

the entire region.



## Nurture, Inspire, Achieve

Springwell Leeds is a specialist academy, established in September 2016, which serves children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs across the city of Leeds. Based on three sites in the East, South and North of the city, we provide welcoming safe places for children to learn and prosper. We aim to provide the best possible care and education that we can for children between the ages of 5 and 16 and work closely with our families, carers and other agencies.



We see strong relationships as the key to our success. We work hard to build and nourish positive and supportive relationships between staff and children, staff and parents / carers and between Springwell and local partners and agencies.

Working in partnership with Leeds City Council, we have built three state of art, purpose built specialist academies. These buildings have world class facilities and allow us to deliver a curriculum that is tailored to the needs of our children.

We have created a curriculum that has nurture at its heart but allows children to develop and grow in a rich and varied way. There is a keen emphasis on developing skills for life, including literacy and numeracy as well as opportunities to develop in the arts, physical education and science.

Springwell Leeds has sister schools in Barnsley and Kirklees meaning that we are part of a specialist network of SEMH providers across the region.

Across our three settings and working together with our local and regional partners, we are a community of practice developing exceptional opportunities for young people with SEMH needs.



Springwell Leeds North Site

We are proud of our investment in training and professional development for our staff, which ensures that they are equipped to provide the best possible support and care for children with SEMH needs. We invest in our staff so that they have access to the latest research based practice and develop exceptional professional skills and expertise.

We are committed to sharing our expertise and skills with the wider education community through regular celebration, training and development events across the city.

The Springwell Leeds Academy buildings are the result of a £45m, three-year collaboration between Wellspring Academy Trust and Leeds City Council. This partnership, investment and development of state of the art facilities is a clear signal of intent from both parties...

We are committed to achieving world class for young people in Leeds



One of our immersive spaces



Outdoor learning

Our exceptional facilities at Springwell Leeds include immersive learning spaces in each school that provide surround sound and vision and interactive touch.

These spaces mean our students can be transported to new locations, new worlds and experiences that inspire their creativity.

## Unconditional Positive Regard

Springwell Leeds is founded upon the principle of Unconditional Positive Regard. Our children come to us with a range of needs, challenges and barriers to their learning. We understand this and we value the individual ..... always.

Every new day offers a new start; every mistake provides an opportunity to learn and every interaction matters and can make a difference. Our approach means that, over time, we build self-esteem, confidence, empathy and appropriate social skills that will ensure our young people are prepared for their next steps in life.

We take a restorative approach to behaviour and believe that restorative conversations provide clear opportunities to learn from mistakes. Every restorative conversation is a step forwards towards long term well-being and success.



We believe that learning starts with understanding the needs of each individual child and so we work with our colleagues in local schools and local authorities to ensure we have as clearer picture as possible of every young person's needs before they start with us. We then hold regular reviews with parents and other agencies throughout their time with us so we can have a shared understanding of progress and how best we can continue to meet needs.



Scott Jacques  
Executive Principal

## A Nurturing Approach

In order to ensure that the social and emotional needs of our children are met, Springwell Leeds Academy takes a nurturing approach with the "Six principles of Nurture" forming the foundation our curriculum and teaching and learning pedagogy. These principles are:

- Children's learning is understood developmentally.
- Classrooms offer a safe base
- Nurture helps the development of self-esteem.
- Language is understood as a vital means of communication
- All behaviour is communication
- Transitions are significant in the lives of children



## A Personalised Approach

In addition to a range of academic subjects, Springwell Leeds offers a number of personalised interventions including Theraplay, Thrive, Music and Art Therapy, Animal assisted Therapy, anger management and self-regulation techniques.

In preparation for life after school, we work closely with local providers to create opportunities for work based and vocational learning, where appropriate, for our older students.



## A Therapeutic Approach

We promote the safety and security of our children by taking a trauma informed approach to the curriculum.

This means we aim to:

- Provide our children with daily access to emotionally available adults, who believe in them, and can relate to them with compassion, empathy and unconditional positive regard.
- Support children experiencing painful life events, by helping them process, work through and make sense of what has happened.
- Ensure that staff interact with children at all times with kindness and compassion.
- Develop our settings in ways that help children feel calm and safe
- Foster a culture in which staff and other adults interact with all children in a way that makes them feel valued as individuals
- Staff and adults adjusting their expectations of vulnerable children to match with their developmental capabilities and experience of traumatic stress.