

A photograph of three children in school uniforms climbing a rope structure outdoors. The children are smiling and appear to be enjoying the activity. The background shows a stone building and trees.

**CRACOE &
RYLSTONE
CE PRIMARY
SCHOOL**

**PROSPECTUS
SMALL SCHOOL
BIG OPPORTUNITIES
BIG HEART**

“...our youngest son is in Year 5 at Cracoe. He is so happy at school, has lots of friends, and it’s a joy to drop him off in the morning and see him run into the playground ... knowing that he’s happy and excelling at school.”

PARENT KS2



WHO WE ARE

SMALL SCHOOL BIG OPPORTUNITIES BIG HEART

We are delighted that you are thinking about sending your child to Cracoe and Rylstone CE Primary School, because we are passionate about the many special qualities we can offer them here. As a small village school, we have worked very hard to create a fantastic learning environment with a uniquely happy, friendly and nurturing 'family' atmosphere.

We give our pupils the best of both worlds: thoroughly modern teaching methods and a compassionate approach to pastoral care, coupled with a more traditional ethos centred around strong Christian values like trust, respect and determination. Our 'Outstanding' Ofsted report shows it is a combination that works very well, but it is the everyday happiness and successes of our children that we are most proud of.

This prospectus explains what makes us such a unique and special school. We hope that we'll have the chance to welcome you and your child for a visit very soon.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs Gibbons', written in a cursive style.

MRS GIBBONS, BASE LEADER

OUR AIMS

WORKING TOGETHER BEING A FAMILY BUILDING A FUTURE

Within the Christian environment of our Church of England School – and in partnership with parents, the Governors and staff – it's our aim to help our children to:

- Enjoy learning, and become independent, self-disciplined and self-motivated as well as achieve their full potential
- Develop lively, enquiring and creative minds
- Acquire knowledge, skills and training relevant to their own lives, preparing them for adulthood and employment in a rapidly changing world
- Develop, recognise and value a sense of right and wrong
- Grow an awareness of their place in society and their roles as global citizens
- Develop and act upon a personal set of values, beliefs and attitudes rooted in our own Christian values
- Understand and respect the opinions of others, regardless of race, religion, way of life or point of view.

AS A SCHOOL

We want to develop inquisitive children equipped for lifelong learning, and it is important that they have some control over their own learning. We strive for a calm and supportive environment that allows them to flourish in their own way, while still acquiring the skills they will need for the ever-changing world we live in.

AS A FAMILY

We are determined to celebrate each child's achievements in and out of school, so they know that the 'whole' of them is valued. We also provide a nurturing atmosphere where children feel safe and secure, and are free to share thoughts and feelings easily.

AS A FEDERATION

Being one of the four schools in the Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation gives us a fantastic chance to share facilities, work together and learn from each other, and we're committed to using this structure to our children's advantage. As well as encouraging inter-school music, sports and educational visits, we help pupils build strong personal friendships within this unique community.

ETHOS & VALUES

AN INCLUSIVE SCHOOL ENCOURAGING RESPECT AND RESPONSIBILITY

We warmly welcome children of all faiths, while our own ethos is firmly based on Christian values including compassion, generosity, trust, respect and truthfulness. Equality and inclusiveness are integral too, and we welcome people into the Cracoe 'family' regardless of their background and abilities.

RESPONSIBILITY

We also believe very strongly in our collective and personal responsibilities, whether that's to each other, our families and communities, or the wider outside world, including people overseas and planet Earth.



THE TEAM

INSPIRATIONAL TEACHERS WITH REAL ENTHUSIASM AND EXPERTISE

The fantastic relationship between our staff and pupils is one of our strongest assets. Being a small school, our staff can spend far more time with individual pupils, developing the strong bonds and deep understanding that helps produce uniquely nurturing relationships which take into account each child's individuality.

To make the most of this, we pay special attention to choosing inspirational staff with the right attitude and character. The result is a dedicated team full of enthusiastic, highly experienced staff who have a heartfelt commitment to their work at our school. In addition, we are able to pool resources with our three Federation partner schools and have access to specialist leads in Maths, English, SENDCo and Early Years.

PERSONALISED LEARNING

TEACHING SHAPED AROUND YOUR CHILD'S UNIQUE NEEDS

“I feel at home at Cracoe. The teachers have really helped me improve my maths and given me lots of confidence in class.”

PUPIL KS2

Personalised learning forms the heart of what we do, and it is an area where our small size really comes into its own. We work closely with each pupil, which means we can get to know them and their needs inside out. We provide the kind of learning which is effective, stimulating, and ultimately successful. We believe each individual child should understand, and be able to shape, the way in which they learn (meta cognition).

We plan and manage lessons extremely carefully, making sure that special attention is paid to providing a broad and balanced curriculum. When we need to, we share teaching resources with our Federation partner schools so we can provide each child with any specialist teaching they need. Celebrating difference and accepting people's individuality is key to our ethos, and we are quick to challenge stereotyping or discrimination wherever we see it.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We warmly welcome children with Special Educational Needs and are particularly well placed to help them. Our unusually small classes and calm 'family' atmosphere make the perfect teaching environment. Our current staff team includes a highly experienced full-time SENDCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator).

SCHOOL LIFE

THE EVERYDAY WORKINGS OF AN EXTRAORDINARY SCHOOL

“One of the things that drew us to Cracoe over the other lovely little schools in the area was its ethos. The sense of a family learning together, shone through in the buddy system, where older children look after the younger”

PARENT KS2



THE SCHOOL DAY

School opens at 8:45am and learning starts from the moment children enter, even in the playful 15 minutes before classes begin. We also enjoy daily Collective Worship covering different Christian values.



CURRICULUM

We follow the National Curriculum but take a question-led approach to maximise engagement. The teaching here is broad, balanced and very hands-on, often based around a captivating central theme.



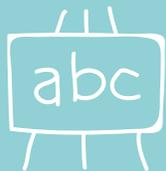
WIDER LEARNING

We bring learning to life with exciting activities, trips and visiting guests; everything from history treasure hunts and our regular **Run a Mile** exercise sessions through to residential and visits to the theatre.



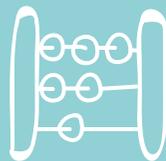
HOMEWORK

Pupils' homework tasks are centred on a theme but cover different skills like writing, model-making or even baking. Special personalised tasks help those who need it.



ENGLISH

Writing for a purpose and audience is integral to how English is taught here. Children are encouraged to think about how they want their readers to think and feel when reading their writing.



MATHS

Our up-to-the-minute approach champions the concept of Mastery. This helps children gain a deeper understanding through **varied fluency**, improving their reasoning and problem-solving skills by using examples they see all around them in everyday life.



COMMUNICATION

Staff give a verbal 'hand-over' to parents at the end of the day if needed. We also communicate through regular text messages, emails and a weekly newsletter, as well as our busy Facebook page.



UNIFORM

Our affordable, practical uniform supports our proud collective identity and our belief in equality. It enables children to feel comfortable and confident throughout the school day.

FEEL AT HOME SETTLE IN KNOW THE ROPES WHAT'S NEXT

FACILITIES

Our idyllic rural location accommodates a large playground complete with a covered area for outdoor learning. We have a *Trim Trail* activity frame to promote balance and agility, a peaceful garden with vegetable beds, a greenhouse and a fun 'willow weave' shelter. Indoors, children enjoy two large, traditional classrooms full of character, and there is a mezzanine library, well stocked with recent and classic books. We also enjoy access to nearby playing fields, and the local village hall where we eat every day. Our KS2 pupils swim at Upper Wharfedale Secondary School every week of their entire four years with us, which is a very unusual benefit.

WRAP-AROUND CARE

To make life easier for parents, we provide both before and after-school 'wrap-around' care with various activities to choose from. For up-to-date timings and options, please contact the school office.

BUDDIES

Our Buddy system carefully pairs an older pupil with an appropriate younger one, and this has proved a wonderful way of helping children feel happy, valued and secure during their time here. As well as teaching the older child about responsibility, empathy and compassion, it gives the younger one someone to look up to as a role model and share any questions or worries with.

MOVING ON

The transitions between years or schools are key milestones, so we work very hard to make them a seamless, exciting and positive change. We carry out home and nursery visits whenever relevant, and allow plenty of reflective time as well as arranging taster visits to help prepare each child for their transition. If one of our children needs a little extra support or encouragement, we'll even tailor a personalised transition for them.



BEYOND CURRICULUM MUSIC, SPORT, ARTS, CULTURE & SO MUCH MORE

CLUBS & ACTIVITIES

We believe that music, sport and the arts enrich our lives enormously, so we want our pupils to enjoy them too. As well as the sheer pleasure, excitement and learning they get from engaging with extra-curricular activities, we know that they promote other important life skills like teamwork and perseverance too. We have a wide range of after-school clubs and sporting opportunities, encouraging children of all abilities to experience and enjoy new things. Although the emphasis is always on participation and fun rather than just results, for a small school we have had more than our fair share of successes, with some children reaching impressively high levels in activities including football, music and horse riding.

SPECIALIST TEACHERS

For a small school we have unusually good access to specialist teachers, including a dedicated PE teacher for all of our children and a swimming teacher for the older ones. Our experienced visiting music teacher provides excellent individual and class lessons.



CARING FOR YOUR CHILD HAPPY, HEALTHY CHILDREN, KIND TO EACH OTHER

FOOD, HEALTH, WELLBEING

Eating together and sharing the experience is very important at Cracoe. Our Family Service is a special time when all of our children sit together for their freshly cooked meal. Older children, from years 5 and 6, look after the younger ones on their table, and we treat each mealtime as an informal yet precious opportunity to make new friends, share responsibilities, and develop good manners and empathy. The many benefits of this unusual approach are being more widely recognised now, and it is gradually being adopted nationwide.

RELIGION

Christian values run deeply through our school and we encourage children to not just understand them but also to live by them every day, wherever they are. Children of all faiths are welcome at Cracoe, and we enjoy talking openly about religion and promoting educational discussions about some of its 'big questions'. Our children's firm grasp of themes like trust, compassion and mutual respect helps explain our exceptionally low level of behavioural problems.

“I cannot recommend Cracoe School enough, my son has loved every minute. The smaller class sizes means more individual learning and the relationship they have with the federation schools means he still gets the social interaction he needs.”

PARENT KS2



WORKING TOGETHER **A CARING COMMUNITY** **ACHIEVING OUR** **COMMON GOALS**

ABOUT THE FEDERATION

We are part of the Upper Wharfedale Primary Federation, an innovative partnership of four small rural primary schools – ourselves, Burnshall CE (VA) Primary School, Grassington CE (VC) Primary School and Kettlewell Primary School. This structure helps us maintain our own identity but also pool resources and work collaboratively when we need to, providing a broader and richer experience for all our children.

THE GOVERNING BODY

Our Federation's Governing Body is made up of individuals who are carefully chosen or democratically elected, and who represent the different needs of Cracoe, our children and our partner schools. Between them, the Governors have a wide range of relevant skills and expertise to help run the schools successfully and also protect their interests.

THE LOCAL CHURCH

We have an excellent and long-standing relationship with the local churches in the area. We welcome members of our local churches each week to deliver collective worship to the children. We also visit the churches for special festive services like Christmas, harvest and Easter.

FRIENDS OF CRACOE

Our Parents and Friends' Association is extremely active and offers automatic membership to every parent. We organise a varied and fun programme of social and fundraising events, and hold regular optional meetings to plan ahead or discuss any particular issues.

“...the children have a sense of belonging & the whole school community cares for one another.”

PARENT KS1

PUPIL VOICE GROUPS

PROVIDING LIFELONG SKILLS AND CONFIDENCE FOR THE MODERN WORLD

“The school provides a real nurturing environment and a values system that is all about helping to develop independent young people.”

KS2 PARENT



Our Pupil Voice Groups are a bold and popular feature of everyday life at Cracoe. As part of our ethos of 'Courageous Advocacy', all of our children are included in one of four specific Pupil Voice groups, where they get the chance to express opinions, decide on school activities, become involved in the decisions school makes, and act on issues that interest them.



FAITH

The school's relationship with Christianity and other faiths is handled by this group, covering topics like religious celebrations, and how we share our beliefs and faith in school.



FUNDRAISING

This group supports all children in understanding that there are people worse off than ourselves and that we, as a school, should do our bit to make a difference.

As well as developing their sense of empowerment and self-confidence, they also learn crucial real-world skills like group discussion and decision-making, organisational structure, and campaigning for change. The children manage their own group meetings, with staff being present as facilitators.



ECO

This group informs our decisions on the environment, covering areas like recycling, compost, energy efficiency, sustainability and our eco-friendly 'two paper towels' rule.



HEALTH & WELLBEING

This proactive group supports us all in being active and healthy in school. One of its first initiatives was introducing the 'daily mile'.

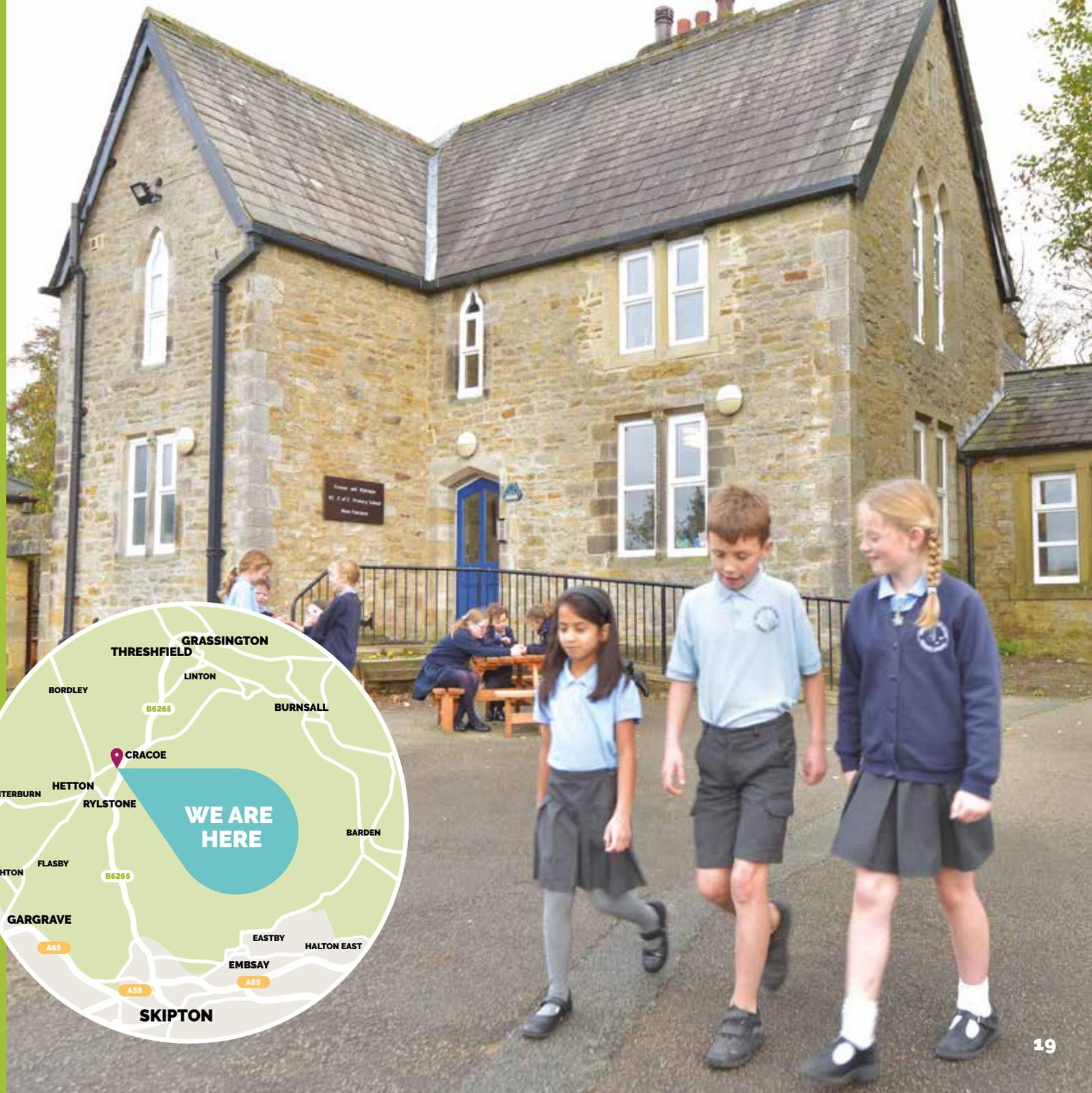
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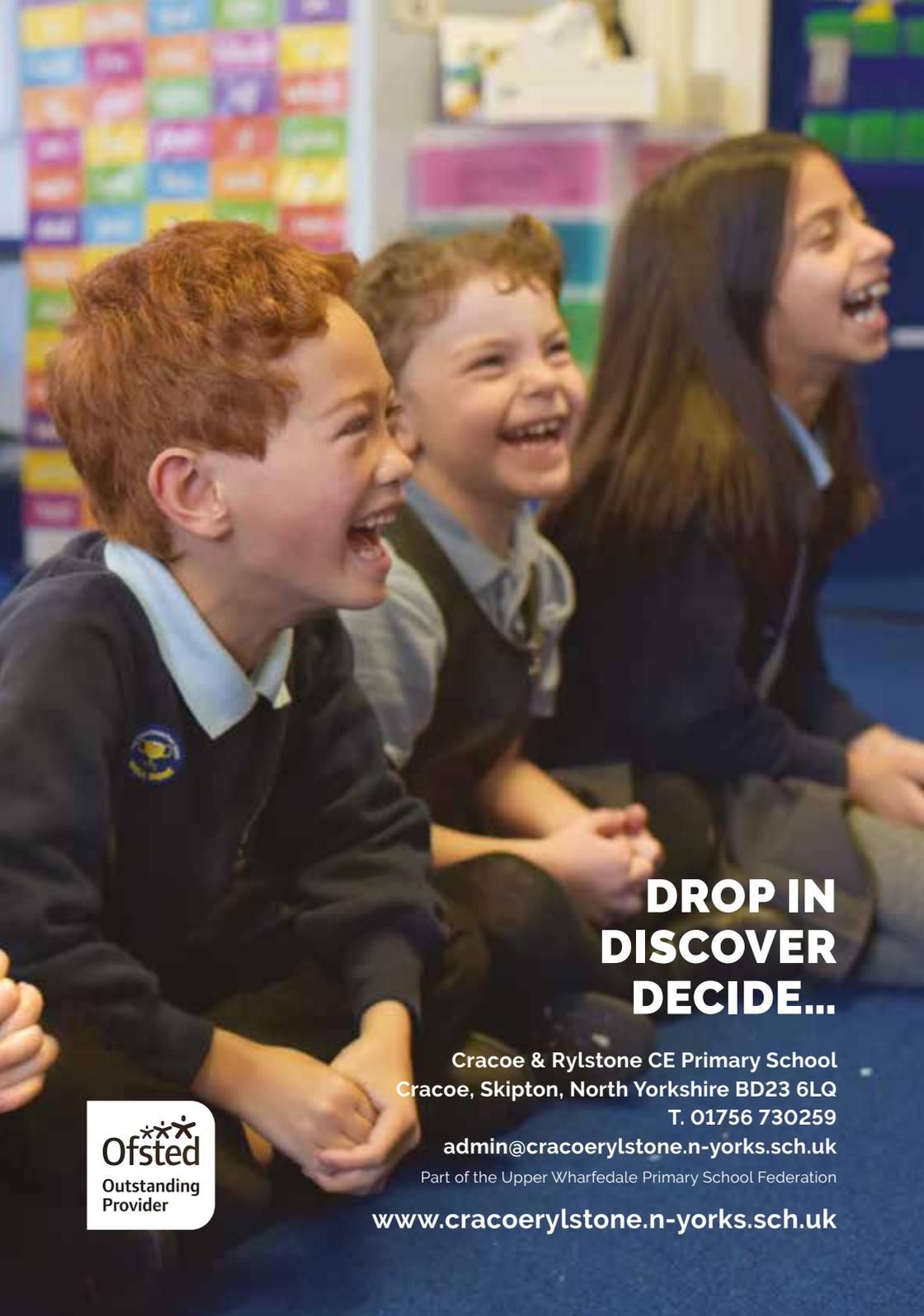
IDYLIC, RURAL GREEN SPACE, INSPIRING PLACE

You'll find us in the charming, unspoilt village of Cracoe in the beautiful Upper Wharfedale region of the Yorkshire Dales National Park, just 5 miles from Skipton. Although we are a small school, exceptionally close ties with our local community, church and three nearby partner schools means we have far more facilities to offer than our size would suggest. We also offer a uniquely supportive learning environment and have big ambitions for every one of our children, something you'll see from the moment you talk to them and our teachers. In fact, we're quietly confident that you won't have visited another school quite like Cracoe and Rylstone Primary.

ADMISSIONS

We are a proudly inclusive school here at Cracoe, so any child of the right age is welcome to apply for a place, regardless of their background, faith, health or ability, and subject to NYCC policy. We'd encourage you to write down some questions and pay us a visit with them – we'll be only too happy to show you around and introduce some of our children and staff. We'll talk you through the admissions procedure too, and help you decide whether Cracoe is the kind of friendly, nurturing and forward-thinking primary school you're looking for.





DROP IN DISCOVER DECIDE...

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