



Community Cohesion

West Park 2025

At West Park, we pride ourselves in being at the centre of our community offering help, support and guidance way past the boundaries of the school gates.

The West Park family has a strong bond and we strive to work together to overcome the vast array of challenges that are thrown up by modern society. Detailed below are some of our key partnerships:

Spondon Network Meetings

These meetings happen regularly and are often hosted by West Park. The meetings are attended by representatives from across the community and include the police, local residents, neighbourhood board, local councillors, Derby Parks, Health, Spondon Traders and Spondon library to name but a few.

Spondon Relief

Spondon Relief is a local charity offering financial and food support to local residents. Spondon Relief actively support our Eco-shop providing additional 'big shops' of ambient goods regularly. Spondon Relief also use our Eco-shop as a referral route for Spondon residents experiencing food poverty. The charity has supported the school with the purchase of display fridges and freezers. The school works with the charity to provide funding to families in crisis and the school delivers food hampers and vouchers prior to the school holidays. This supplements the vouchers provided to families eligible for Free School Meals via the Derby City scheme.

Fareshare

Fareshare are a nationwide charity with localised hubs which provide surplus food at a very cheap rate to organisations that support those living in food poverty. The school takes a delivery of 300kg of food every week which is transferred into the Eco-shop by the site and Eco-shop teams. Fareshare also provide the opportunity to access further stock when there is a significant surplus of particular goods/products.

Spondon Community Hub

The hub is based on Craddock Avenue and provides a warm, welcoming environment for local residents, particularly the elderly. The Hub hosts a range of events and also has its own food bank. The school has partnered with the Hub providing singers for events, food and catering for Christmas meals and designed and developed 300 Christmas baubles for residents to have a gift over Christmas. The Headteacher has attended the Hub on numerous occasions, serving food and interacting with attendees. A food partnership has also been established with left over Birds bakery items from the Hub being given to the West Park Eco-shop and the Hub being provided vegetables, predominantly for soup making from the Eco-shop stock.

Derby Food Alliance

Derby Food Alliance provide food support services across the city. The Food Alliance were a key partner in establishing the Eco-shop. The Food Alliance work with us to provide hampers and Christmas dinner in a bag for our struggling families. Our team distribute these to relevant families.

Spondon Methodist Church

The school work with Spondon Methodist Church on a range of events, from supporting Remembrance activities to coordinating Christmas afternoon teas and entertainment for the elderly. The joy of this partnership has been seeing pupils and older members of our community interacting so positively and sharing a range of meaningful experiences.

Royal British Legion

West Park has a very positive working relationship with Spondon Royal British Legion. We play a key role in all Remembrance activities, from actively selling poppies in school, to the laying of a wreath at the Village Hall Remembrance Service. The Headteacher delivers a reading at the St Werburgh's Remembrance Service and pupils, both past and present, play a significant role as flag bearers. Representatives from the British Legion have played an active part in our industry days considering how to optimise fund raising initiatives.

Green for Green Spaces/Trees for Spondon

Green for Green Spaces is a Spondon Charity which works hard to develop green spaces in our community improving community access and providing additional play equipment and resources. Trees for Spondon link to trees for Derby and work hard to increase the number of trees locally and enhance the local environment. West Park work closely with both groups conducting an annual fundraiser to support this work (Wear Green prior to Easter). The school has planted over 2000 trees on the middle school field linked to Trees for Spondon and in collaboration with local primary schools and community groups.

Spondon Linear Path

A major refurbishment of the linear path has taken place over the last few years. This now provides a safe and pleasant walk-way for local residents, runners, dog walkers etc. West Park have played a role in this development and have contributed substantially to the upgrading and painting of the new rainbow bridge.

House Charities

West Park benefits from having 5 houses ably led by a Head of House, (Assistant Head of Year) and a team of House Captains, (pupils). The houses all have a nominated charity and get involved in raising funds and collecting gifts and items to offer support for those in need. The charities that we are supporting this year are:

- The Terry Yorath Residential Home in Leeds
- Children in Need
- Derby Mission
- Cash for Kids: Mission Christmas

Community Quiz/Events

At West Park we love to put on a good show and to find ways of engaging with the West Park family. The school hosts a number of events for families including:

- Christmas, Easter and Summer Showcase Events including music and drama.
- Community Quiz, an annual event to raise money for the Prom fund.
- Bi-annual school musical. This year 'Grease' is the word!
- Positive Social family information sessions to support parents/carers with the use of social media, the positives and the risks attached.
- Building Sound Minds: Family workshops including exam stress and dealing with the challenges of living with teenagers.
- Settling in Evening for all Year 7 families.
- Curriculum Evening for all Year 9 families.
- Post-16 Evening with over 30 partner organisations for Year 11.
- Careers for Year 9 and 10 provision facilitated for local special schools.

Broomfield College

Broomfield College are a key partner and offer predominantly vocational courses to learners at Post 16.

Community Lettings

West Park is open at both evenings and weekends and offers cost effective letting of facilities for local community groups. Our current lets are detailed below:

- Derby Polish Supplementary School
- Genjitsuteki Karate Club
- GKR Karate Club
- Derbyshire County Archery Association
- Spondon Dynamos FC
- Derby Trailblazers – Basketball
- University of Derby Archery Club
- Anchor Bowman Archery Club
- Mantis Martial Arts are looking to establish a new base at the school from September 2025.

Police

The school works very closely with the local police to support positive behaviours in the community. The police attend school to meet with key staff and to get out and about to interact with pupils. Police and school work cohesively to advise and support families and to educate individuals.

School Nurse Service

The school immunisation team attends West Park regularly to facilitate vaccinations for relevant year groups. The nurse service also conducts a weekly drop in for pupils in our Conference Room. There are also pop-up information stalls at break and lunch to offer further information.

Bridge the Gap

The school works cohesively with 'Bridge the Gap' to offer resources and advice with regards to supporting children with their mental health and anxieties around different elements of school life. Bridge the Gap deliver both on-line sessions and face to face sessions that are open to parents/carers across our school community. This is further enhanced by resources that are available through the school website.

Whole School Events

We are very lucky to work and learn in an environment where the whole school can get together to celebrate and share memorable experiences. These events include:

- **Bookfest**
Pupils in both Year 7 and Year 8 receive a funded book through our Bookbuzz initiative. Pupils undertake a project linked to their book and the main hall is filled with a plethora of contributions.
- **Inktober**
Through the month of October, a prompt is released each day for pupils and staff to use their creative juices to design an artistic contribution. This year the art corridor was filled with amazing artwork and we used this to compose our first ever Inktober calendar. This calendar was available across the community.
- **Sports Day**
The whole school goes out to celebrate our sporting superstars. Pupils and staff fill the banks of the field in brightly coloured house colours and cheer on their team mates. There is also a tuck shop and a live DJ.
- **West Fest**
The school year finishes with our two-day music festival, West Fest. West Fest takes place on a specially erected stage outside of the music department. There is a wide range of pupil and staff performances and a number of fundraising stalls. The whole event has a festival vibe and pupils and staff fully engage with the experience.

Other events held in school include:

- Diversity Week
- House Christmas Karaoke
- Children in Need
- Sport Relief/Comic Relief