

Oaklands School



“The best for all, the best from all!”



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Welcome to Oaklands School prospectus Oaklands School—An Introduction

Oaklands School is located in Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority and currently serves the whole of the previous Cheshire County. All pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan with moderate learning difficulties stated to be their most significant difficulty.

A number of pupils also have severe learning difficulties, social, emotional and behavioural difficulties or speech and communication difficulties. In line with their learning difficulties, the attainment of pupils is well below what is expected for their age when they enter the school. There are three classes in Year 7 to Year 11 and one Year 12 class, which are organized largely by academic ability.

Oaklands is a child centered outstanding school, where pupils learn in a nurturing and happy environment. The caring environment provided by the excellent and supportive staff, enables pupils to achieve to their potential and experience many enriching and positive experiences.

The Governors and Staff of Oaklands School are proud of our achievements and the school's standing in the community. It is our hope that all students joining us will quickly share our pride and make a positive contribution to the life of the school.

We are a caring and happy community, where each individual is supported and encouraged. All students enjoy equality of opportunity, regardless of sex, race or ability. Our aim is to ensure that our students leave us as caring young adults who have developed positive attitudes and values and are respectful of others. Our key focus is to provide Oaklands' students with the skills and knowledge to be successful and lead happy and fulfilling lives. We believe that education thrives best within a partnership of student, parent and school. Parental contact is actively sought and always welcome.

We lay importance on learning outside the classroom and students are given opportunities to travel and experience educational visits.

I hope that this prospectus will give you an insight into our school. If you would like more information or would like to visit the school to see it at work, please do not hesitate to contact the school office on 01606 551048.

We look forward to meeting you.

Mr Neil Oxley— Headteacher

Oaklands school is:

- Safe
- We work hard
- Have fun as we learn
- Celebrate our achievements

Our vision:

Oaklands School has a clear mission and purpose statement:

“We provide quality learning opportunities so that every child develops and makes progress in a happy and safe environment”

“We believe in a close and honest partnership with parents/carers and all stakeholders”

Student Pledge:

School is as easy as:

A (Attendance)

B (Behaviour)

T (Targets)

Oaklands School has a clear Mission and Purpose Statement:

“We provide quality learning opportunities so that every child develops and makes progress in a happy and safe environment”

We believe in a close and honest partnership with parents/carers and all stakeholders”

Our motto is:

“The best for all the best from all”



CURRICULUM:

At Oaklands School we aim to provide a curriculum for our students which allows a personalized experience designed to meet their individual needs. This is achieved by:

- Treating all students as individuals
- Planning learning to meet the needs of all our students
- Offering a comprehensive range of subjects to be studied
- Focusing on developing students' skills
- Providing different curriculum pathways
- Planning extended learning opportunities
- Working with other schools and colleges to provide extended learning opportunities
- Providing learning experiences outside of the classroom

KEY STAGE 3 Curriculum—Years 7, 8 and 9:

The subjects studied are:

English, Maths, Science, a Modern Foreign Language, Geography, History, Art, Music, PE, RE, Computing, PSHE (Personal, Social, Health Education) and Citizenship.

KEY STAGE 4 Curriculum—Years 10 and 11:

As well as following core and foundation subjects, students are able to choose from a range of option subjects to make up their studies including, Hospitality and Catering, ICT, Nails and Beauty, Animal Care, Sport and Child Care.





*“Communication is very good” -
Parent questionnaire feedback*

PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

At Oaklands School we believe that education is a partnership between students, parents/carers and school. All three partners need to work together to create a secure foundation for learning. Therefore, we encourage our students and their parents to become actively involved in the life of the school.

We believe that parents and teachers must work together in the interests of our young people. This means regular communication. Parents are always welcome to visit or contact the school, although it is helpful if you telephone us in the first instance. When making appointments it is helpful to indicate the reason so that the relevant information can be made available. Any letters received will be answered as soon as possible.

The school communicates with parents in a number of ways:

- Through the Home/School Diary
- Text messaging service
- Reports about student progress
- Annual Reviews and Parents Evenings
- Newsletters and informal contacts
- Website—www.oaklandsschool.org.uk
- Twitter—@SchoolOaklands
- Parent Hotline

We may also take the opportunity to contact parents if we have reason to be concerned over any aspect of their child's progress or behaviour.

RAISING STANDARDS OF ACHIEVEMENT

All students are expected to work to their full potential and achieve their target grades. The work of each individual is monitored closely by subject teachers. Where necessary intervention programmes are put into place to support learning.

LEARNING OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

The school stresses the importance of activities outside the classroom and encourages all students to take an active part. Some support and enhance the curriculum, improving students' understanding or providing opportunities to develop skills, while others allow students to follow personal interests and to get involved in new opportunities.

DBS CHECKS:

All staff, including supply staff, regular visitors and volunteers are subject to Disclosures and Barring Service checks. This is to help ensure that unsuitable people are prevented from working with children.

VISITOR LOG-IN:

Visitors will be asked to sign into our Electronic Visitor Log in the Reception area.

*“My child feels safe and happy at this school” -
Parent questionnaire feedback*



SAFEGUARDING

Oaklands School is committed to safeguarding children and expects all staff and visitors to share this commitment. We all have a duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of our children.

All our staff in school undertake regular safeguarding training.

KEY CONTACTS:

Our Designated Safeguarding Lead is Tamsyn Bradley

Our Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead is Martine Clewes

Our core **safeguarding principles** are:

- The schools responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of children is of paramount importance
- Safe children make more successful learners
- Staff and governors will be involved in policy development and review
- Policies will be reviewed at least annually unless an incident or new legislation or guidance suggests the need for an interim review.

CHILD PROTECTION STATEMENT:

We recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued. We are alert to the signs of abuse and neglect and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

Oaklands School is committed to creating and maintaining a safe learning environment for children and young people, identifying where there are child welfare concerns and taking action to address them, in partnership with families and other agencies.

The school will also contribute through the curriculum by developing children's understanding, awareness and promoting their resilience by providing a safe environment within schools.



“He loves coming to school, he talks about what he does at school, so clearly enjoys structure and learning. He has settled really well which is great to see” - Parent questionnaire feedback

“This school is amazing! My son is very happy and settled. The staff have always been lovely” - Parent questionnaire feedback

SENCO

The SENCO is responsible for:

- Co-ordinating the whole-school provision for SEND
- Ensuring the appropriate educational provision, including resources, is available to support the needs identified within the EHCP
- Being responsive to requests for advice from all stakeholders, particularly from teachers and teaching assistants
- Establishing training requirements for staff and contributing, as appropriate, to their training
- Maintaining school systems and records
- Liaising with parents as necessary, including conducting EHCP annual, transfer or transition reviews
- Liaising with external support agencies, including the educational psychologist, health and social services and voluntary bodies.

As a school which caters for children and young people with special educational needs, all students at Oaklands School will have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

All staff within the school are responsible for delivering the day to day provision for all students, everyone has a key role to play in supporting pupil development. This is in line with the expectations outlined in the SEND Code of Practice 2014.

The aim at Oaklands School is to enable all young people to achieve their potential through a fully inclusive curriculum. The Educational Curriculum at the school is based upon the National Curriculum. An inclusive curriculum is one where all learners:

- Experience a child centred approach, where they are supported in a nurturing, safe and appropriate environment
- See the relevance of the curriculum to their own experiences and aspirations.
- Have sufficient opportunities to succeed in their learning at the highest standard.

For students in Key stage 4 and the Sixth Form, there is a range of accreditation available that meets the full range of abilities and aptitudes of all the students at the school. Opportunities are also available for students to pursue individual interests through a range of additional curriculum opportunities which are reviewed annually. Each student has an individual timetable that details their core subjects and the 'optional subject' choices they have made. The subjects taught enhance well-being, develop skills for independent living and promote citizenship.

"I feel my child is well catered for at Oaklands—thanks for all your support" - Parent questionnaire feedback

A YEAR IN THE LIFE OF OAKLANDS SCHOOL

Oaklands School offers pupils a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum built on the firm base of our National Curriculum. In addition the curriculum is enriched by the involvement of visiting professionals, a wide range of educational visits, residential visits and participation in a range of outside sporting events. The following examples are just some of the events the pupils and staff participated in during one academic year:

September saw us welcome our new year 7's and open the doors to another exciting and fulfilling academic year. The students soon settled in and began to make new friends and participate in everything Oaklands has to offer.

In October our year 8 students participated in a three day residential visit to Conway and had the opportunity to take part in a range of outdoor activities. We also held a coffee morning to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Support.

Further activities followed in November when our girls football team took part in a football tournament held at Manchester City.

December is always a busy month in school, and it started off with our choir taking part in the WEP Christmas Carol concert held at the Winsford Lifestyle Centre. This was followed by a visit to a pantomime and Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. The month ended with a Christmas carol concert in church and a Christmas lunch and disco.

In January it was the turn of our girls football team to attend the football tournament at Manchester City.

Our Year 7 students visited Bangor Racecourse in February as part of their learning outside of the classroom, whilst our Year 11 students all participated in a one week work experience placement.

March was another busy month as our Year 9 students visited The Lowry in Manchester, Year 9 students took part in a residential visit to Red Ridge in Mid Wales and we had visits to Chester Zoo, a Creepy Crawley show and a Lego workshop for Science Week!

Year 12 students undertook their one week work experience placements in April which were a great success!

Our Year 7 students set off for their residential visit to Conover Hall in May, whilst June brought exams for our Year 11 students and a visit to the Cheshire Show for our school choir.

Rehearsals began for our annual summer production at the start of July with staff and students working extremely hard to prepare for the show. The year ended with a celebration rewards assembly, and school closed for summer following a very busy and exciting year!



POST 16

As part of the sixth form at Oaklands School we are able to offer a supportive and inclusive environment where students can develop their social skills whilst following academic and practical courses designed to meet their specific needs.

Students are no longer subject to the expectations of the National Curriculum but they continue to focus on a broad range of subjects including the core subjects of numeracy, literacy, ICT, Personal and Social Development; key skills areas and vocational pathways.

This is to ensure that our students leave school as independent as possible in order to move on to the next stage of their life. Activities in the sixth form therefore reflect the age and changing needs of our students. This means that the curriculum is based on the teaching of functional skills with the aim of students being able to generalise and apply these in as many everyday contexts and in as many practical ways within the community as possible.

Post-16 students will enjoy an environment in which all students experience an increased level of independence, challenge and supportive guidance. We believe in developing the whole individual by providing opportunities to pursue ambitions, interests and passions whilst making a positive contribution to the school community. The life and work skills students develop in Oaklands will help prepare them to face the next step.

We want to develop and nurture independence, confidence and self-esteem by building on and generalising skills and developing new skills, knowledge and understanding to enable them to become as independent as possible in order to prepare students for life beyond school

In short, we aim for the sixth form students to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and an effective contributor during their year in sixth form.

Current areas of post 16 study include:

Edexcel BTEC Level 1/EL3 Awards for IT Users

Developing Enterprise Skills

English

Maths - Level 1 Certificate in Skills for Living and Work

Edexcel Award in Personal and Social Development

Level 1 Certificate in Skills for Living and Work

Level 1 Award in Awareness of British Values and Citizenship

Skills for Work – Open College Network

BTEC Performing Arts

PSHE

PE



ADMISSIONS TO OAKLANDS SCHOOL

All the pupils who attend Oaklands have an Education Health and Care Plan. Applications to the school are made from the Local Authority Statutory Assessment Team. All advice givers will have supported such a request. The final decision is made after consultation between the parents, child, school and Local authority. If all agree, then a place is offered.

Oaklands School offers a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum. Central to all we do are positive partnerships with all stakeholders but particularly between pupils, staff and parents.



OAKLANDS SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr Neil Oxley

Chair of Governors: Alison Thorpe



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