



2023 PROSPECTUS

Co-op Academy Swinton



“

We are part of the 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

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Welcome

to Co-op Academy Swinton

On behalf of the governors, staff and students, I am delighted to welcome you to Co-op Academy Swinton. Our role is to help our students achieve their very best through both academic success and personal development.

Through the hard work of everyone at our academy, we are confident that our students enjoy a happy, challenging and successful five year journey. They are set high expectations for their work, uniform, manners and, most importantly, their aspirations. We give them the support they need, to have the best start in life possible.

We provide an outstanding setting for your child's education with year on year improvements in our students' results. We are ambitious to give our children every advantage and, as a Co-op Academies Trust school, have access to exceptional support and development opportunities for students and staff. These include high quality work experience placements, apprenticeship opportunities and training.

On arriving at our academy, you will immediately notice the excellent relationships between our students and staff and the purposeful learning environment in our lessons. Our students demonstrate independence and resilience and this is underpinned by our curriculum, resulting in happy and confident students who aspire to achieve.

We have an embedded culture of reward and achievement, encouraging individual, personalised growth and student leadership.

Before you make the very important decision of which secondary school to choose for your child, we welcome visitors to see just what we have to offer. In addition to our Open Evening, you are welcome to telephone for a personal appointment with a member of our Senior Leadership Team who will be delighted to show you around our academy.



Mrs Zarina Ali, Principal

Co-op Academies Trust

Working together to make our academies better and communities stronger

The Co-op Academies Trust is a Multi-Academy Trust comprising primary and secondary academies based in three distinctive hubs; Greater Manchester, Staffordshire and Merseyside and West Yorkshire, each with their own Chief Education Officer and each of which is sponsored by the Co-op.

The Trust works 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 local representatives on our governing body.

Through a great education we are changing the lives of young people across the north of England. Built on the same principles as all co-operatives across the world, we work with academies to empower teachers and young people to work together for a better education and a better community.

The Trust have consistently been one of the highest performing multi-academy trusts in the Government's Multi-Academy Trust League Table and has also been recognised by the Sutton Trust Charity as one of the top performing multi-academy trusts for disadvantaged students.

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

You can find out more about the Trust at: www.coopacademies.co.uk

Our ambition is to create communities of co-operators made up of children, staff, parents, carers and the wider community. We have a unique relationship with our sponsor, the Co-op, and we want to do more so that we can genuinely be the most successful multi-academy trust in the country while keeping a clear focus on the values and principles of co-operation.

Co-op Academies Trust
Strategic Plan 2019-2022

The Trust exist to add social value. They do this by:

- having an unflinching focus on academy improvement
- demonstrating a full commitment to co-operative values and the Ways of Being Co-op
- improving leadership and management through support and challenge from experts in their field
- focusing on broad educational provision and outcomes but emphasising the central importance of reading, writing and numeracy proficiency, raising aspirations and having an optimistic outlook on life
- expecting academies to contribute strongly to their communities and society in general
- creating young ambassadors for co-operative values who can increasingly change society, including their community, for the better

“ Our work with the Co-op Academies Trust is an example of our constant drive to provide our students with the best possible opportunities.

It is a great privilege to be the Principal of such a thriving academy. Collectively we build our students aspirations, give them the skills and opportunities to achieve them and create leaders in our community.

Zarina Ali, Principal

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Our Curriculum...

Our Mission: We believe that all students, whatever their background, have a right to access the best education possible. Our curriculum ensures that students are knowledgeable enough about the world around them to transform it in the future.

We see the curriculum as the mastery of a body of subject-specific knowledge defined by the school. Skills are generally considered to be an outcome. It is the knowledge that provides students with the power to open doors and explore the curriculum in more depth. Knowledge develops a love for learning. Students are enthused by knowing more and remembering more. This enthusiasm raises attainment and aspirations for all students.

As a result of our knowledge-rich curriculum and the process of curriculum planning in small steps:

- Concepts are broken down into granular items of knowledge to be mastered, which ensures a deeper understanding of the content being studied.
- Teachers have a clear overview of the precise knowledge students will learn, which allows teachers to focus on deciding the most effective way to explain the content to their students, as well as adapting their teaching in response to feedback.
- Teachers are able to identify specifically how to support those who need further challenge

Measure: By the age of 18, we want every student to have the choice of university or a high quality apprenticeship.

Regardless of setting, streaming or mixed ability classes, children of all abilities are entitled to the most powerful knowledge they can retain and to the highest expectations they can meet.



...innovative and challenging

Children are entitled both to be prepared thoroughly for national assessment and to acquire sufficient knowledge of the wider domain to fully enable further study.

Students are entitled to high currency qualifications which improve their life chances.

All students make good progress with an added focus on those eligible for Pupil Premium funding and those with special educational needs.

The proportion of our students not in education, employment or training is below the national average and we strive for a 0% NEET figure.

Every student, staff and parent/carer respond positively to our annual survey question 'I am happy at the academy'.

Curriculum Intent: Our Curriculum Intent is driven by our Co-op values. The pillars of our curriculum provide the best education possible and transform the lives of our students.

Show you care

Our students will be co-operative, safe, responsible young people who exceed their potential both academically and socially within an open, fair and diverse community.

Succeed together

Excellent knowledge rich teaching drives a love of learning and high standards of achievement; through experiences students will be able to communicate in different ways, work in partnership, be self-reliant and work ready.

Be yourself, always

Our students will be happy, healthy, resilient and independent. They will have the confidence to be a force for good in society.

Do what matters most

Our students will be knowledgeable, competitive, entrepreneurial citizens with a commitment to participate responsibly and develop informed views of complex issues.



Over the last 12 months, senior leaders have taken decisive, appropriate and effective steps to improve the quality of education for pupils. This includes ensuring that the curriculum is ordered logically and that it is suitably ambitious. Subject leaders are clear about the knowledge that pupils should learn. Teachers are increasingly aware of what content they should be delivering and when this should be taught.

Ofsted, May 2022

Our values and vision

Our school motto of 'Striving to be Co-op' is the foundation on which our educational values are built. The Co-op was founded on a set of values guiding a different, fairer and better way of doing things. We follow these values in all our academy life and refer to them as our 'Ways of Being'.

We have an established culture in which openness and fairness is encouraged. Students, teachers and the wider community work together in a professional and efficient environment. Caring for others is promoted at Co-op Academy Swinton, where we understand that everyone is valued. We aim for high achievement in an environment which is based on rewards, not sanctions. We share the common values of 'respect' and 'honesty'.

Our 'Ways of Being' are;

Show
you
care

We care about our academy, creating an environment of trust, safety and respect, now and for the future.

Be
yourself,
always

We bring our best self to Co-op Academy Swinton, so that we each contribute and respect others for doing the same.

Do what
matters
most

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

Succeed
together

Success is a measure of our determination, we're better and stronger when we work together.

Show you care

Supporting and guiding our students and their families, every step of the way

Even before your child secures a place with us, we are there for them every step of the way. Our Primary Transition Programme starts in Year 4 at their primary school and continues with a packed calendar of exciting transition events throughout the summer before they join us. We are extremely proud of the strong and trusted relationships we have formed over the years with our local primary schools and we never underestimate the importance of ensuring a smooth transition for our new Year 7 cohort.

Support for our students is ever-present throughout their school journey, and beyond. Our Nurture, Peer Mentoring, Anti-bullying, Student Mediation and Young Carers groups are just a few of the ways we 'show we care' and are all supported by a dedicated and caring Pastoral Team.



I chose this school because I had cousins who came here previously and they liked it... and now I love it! It feels like a real community, there are generations of families who have studied here.

I have had so many great experiences - I've been to Oxford University for a taster day and I've enjoyed work experience with the Co-op, the list goes on and I just don't think I would have had this at another school.

It's more than just lessons though, the extra-curricular opportunities are amazing. You'll love it!

Year 11 student

Primary Transition

Although an exciting challenge, we recognise it can be a daunting experience for some. We fully understand the personal, social and academic needs of our new students and do everything we can to ensure that this transition is both smooth and relaxed.

With this in mind, we operate a wide programme of initiatives to support this process. Our staff visit local primaries to meet with Year 6 children on numerous occasions. We host many joint activities here in school including; Open Mornings, Transition Days, Enrichment Weeks, Sports Action Challenges and targeted drop-in application support sessions.

Support in other ways

We support our students and their families in ways beyond the classroom too. As part of the government's National School Breakfast Programme (NSBP) we have an established and hugely popular Breakfast Club offering every student a free breakfast.

We provide a Free School Bus service for students on a defined route between our academy and Little Hulton.

We also offer our own onsite Uniform Exchange Shop, stocked with high-quality items of uniform and PE kit, where parents are able to exchange items or just ask for any items of uniform they may need.

Nurture

Our Nurture Groups are small classes for children with identified needs. These may be students who feel insecure in school or who are in need of more attention than can be provided in a mainstream class. Children with very different needs, attend our Nurture Group and the sessions are carefully planned and intricately organised to match the needs, ages and abilities of every student. The work set matches their needs precisely and they respond well to this, making good gains in their knowledge and understanding. Nurture has a real impact on the development of their ability to fit into a secondary school environment and form positive adult and/or peer relationships. The group helps students to adjust to, and operate within, any new environment through building their understandings, independence and personal responsibility and the staff who run our Nurture Group sessions are always on hand to offer support and guidance.

Support for the journey through school...and beyond

From the moment children join our school they are welcomed into our 'academy family'. Support is available from a multitude of sources, from both staff and current students - something that we are regularly praised for.

Looking after the students directly are our Pastoral Team, with dedicated teaching and non-teaching staff for each Year Group. Together they are responsible for many things from; monitoring student behaviour and attendance to working together with students and their families to overcome any obstacles.

Support comes from our students too, helping children from the moment they start in Year 7 and throughout their five years with us. From Peer Mentoring to Student Mediation and our highly effective 'Seven Steps' Anti-Bullying Support Group, there is always someone who can help.

When it's time to take the next steps, we are there too, with a comprehensive programme of Careers support and guidance on all the education and training opportunities available to students post-16. We have a dedicated Careers Adviser based in school to give Careers Guidance from Years 8-11 through one-to-one interviews, drop-in sessions and more intensive, personal support and interviews during Year 11. We are proud to have been awarded the 'Gold Standard Inspiring IAG Award' in recognition of the careers education, information and guidance we offer

Safeguarding

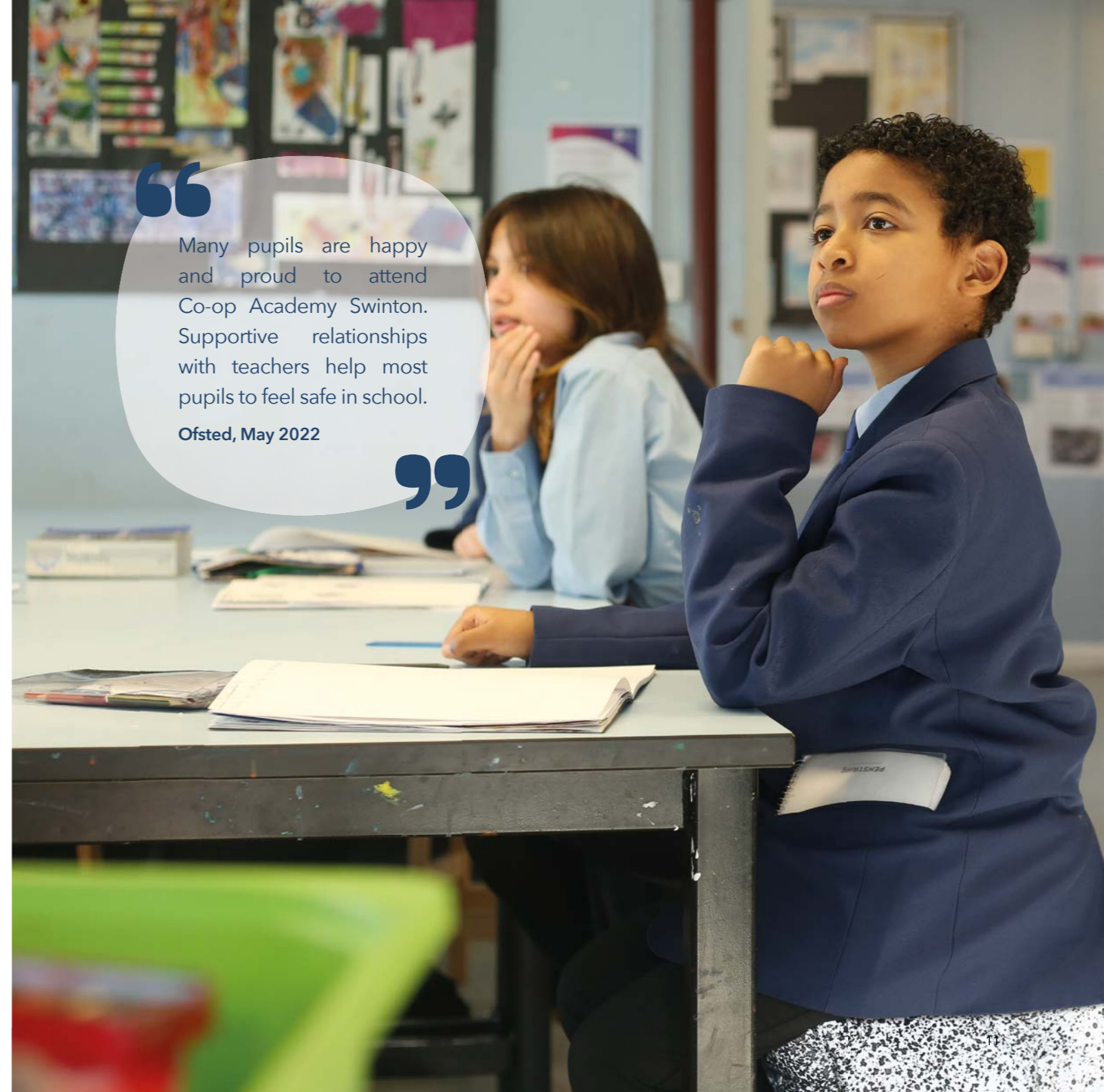
Of course support doesn't end there, we take our role in safeguarding students extremely seriously. All our staff receive annual Child Protection training and we also have a dedicated Safeguarding team. We are committed to providing a safe environment for our students. We offer lots of help in school and all our staff are always available to talk to.

SEND

We work extremely hard to make sure all our students achieve their individual educational potential and we employ a dedicated team of specialists to look after the needs of the children in our care. It is testament to the close relationship we have with our feeder primary schools and our SEND staff that the children who have learning problems are identified early in their school career.

Students may be withdrawn from lessons either individually or in small groups for more individual help, or extra support may be provided in the subject lessons by our team of Teaching Assistants and Learning Mentors.

Our aim is to allow as many students as possible access to the full National Curriculum by providing appropriate support where needed. All courses and groupings are constructed to allow students to learn at their own pace and pay due regard to the equally important needs of all children from the most gifted to those who experience learning difficulties.



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Many pupils are happy and proud to attend Co-op Academy Swinton. Supportive relationships with teachers help most pupils to feel safe in school.

Ofsted, May 2022

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Be yourself, always

Education beyond our school day

We firmly believe that education doesn't belong solely in the classroom but is a whole life experience. We have a multitude of additional activities that not only widen learning experiences but also make academy life more enjoyable, from an extensive programme of extra-curricular clubs and regular music/drama performances to our incredibly successful sporting teams and of course, our amazing partnership with Manchester United Foundation.

Broadening horizons

Educational visits are an integral part of learning here. Some of these are local visits, exploring the local area as part of Geography fieldwork or heading to the theatre to consolidate our learning in English.

If adventure is your thing, we have our fantastic 'Bushcraft Residential' where you'll get back to nature, sleeping in tented accommodation and learning skills like camp-craft, fire lighting and wilderness cookery.

We also hold trips further afield, from the WW1 battlefields in France to holidays in Spain soaking up the culture. Skiing in Austria and a trip to New York are also on our regular programme while more recently we have been planning a trip of a lifetime to Shanghai.

Under the spotlight

For longer than we can remember we have produced an annual theatrical production and in recent years we've added to this with our ever-popular 'Swinton's Got Talent' show.

There are opportunities for everyone to be involved, not just on stage but with support behind the scenes from technical production to artwork for props and scenery.

We have a talented extra-curricular dance and cheerleading team and our famous Steel Pans group who both regularly perform for us, in school and also out at many events in our community.

From Art to Science and ICT to Mediation there's no shortage of clubs for you to get involved with.



Manchester United Foundation

We are proud to have been working with Manchester United Foundation since January 2014 and have seen this partnership flourish with year-on-year benefits and multiple opportunities for our students. The Partner Schools programme has been established to work with our students and staff here in the academy, as well as delivering sessions at our feeder primary schools.

The programme bases a full-time Hub Officer in our academy who works in targeted areas to help build lasting relationships with our students and the local community. Their work focuses on raising student's aspirations, leadership and confidence building, whilst the delivery in primary schools involves leadership development, healthy eating sessions and basic exercise.

You can find out more at: www.mufoundation.org



Foundation

Sporting success

Sport is something we are extremely proud of. Every one of our students are encouraged to regularly attend one of our many extra-curricular sports clubs which are open during lunchtimes and after school. We also boast 24 sports teams, eight of which hold local and regional titles.

Extra-curricular success and programming at Co-op Academy Swinton has been nationally recognised and awarded a GOLD Mark by Sainsbury's School Games for the past four years and we remain the only PE department in Salford who has achieved this accolade.

There are lots of lunchtime and after-school activities in which pupils can take part. For example, some pupils make the most of clubs, such as volleyball, weightlifting, table tennis and ceramics. Pupils appreciate opportunities to take on additional responsibilities, such as being school prefects and student council representatives.

Ofsted, May 2022



I'd like to say a big thank you for helping to make the 'Let's Talk Swinton Town Centre' session such a success.

It went very well, the students really engaged with the exercises and had a genuine understanding and appreciation of the problems and possible solutions. Their feedback was thoughtful, caring and intelligent.

The students were smart and very polite, a credit to all the staff and were great ambassadors for your Academy.

Jas Atwal, Director - Kevin Murray Associates

Do what matters most

Beyond just 'doing what matters' in school, we're making a positive impact in our community too

Long before we became a Co-op Academy, we were educating our children about how their actions can have a positive impact on their peers and the wider community. Building strong links with our community has always been important to us and this now ties in perfectly with the values of our sponsor, the Co-op. Their 175 year history has been solely about being a force for good and 'giving something back'. Education was one of the Co-op's founding principles.

We continue with this throughout our academy from our pro-active Student Council and our support of a nominated charity each year to a host of events involving our local community and organisations.

Charity Support

Each academic year we nominate a charity which our students and staff support whole-heartedly through fundraising events and activities.

We choose each charitable cause from suggestions and input from all our students. They are often charities that have a personal interest to them and we are incredibly proud of the commitment our children put into their fundraising efforts.

Student Council

Our Student Council is the inspiring, proud and passionate voice of our academy. It consists of two students per Form Group and, chosen from these are, four Year Councillors which represent each Year Group.

The council meets regularly to debate and discuss those issues which are important to our students and makes recommendations to the Headteacher around school issues such as; school improvement, teaching and learning, rewards, whole school policies and more.

The council is a vital part of our school community. It is a great way to play your part and 'do what matters most'. Building skills in self-confidence, debating and public speaking are just a few of the benefits being a member can bring.

Pioneers in our community

Whether it's litter picking around our local area, our choir singing to residents of a nearby nursing home or inviting guests into our academy cafe to join us for a festive coffee morning we're striving to be a positive presence in our community. Throughout the year we hold a wide variety of events and activities involving parents, carers, friends and local community members.

We're proud of the work we've done so far and the lovely comments we receive make it all worthwhile. Our students actively support these events and are often the driving force behind many of the activities we plan.

Of course the benefits of working closely with local organisations and community members reap benefits for our students too as they learn valuable skills and lessons they wouldn't have the chance to experience in the classroom.



Succeed together

We're proud of the way our community of parents, carers, students and staff work together in the pursuit of excellence.

From the moment a student joins us, a strong partnership between you at home and our academy staff is encouraged and we know it has a positive impact on the students. From year-on-year results success and record figures of student attendance to the heart-warming and positive comments we receive from parents and carers, we are proud of the achievements we make in school as we work 'together' for one aim - to succeed for our students.



Outstanding attendance

We consistently achieve levels of attendance significantly above the national average. We have strong and supportive Pastoral and Attendance teams who work closely with families to ensure our students are in the academy, ready to learn and progress.

Low attendance leads to underachievement and possible safeguarding concerns. Studies have shown that students with a higher % of attendance will simply achieve higher overall grades. Poor attendance can make the difference between a pass or fail, or being accepted onto their chosen college course or not.

Results

Each year, the collective hard work of our students and staff and the support from family at home really pays off. We are proud of the GCSE results we have achieved over recent years.

Many of our faculties have seen specific success and we are also thrilled with the exceptional progress and results the students who take our EBacc route have achieved.

Ofsted

Our academy was most recently visited by Ofsted inspectors in May 2022. This was our first Ofsted check since the pandemic and it was a full inspection.

Here are some of the key strength findings from the report:

- Pupils are happy and proud to attend Co-op Academy Swinton.
- Leaders have improved the overall standards of pupils' behaviour.
- Older pupils told inspectors that the behaviour of their peers around school and in classrooms has improved markedly.
- Leaders have established clear systems to help staff manage pupils' behaviour, both during lessons and around the school.
- Leaders ensure that staff are aware of those pupils who have fallen behind in reading when they join the school. Staff are taking the steps necessary to help those pupils who find reading more difficult to catch up quickly so that they can access the full curriculum.
- Pupils are well informed about their next steps. They benefit from a wide range of opportunities to help them make appropriate decisions regarding further education, employment and training.



During the last year, senior leaders have successfully worked to raise teachers' expectations of what pupils can achieve.

Ofsted, May 2022



Success moving on

It is rewarding for us to hear the many stories of former students who go on to great personal and academic success after leaving us.

From studying at many major national universities and becoming published authors to pursuing careers in media/television and making their name in the world of sport, our former students are flourishing and we couldn't be more proud.

We regularly welcome back former students to speak with cohorts of our current students to talk about their achievements since leaving. We know this inspires their learning and illustrates to them, that with hard work and determination, they can achieve whatever they want.



Praise from our parents

It's not just the praise from Ofsted we're proud of. We regularly receive feedback from our parents and carers telling us how well their child has settled at Co-op Academy Swinton and to compliment us on the things they believe we're doing well to support learning and progression.

Of course, our value of 'Succeed together' means working alongside families and their children. It is a partnership we're rightly proud of and we're better and stronger when we work together. If there are problems, we welcome contact from parents and work to address the issues immediately.

Here are just some of the lovely comments we've received in recent months...

I'll be honest, this wasn't our first choice of school, but after a failed appeal with the Local Authority, Miss Withers invited us to come and look around.

My daughter has dyslexia and anxiety. I believe that schools should adapt to the needs of the child and not the child have to adapt to the school.

When we came I really liked the feel of the school, and so did she. We got the impression they would treat her as the individual she is.

In Year 7 she joined some of the small group Nurture sessions which instantly built her confidence. The staff are completely invested in the children, it's not just about education to them, it's their wellbeing too.

The support she has received for her dyslexia has been fantastic too. The SEND team engages me as a parent, they welcome communication from me and I'm invited in for regular meetings to discuss my daughter's progress.

All of this, combined with the teaching she's received, has really worked for my daughter. She has excelled beyond whatever I imagined and most importantly for me, she's happy. This may have not been our first choice but it is now, I'd recommend this school to anyone.

Year 8 parent

My daughter is in Year 9 and absolutely loves school. She's really sporty and has enjoyed lots of opportunities thanks to Co-op Academy Swinton from being made a 'Sports Prefect' to working with Manchester United Foundation.

I couldn't be happier and I feel really involved in her school life. She's achieving whatever she wants thanks to the care she receives at school. I feel like she's on the best path she could be on, she's thriving here!

Year 9 parent

Tonight, my son and I attended your Open Evening. It was an absolute credit for all the hard work all the staff provide for the students and all the hard work the students give.

The young lady who was with us was so polite and welcoming, very professional and genuinely interested in finding out about my sons' interests.

Carry on the super work everyone...we hope we are successful with our application!

Year 6 parents visiting Open Evening

What next?

Before you make the very important decision of which school to choose, we welcome visitors to see just what we have on offer.

This prospectus can only give you a small insight into our academy. Choosing a secondary school is an important decision for both you and your child so we would be delighted to welcome you to visit us and see our academy in action.

The easiest way to do this is at our annual Open Evening, usually held in October, just ahead of the admissions deadline set by the Local Authority. It is an information packed event with interactive lessons and demonstrations from our current students and the opportunity to chat with all our Teachers, Pastoral Staff and Senior Leadership Team.

Take a look at our website and social media channels too. You'll find lots of information in more detail from all our faculties and an insight into the many events and activities that take place. We look forward to meeting you!

Admissions arrangements

We operate a fully-inclusive Admissions Policy, meaning we accept students irrespective of faith or ability. Each student will be consulted regarding their needs and supported accordingly.

We are a very popular school in the wider Salford area and nationally acknowledged as being one of the most improved schools in the country. Salford Local Authority publish a set of criteria which are used to determine which children have priority if places at a school are limited.

Please visit our website for the most up to date admissions information at: www.swinton.coopacademies.co.uk/parents/admissions-join-us/



Contact us

Co-op Academy Swinton
Sefton Road
Pendlebury
Manchester
M27 6JU

T: 0161 794 6215
E: info@swinton.coop
W: swinton.coopacademies.co.uk

Facebook: [coopacademySwinton](https://www.facebook.com/coopacademySwinton)
Twitter: [@swintoncoop](https://twitter.com/swintoncoop)
YouTube: [Co-op Academy Swinton](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)

Find us





Co-op Academy
Swinton

Co-op Academy Swinton | Sefton Road | Pendlebury | Manchester | M27 6JU

T: 0161 794 6215 | E: info@swinton.coop | W: swinton.coopacademies.co.uk