



Hebden Green School

An outstanding blend of education, therapy and care



Welcome to Hebden Green School: an outstanding blend of education, therapy and care



Foreword: Headteacher, Alison Ashley, says...

On behalf of our whole school community, I would like to warmly welcome you to Hebden Green School.

Specialist school

We are a specialist school for children aged 2 to 19 years with a broad range of physical disabilities, medical needs and associated learning difficulties located in Cheshire. Our interagency teams work seamlessly throughout the day to provide the very best opportunities for all children and young adults. We see our students as 'whole students', providing the best access to therapies such as hydrotherapy, speech and language therapy and physiotherapy.

Our Vision

The Hebden Green School community will:

- Give our pupils an outstanding provision of education, therapy and care.
- Enable our pupils to learn, develop, grow and achieve as part of our happy and successful school family.

Work alongside parents, carers, and the wide range of multidisciplinary colleagues, with our pupils' interests at the heart of what we all do.

Ofsted say

"Teaching and support staff combine exceptionally well with school-based therapists to ensure that all pupils receive the utmost care and attention in order for them to reach their full potential."



Sadie is happy and making progress in the warm and friendly environment of Hebden Green School

Danielle and John live in Cheshire with their daughters, Sofia, aged seven, and Sadie, aged five. Sadie has epilepsy and severe developmental delay and is reliant on adult support for all her care needs. She has been a pupil at Hebden Green for the last two and a half years.

Working together

Danielle and John are delighted with Sadie's progress since she started at Hebden Green and believe she is doing well because staff at the school work with them as a team to give Sadie all the support she needs. "They communicate well with us so that we are able to do things with Sadie at home to link in with what they are doing at school which is helping her development," Danielle says.

Settling in

"We were advised to start her in education when she was about two and so she began going to Hebden Green two days a week. After a year we increased it to three days a week and then she started doing four days a week. Now she is full time, attending five days a week from 9 to 3.30 pm. She absolutely loves the school and feels completely at home there," Danielle says.

Happy atmosphere

"We didn't just choose the school because it is close to where we live, we went to look at other schools as well because we wanted the best for Sadie," Danielle says. "We genuinely thought Hebden Green was the nicest school we saw. It has a lovely feel to it and is a very friendly place. Everybody in the school knows Sadie and they all say hello to her and are very helpful to us."

Fun in the pool

Danielle says Sadie is so happy at Hebden Green that she gets excited when she is on her way to school. "She loves going in the hydrotherapy pool on a Tuesday morning, which is good for her as it helps build up her muscle tone. She also likes going on the swings in the playground and has made friends with other children and enjoys playing with them."

Efficient service

Hebden Green have everything the children need for their education and care, with teachers, physiotherapists and nurses all available on site, Danielle says. "They all communicate well and work together to provide everything each child needs. They adapt their services

to suit each child, treating all the children as individuals. What suits Sadie might not suit another child, so they pay attention to each child's likes and dislikes."

Topic work

"As part of the educational curriculum, Hebden Green do similar topics to the ones my older daughter does at her primary school but they teach them in different ways. For the seaside topic they had sand, boats and water but taught it in a sensory way, using sounds, tastes and things the children could feel," Danielle says.

Using therapy

"We have seen so much progress since Sadie started at Hebden Green. She has to use a special chair but now she can sit up for a while on the floor supporting herself. They use special therapy programmes to help her development. Her teacher will sing songs and ask her to choose a toy to go with the song to help her learn to make choices. Then she realises that each toy goes with a particular song," Danielle says.

Communicating better

"Sadie likes the sensory room with all the different lights where she is encouraged to reach for objects. She never used to look at things but now she will look and let you know if she wants an item. We know her noises and the teachers have also got to know her noises so she can communicate with us now," Danielle says. "The staff have really brought her on and helped her develop and are constantly working with us to make sure she fulfils her potential!"



Curriculum

Our personalised curriculum helps our pupils become active participants in society through focusing on:

- communication, physical development social, emotional, resilience and personal safety skills;
- formal learning (maths, English, science and other subjects);
- the 'ready to learn' curriculum (including sensory processing and awareness; and
- community and vocational learning.

What happens on entry to Hebden Green School?

Pupils aged 2–7 will enter our Foundation Stage where we provide a caring, stimulating and creative environment that ensures that every child's early school experiences are happy and rewarding. Our prime areas of focus are communication and language, personal, social and emotional development and the promotion of physical skills. Initially pupils are grouped according to age into small class groups. The aim of the Foundation Stage is to give children the skills they need to thrive in the future: the ability to learn and engage; the ability to communicate with others and the ability to be as independent as possible. At the end of Year 2, pupils will move into one of our three Pathways linked to their individual learning and social needs and preferred learning style.

What are Pathways?

We use the term Pathways to help explain how we break down our curriculum and provision for the needs of all of our pupils. We have a diverse school population and therefore have a flexible curriculum approach which is tailored for the needs of individual pupils, including qualifications where appropriate.

Pathway 1

This offers a curriculum which focuses on four core areas: communication; cognition; physical development and independence. It rests on skills based teaching through a multi sensory and multi professional approach with education, care and therapies blended seamlessly into provision.

Pathway 2

Within this Pathway the National Curriculum is individualised for the needs of the pupils including subject teaching, communication and personal development. Teaching is also centred on enhancing their independence and physical skills. Pupils may, for example, use PECS, communication aids or have access to small group emotional literacy support.

Pathway 3

This is a subject based curriculum taught by highly skilled teachers at secondary level and is based on mainstream expected levels of progress alongside additional therapy support from nurses, Speech and Language Therapists and physiotherapists. Pupils may sit formal qualifications such as GCSEs or Entry Level Certificates and will be expected to work towards employment and/ or further training at a mainstream college.



We start the school day at 9 a.m. for registration. The school day ends at 3.30 for all pupils but lesson times and lunch times will depend on individual timetables and needs.

The best time to contact your child's teacher is between 8.45 a.m. and 9 a.m., or after 3.30 p.m. If you need to speak to someone urgently please contact the school at any time. You can also contact the nursing or physiotherapy team directly.

We will keep you informed about achievements, participation and recent events enjoyed by your child by, for example, sending/ emailing photos, certificates, and photocopies of work completed.

A newsletter will also be sent out and published on the website every term.

Getting to school

Transport for your child to and from school is organised by your Local Authority. Before your child starts school you will receive written information from the transport co-ordination office for your area. If there are any problems please contact the local transport office on the numbers below:

- Cheshire West and Chester: 01244 973377.
- Cheshire East: 01270 371485 or 01270 371134.

School meals

Menus change each week and hot and cold meals are freshly cooked on the premises each day. We encourage healthy and balanced meal choices and work with our children and young

people to understand their own nutritional needs. Special dietary requirements and food allergies are catered for, so please let us know about any requirements that your child has.

Many of our children have feeding programmes designed by our Speech and Language Therapists, which are administered by trained Teaching Assistants or Midday Assistants.

Free school meals

Children up to the age of 7 (Year 2) are provided with a free school meal. If you are in receipt of certain benefits, you can also apply for Free School Meals which can help with other costs: contact www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-meals.aspx.

Our facilities

In addition to our Hydrotherapy pool and Physiotherapy centre, each Key Stage has their own social areas and specially adapted playgrounds including a sensory garden and growing zone. We have a fully adapted Life Skills Teaching Kitchen, a sensory room, and our 4D interactive classroom where learning is brought to life using projectors, an interactive floor, and an integrated light and sound system. We have a specialist peripatetic music teacher who delivers across the school, a small team of Emotional Literacy Support Assistants (ELSAs) who work with pupils individually or in small groups and a number of Conductors and Conductive Education assistants who work with pupils on their individual physical targets and programmes.

Your Child's Achievements



How will I know how my child is progressing?

You will be invited into school within the first term of entry into Hebden Green School to talk about how your child has settled in. It is an opportunity to look at individual targets linked to your child's Education, Health and Care Plan. These targets are reviewed and sent home each term.

Parent Meetings

There are three formal Parents' Meetings each year and you will also be invited to attend an Annual Review to discuss progress against the outcomes in your child's Plan or Statement. We use a range of methods to measure progress and these will be explained as part of the Annual Review Meeting.

In addition, you are welcome to contact your child's teacher at any time if there are any aspects of your child's learning, development or behaviour that you would like to discuss.

Reporting

You will also receive a termly report which details how your child has progressed in all areas of their curriculum, and achievements against their Individual Targets. It will also include details from the Nursing Staff, Residential Team, Speech and Language Therapists and Physiotherapists as appropriate.

Assemblies

Every week, assemblies are held which recognise the achievement made by our pupils and certificates may be given out and photographs shared. We will keep you informed about achievements, participation and recent events enjoyed by your child by, for example, sending/ emailing photos, certificates, and photocopies of work completed. A newsletter will also be sent out and published on the website every term.

Residential

To further enhance our pupil's life skills and experience, the relevant Local Authority commissions places in our purpose built Residential facility. This is a well resourced provision with areas for independent study, relaxation and leisure. We have ample outside grounds with our own growing area, and several lounges.

We offer nightly activities such as gardening, sports and art club or visits out to local venues such as the theatre, cinema, bowling or to have a meal out.

Life skills are at the heart of our curriculum at Hebden Green School. This refers to all sorts of skills that help young people succeed as they grow into young adults and are essential as they leave school and look towards getting a job and living independently.

Life skills are based around:

literacy - functional reading and writing skills like reading a leaflet or writing a shopping list.

communication – functional communication such as listening, understanding and giving information to a wide range of people including unfamiliar people and in unfamiliar places. This includes using communication aids such as a PODD book, Eye Gaze technology or iPad but also using PECS and symbols.

We teach social skills using role play, social stories and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy programmes where appropriate. We also give pupils time to be social with their friends in a safe environment. We look at communicating in a respectful way and what makes a good friend. Our counsellor and Emotional Literacy Support Assistant are available in the evening.

numeracy - functional maths skills such as working out change or telling the time. It also includes basic concepts such as more and less.

home management skills – these skills are at the heart of our residential provision as it gives our pupils an opportunity to practice their skills in a real environment. These skills include laundry (ironing, reading washing care instructions, sorting clothes, using a washing machine), planning and making meals (including looking at nutrition and special diets, budgeting and ordering food/ shopping, washing up and laying a table), gardening, cleaning, personal hygiene and many more.

We also look at personal safety and eSafety and the risks of online activities, including the risk of sexual and financial exploitation and the risk of radicalisation and extremism.





Teaching in the Foundation Stage is delivered in accordance with the governments Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (April 2017).

At Hebden Green School we provide our pupils with this framework by providing routine, structure and carefully planned, targeted adult led and child initiated activities all based around play and the pupils individual motivators. Individual Education Plan targets are set for each pupil with the purpose of enhancing opportunities for learning and personal development across every part of their day.

There are seven areas of learning in the EYFS framework; Literacy, mathematics, understanding of the world, expressive arts and design plus three 'Prime' areas of learning. Our curriculum allocates the majority of the children's learning time to these 3 'Prime areas' All the learning that goes on in the Foundation Stage is designed to promote these core skills and to provide opportunities for children to generalise them. Through our morning sessions our pupils will engage in skill led sessions linked to Communication and Physical development. During the afternoon sessions theme based activities are provided to allow our children to extend their learning, apply it and progress to demonstrating skills in new environment, with different people and with reducing support.

Learners follow the Foundation Stage curriculum throughout the Early Years, Years 1 & 2. This developmental curriculum plays a diagnostic role in establishing which of the Pathways the child will begin in Year 3, e.g. Pathway 1, 2 or 3. Class timetables are constructed around the principle that every moment of the school day is a learning opportunity. Each aspect of school life is a planned learning experience and linked to personalised curriculum targets.

In the early years we organise the day to provide an appropriate balance between the following:

- Child Initiated Activities - children make choices from within the learning environment to meet his/her outcome for learning.
- Adult Initiated Activities- practitioners provide the resources to stimulate and consolidate learning.
- Adult Directed Activities – Children engage in planned activities to meet their own Individual Education Plan targets.



'Learners make excellent progress. There is outstanding teaching with a wide range of courses and activities. Learners have access to work experience and adult environments. This helps to promote outstanding personal development. Learners receive the guidance and support they need and are very well prepared for adult life.'

Ofsted 2014

We encourage and support our students to move onto further education, training or work - facilitating this through focused teaching on key life skills such as interviews and close links with other providers. We also ensure that there are clear links between the courses that our students want to study and the skills we teach here at Hebden Green and provide individualised timetables of study allied to their intended outcomes.

In addition we offer opportunities for enrichment activities such as the Duke of Edinburgh Award; work experience; residential experiences off site and enterprise projects.

We work closely with the Residential department to embed the life skills taught throughout the day and where possible, allow pupils to run their own flat. We work closely with parents and carers to foster close relationships and welcome them into the school both formally and informally through regular events such as parent lunches (cooked by the students), concerts and exhibitions.



Applications

Applications are usually made through the Cheshire West and Chester SEND Team. For guidance on school admissions, please see: www.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/residents/education-and-learning/school-admissions.aspx.

General enquiries

- Email: admissions@cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk
- By post: School Admissions, Cheshire West and Chester Council, Wyvern House, The Drummer, Winsford, CW7 1AH
- Telephone: 0300 123 7039

Transitions

Our first aim is to work with you to make the transition from home to school a happy and positive one for your child at whatever age they join Hebden Green School.

Your child will be invited to access transition opportunities, such as visiting the class, or a phased introduction to the school. Transition planning is a vital part of the annual review process from Year Nine onwards. Parents and pupils meet their Careers/ Young Person advisor regularly and all students have the opportunity to benefit from college links/ specialist adult providers in order that pupils can familiarise themselves with these settings.





Hebden Green School

Woodford Lane West, Winsford, CW7 4EJ

Telephone: 01606 594221 - Nurses: 01606 544327 - Physios: 01606 544333

Email: admin@hebdengreen.cheshire.sch.uk

Website: <http://www.hebdengreen.cheshire.sch.uk>