



Co-op Academy
Walkden

Prospectus

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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 students 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 students 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 students with the knowledge and skills to become truly successful. We have a diverse range of extra-curricular clubs, educational trips and inspirational guest speakers. This helps students 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 students. 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



Our students 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 students 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 students, 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 students' 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 have high expectations for teaching and learning. We use evidence based approaches and structure our lessons to maximise learning.

We focus on building strong relationships with students and creating structured and purposeful environments for them. Lessons encourage students to think hard and to reach their full potential. This in turn fosters their ambition to succeed over time.

Our staff are subject experts! Each classroom has a visualiser to ensure plenty of live modelling and feedback. Staff also use a variety of feedback methods to help students understand common misconceptions and how to improve their work.

In lessons, we revisit work to make sure knowledge is strengthened in the long-term memory. Literacy and oracy skills are key foundations and students are taught explicit strategies to improve these. Staff focus heavily on developing student vocabulary to help them access challenging texts.

We're committed to helping staff develop, and we believe we can all improve. We invest heavily in professional development of all staff in order to provide our students with the best 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 drives aspiration and achievement through a broad and engaging offer.

Through specialist teaching, we encourage students to develop their interests and become resilient and independent learners. This helps them to prepare for their next steps in further education, employment, or training.

Utilising our state-of-the-art facilities and resources, students benefit from research-led approaches. These underpin our excellent and collaborative teaching here at Walkden. Skill-based practical work and active participation are key to students' development. By encouraging students to work with their peers to engage in dialogue and debate, students learn to interact, support and challenge each other.

Where students need extra help, our timely approach to intervention bolsters achievement. Our strategic approach to literacy and numeracy facilitates extra layers of intervention. Students can benefit from small-group and one-to-one tuition.

We encourage our young people to develop beyond the classroom to become well-rounded, positive members of the community. To facilitate this, we offer enrichment and extra-curricular opportunities for all year groups. The academic curriculum does not stand alone. We're committed to character building through our Personal Development curriculum. With both pastoral care and PSHE (Personal, Social and Health Education), we ensure students become emotionally and socially ready for adulthood.



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 students to become equality pioneers.

Our students 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, students 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

Students

Student Council

As well as becoming pioneers for change, we encourage students to have a central voice in the development of their community.

To give our students a voice and teach them about Fundamental British Values, such as democracy and respect, we have an active Student Council.

Two representatives from each Personal Development Tutor Group make up the Year Council. These councils meet once a half term to discuss the matters that they consider most pertinent to their year groups. Members of the Year Council can also apply to sit on the Whole School Student Council. The Whole School Student Council is able to explore wider stakeholder feedback and implement broader changes.

Student Leadership

Our students are future business leaders and pioneers of change.

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

Students 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.

Students 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're proud of our extra-curricular calendar.

By offering activities, trips, and events, our young people can develop valuable life skills beyond the classroom.

We also know that through these activities, a sense of belonging and positive mental health is developed. Students are able to develop friendships beyond their classroom peers, bringing life-long benefits.

We have many activities which run throughout the year, such as:

- Music Clubs - Ukelele, Band, Junior Choir
- Sports Clubs - Football, Netball, Rugby, and Athletics
- Modern Foreign Languages Club
- Learning Resource Centre - Quiz night, Homework Club and Craft Club
- Trips - CERN, Geneva, Theatre visits, fieldwork visits to cities, rivers and coasts and outward bounds.

Cadets

Students from Years 8-11 can join the Combined Cadet Unit. Currently, we are offering students the opportunity to join the Army Cadets section. Through the Cadets, our students have fantastic opportunities to develop their leadership, teamwork, and communication skills.

The Cadets take part in:

- field craft
- drills
- first aid
- The Duke of Edinburgh's Award

Students also get to go on adventure training and an annual Easter camp.



Careers

Our students access a high-quality careers education programme with up-to-date information and impartial advice.

Every student receives one-to-one careers advice and guidance. Careers education is also very much embedded into all areas of the curriculum.

We have lots of career resources, including Unifrog, which all students can access. The Co-op offers their expertise and opportunities throughout the year too. We invite a range of employers and successful alumni to lead activities with students.

Each year, our Year 10 students experience the world of work through participating in work experience. This enables them to develop their employability skills and gain valuable insight into the realities of their chosen career path.



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 students 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.

Each year group has its own Head of Year to support with pastoral issues, as well as a Progress Leader, who will monitor academic progress. Each student 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 student awareness campaigns. Every November, the theme for the student awareness campaign is Anti-Bullying. Students 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 students 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 students 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 students 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 students.

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 students 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

We're proud to be an inclusive school. Special Educational Needs and Disabilities is a golden thread that runs through everything we do. Our offer centres around high quality teaching and learning and benefits all students.

Every student is entitled to personal, social and intellectual achievement - and to access a broad and balanced curriculum.

A small number of students have access to our Enhanced Provision - The Hive. This allows students to access both mainstream and small class teaching. The Hive has 7 places each year that are agreed in consultation with the Local Authority. To be considered for a place in the Hive, students must have an Education, Health and Care Plan with a primary need of Cognition and Learning.

The Hive sits within the main building, but it has separate facilities, enabling students to have a secure haven..

This designated area has:

- full barrier-free access, including toilet facilities
- a supervised area for breaks and lunchtime that include catering facilities
- areas for small group teaching, therapy, and positive support
- flexible learning spaces to enable a more personalised curriculum
- a highly visual learning ethos
- quiet work areas, work stations and distraction free rooms
- ICT facilities





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 received its first inspection on the 23rd-24th May 2023 and was 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.

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 Twitter, 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.

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