as litter picks. We also have an active gardening and horticulture club and are very proud of our garden at RHS Bridgewater. This year, pupils will send personal messages, cards and presents to residents of Walkden Manor Care home at Christmas time.







**Leaders have cultivated
a kind and considerate
school community
where pupils feel
safe and happy.**

Ofsted 2023

Pupils

Student Council

Beyond empowering our pupils to become pioneers for change, we actively encourage them to take a central role in the development of their community.

To provide a platform for student voice and to embed Fundamental British Values, such as democracy and mutual respect, we maintain an active Student Council. The process begins within the Personal Development Tutor groups, where each tutor group elects an Ambassador.

From this wider representative pool, six students are elected to the Executive Student Council, which is led by our two Year 10 Head Students. These councils meet half-termly to discuss the matters most pertinent to their respective year groups. The Student Council is responsible for championing our school values, coordinating charitable initiatives, and acting as a vital bridge between the staff and the pupil body.

Student Leadership

Our pupils are future business leaders and pioneers of change.

We want our pupils to be ready for the challenges that their future careers might bring. This is why we encourage our pupils to develop their leadership skills.

Pupils have various leadership pathways available to embody the Co-op values. Opportunities include roles such as Prefects in Year 10, Well-being Ambassadors, Cadets, Sports Leaders, Anti-bullying Ambassadors, Literacy Ambassadors, and participation in other whole school groups that promote stewardship.

Pupils also have the opportunity to become ambassadors for extracurricular clubs, where they promote best practices and encourage participation in these activities among younger members of our community.

Extra Curricular

We are proud to offer a rich and varied programme of extra-curricular opportunities that support our pupils' personal development, wellbeing, and enjoyment of school life.

Beyond the classroom, pupils can explore new interests, develop key life skills, and form lasting friendships.

Our programme runs throughout the week and includes creative, academic, sporting, and community-based activities, ensuring there is something for everyone. Highlights include:

Creative and Performing Arts

Rock School, Musical Theatre Group, Expressive Arts Club, Drama Rehearsals, Choir, Steel Pans, DJ Club, Keyboard Club, and Art Club.

STEM and Academic Enrichment

STEM Club, Space Club, Computing Club, Computing Homework Club, 3D Club, History Club, Sociology Society, Bar Mock Trial, Languages Film Club, and British Sign Language.

Learning for Life

Chess Club, Dungeons & Dragons, Grow and Taste Club, Culinary Club, Craft and Homework Clubs, Library activities, and Young Green Britain.

Sports and Fitness

Football, Rugby, Netball, Dodgeball, Table Tennis, Badminton, Dance, Fitness, Bike Club, and Cadets.

Trips and Wider Opportunities

Educational and cultural trips, including theatre visits, fieldwork in cities, rivers, and coasts, as well as international visits such as CERN in Geneva.

Through these experiences, our pupils develop resilience, teamwork, creativity, and leadership, while gaining a real sense of belonging in our school community.

Cadets

Pupils in Years 8-11 are invited to join our Combined Cadet Force, currently offering an Army Cadets section. Membership provides a unique chance to develop confidence, leadership, teamwork, and communication skills in a supportive and structured environment.

Cadets take part in a wide range of activities, including:

- Fieldcraft and drills
- First aid training
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

In addition, pupils enjoy adventure training and the annual Easter camp, both of which offer exciting challenges and memorable experiences.



Careers

Our pupils access a high-quality careers education programme with up-to-date information and impartial advice to ensure they are well-prepared for their next steps.

Every pupil receives bespoke, one-to-one careers guidance, and careers education is deeply embedded across all areas of the curriculum. Students have access to a wealth of resources, including Unifrog, while the Co-op provides invaluable expertise and unique opportunities throughout the academic year. Furthermore, we regularly invite a diverse range of employers and successful alumni to lead interactive activities and workshops.

Our commitment to careers begins in Key Stage 3, where students complete five hours of 'Experience of the Workplace.' Starting in Year 7, this programme focuses on the development of vital transferable soft skills, such as communication, resilience, and independence. In Year 8, students engage in a 'Dragon's Den' project through the Design Technology curriculum, fostering entrepreneurship and innovation.

This is followed in Year 9 by our 'Careers Safari', which brings a wide range of industries into the school. During this event, students interact with professionals and undertake work-related tasks to gain a practical understanding of different sectors.

To ensure our provision is truly tailored, we rigorously track and monitor aspiration data from all students. This allows us to align their careers education to their specific interests and goals, creating a bespoke journey as they transition from KS3 into KS4. This foundation culminates in Year 10, where all pupils participate in external work experience. This immersive opportunity enables them to refine their employability skills and gain valuable, first-hand insight into the realities of their chosen career paths.





**Pupils are well
prepared for their
next steps in education,
employment or training.**

Ofsted 2023



**Behaviour around
the school, including
between lessons,
is calm and orderly**

Ofsted 2023

Pastoral

We're proud of our strong pastoral system. We want all of our pupils to feel happy, safe, and included at Co-op Academy Walkden. They're a part of our community!

We support them in becoming well-rounded, emotionally intelligent and happy young adults with the tools and resilience to cope with whatever the future holds. This means getting children into great habits where they attend school every day and build up a great learning routine, as this is the recipe for future success! Each day, we have fun activities between 8.00- 8.30 in the Atrium to encourage good attendance and good punctuality, from game shows to karaoke battles and prize draws, where pupils can win some pretty incredible prizes!

Each year group has its own Head of Year to support with pastoral issues, as well as a Raising Aspirations Lead, who will monitor academic progress. Each pupil is placed with a Personal Development (PD) tutor who they will see every day and who will be their first point of contact. PD tutors and Heads of Year will get to know your child well, which means that they can fully support them.

In any community, people sometimes fall out, the academy is no exception. We're tough on bullying and we've got systems in place to make sure that any forms of bullying are dealt with swiftly. We promote the Co-op values in all that we do, and these are also affirmed in our pupil awareness campaigns. Every November, the theme for the pupil awareness campaign is Anti-Bullying. Pupils have an assembly, and our Anti-Bullying Heroes are celebrated as positive pioneers!

Co-op Academies Trust champions mental health support for all individuals in their communities. In a recent survey, our pupils said that they felt very positive about the mental health of others. And that Co-op Academy Walkden prioritised good mental health and wellbeing for everyone in our community.

We can offer our pupils a significant amount of support if they are experiencing mental health difficulties. This includes: counselling, mentoring, small group work, and signposting them to external agencies.

"The pastoral team are amazing! The staff are really caring. My Head of Year has sorted lots of things out for me. I know she has done lots for other pupils too. My PD tutor is great too. My PD tutor helps me to focus in a morning so that I have a good start to the day!"

Safeguarding

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare and safety of all pupils.

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility and we ensure all of our staff are trained to be vigilant and aware of the signs and indicators of abuse. Our staff understand and follow safe working practices in every aspect of their role. We have policies and procedures in place to deal with child protection and safeguarding issues.

We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead, Safeguarding and Pastoral teams that support members of staff in carrying out their duties.

"The leaders with responsibility for safeguarding are tenacious in their approach to identifying pupils who may need support. They are adept at working with a wide range of external services. They are persistent in securing the right support for vulnerable pupils and their families."

- Ofsted, May 2023

It's a real privilege to support our pupils and families at Co-op Academy Walkden. By working together to safeguard children, we enable our young people to achieve the very best outcomes. This is the most rewarding aspect of our job!



SEND

Our SEND provision is built on the principle that high-quality, inclusive teaching should meet the needs of the vast majority of learners.

Through our ordinary available provision, teachers use a wide range of adaptive strategies, including scaffolding, modelling, chunking tasks, explicit instruction and adaptive teaching, to ensure all pupils can access the curriculum confidently and successfully.

Reasonable adjustments are made where needed to remove barriers to learning. These may include the use of coloured overlays, assistive technology, adapted resources, seating plans, or other classroom strategies that enable pupils to participate fully in learning.

For students who are working below age-related expectations, we offer supported teaching groups where learning takes place in smaller classes with dedicated teaching assistant support. These groups follow the same curriculum as their peers but with additional structure, guidance and targeted support to develop core knowledge, close learning gaps and build confidence, while remaining fully included in school life.

Alongside academic support, we recognise that some pupils require additional support with their social, emotional and mental health (SEMH). Through our graduated response, needs are identified and responded to at the earliest opportunity, with our pastoral team working closely with teachers, families and the SEND team to provide timely and appropriate interventions. Support may include mentoring, emotional regulation strategies, regular check-ins, targeted pastoral programmes and, where appropriate, referrals to external specialist services.

This collaborative approach ensures that pupils receive the right level of support at the right time, promoting both their wellbeing and their ability to engage successfully in school life.

Many pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are successfully supported through these inclusive mainstream approaches and access the full curriculum alongside their peers.

For pupils with the most complex cognition and learning needs, we are proud to offer our enhanced provision, The Hive. This specialist resource base supports up to 35 pupils with an EHCP where cognition and learning is the primary area of need. Places are allocated by the local authority to ensure the provision is accessed by those who will benefit most.

Pupils in The Hive follow the same broad curriculum as their mainstream peers, ensuring they remain ambitious and experience the same curriculum entitlement. Learning is delivered through highly scaffolded teaching, carefully adapted resources, smaller teaching groups and personalised support to enable pupils to access the curriculum successfully. Pupils follow a blended model, combining teaching within The Hive with planned inclusion in mainstream lessons where appropriate. The Hive is not a full-time placement; rather, it provides targeted specialist support while promoting inclusion, independence and participation in the wider life of the school. This balanced approach enables pupils to make strong academic, social and emotional progress while remaining connected to the wider school community.



Push
Button
to
Open



Attendance

For your child to achieve academically and personally, they need to be in the building, being taught and cared for by our expert staff.

This is why we take attendance seriously. We have a proactive attendance team who support young people to attend lessons so that they achieve great things.

Scoring 90% on a test is rightly considered to be an excellent achievement. However, 90% attendance means that a pupil is absent from school for 1 day every fortnight. This will severely disadvantage them when it comes to their potential achievement. For this reason, we expect all of our pupils to have 96% attendance or above, and we are proud of the pupils who achieve this. We reward good attendance by offering regular competitions to encourage pupils throughout the year.

Our day starts at 8am sharp and we expect good punctuality with no excuses! We run a breakfast club every day from 8am. All pupils are expected on site by 8.15am.

We want your child to have the best experience at Co-op Academy Walkden, and the attendance team is there to make sure that they get the best of opportunities to do this.



Co-op Academy Walkden is graded 'Good' in all areas.

Ofsted said: *"This is an inclusive school where pupils share positive and respectful relationships with their peers and teachers. Staff take the time to get to know pupils and their families well. There is a culture of high aspiration."*

The report commends leaders for their high expectations of pupil behaviour. Inspectors commented that *"lessons are focussed, and pupils rarely disrupt them by off-task behaviour"* and that *"behaviour around the school, including between lessons, is calm and orderly."* The report acknowledges that pupils benefit from an *"ambitious curriculum"*, which includes *"a wide and varied choice of academic and vocational subjects."* The curriculum is delivered by teachers who use *"their expert knowledge to help pupils build their understanding of key concepts and ideas over time. Teachers are quick to spot any misconceptions and address them before moving on to new learning."*

Ofsted said: *"Leaders set increasingly high expectations for the learning and behaviour of all pupils. They have cultivated a kind and considerate school community where pupils feel safe and happy. Lessons are focused, and pupils rarely disrupt them by off-task behaviour. Pupils, including those with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), engage enthusiastically in their learning and are well motivated to succeed. Increasingly, they benefit from leaders' raised expectations of what they can achieve academically."*

It was great to see the progress of the school in recent years recognised and validated by Ofsted. A copy of the report can be found on our website.

Ofsted inspections have now changed to reflect a broader range of measures and schools will no longer have an overall grade.

Leaders have ensured
that pupils benefit
from an ambitious
curriculum and that
pupils can choose
to study a wide
and varied choice
of academic and
vocational subjects

Ofsted 2023



What Next?

We know that choosing a secondary school can be tough. You want to be sure that you've made the best decision for your child, so we'd encourage you to come and visit us. We hold one Open evening a year, usually in September.

If you have any questions, please do get in touch. You can ring us, or drop us an email at **walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk**. We are active on social media too, and this is the best way to keep up with all of the latest information and news. You can follow us on Instagram and Facebook **@walkdencoop**.

We have been significantly over-subscribed for the last 3 years, which reflects the confidence our community has in our educational offer.

You can find our admissions arrangements on our website.



Do you have any questions?

Use this page to jot down any questions you may have. Then, get in touch with us for the answers!

Email us at **walkden.info@coopacademies.co.uk**.

211 Old Clough Lane,
Walkden, Worsley,
Manchester,
M28 7JB

0161 850 1625

walkden.coopacademies.co.uk

Follow us @WalkdenCoop



Co-op Academy
Walkden