



Hammer Lane Academy

Prospectus 2024/25



Welcome

I am delighted to share with you our prospectus, which aims to provide you with more information about the excellent local provision here at Hammer Lane Academy, our brand-new specialist setting located in Wakefield.

We know that choosing the right school for your son / daughter can be both an exciting and challenging time and there are a lot of factors for every parent to weigh up. This prospectus should help you to get a picture of our excellent provision and what our offer entails.

Our provision is for children who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and have Communication and Interaction as their prime area of need. Our aims are that our children will experience 'ambition without limits' and we strive to provide a truly exceptional educational experience that builds life skills and independence alongside key academic learning. Our offer is precisely tailored towards each child's individual strengths, interests and needs, the child truly is at the heart of our curriculum and offer.

We greatly value the importance of strong parental relationships and strive on the ability to be part of successful partnerships between our children, their families, wider community links and our external partners.

If you would like more information, or to see our amazing setting in action then please get in touch via email LThresh@watertonacademytrust.org or by calling our school office 01924 967610

We look forward to meeting you in due course.



Laura Thresh
Executive Headteacher

About Us

Aspiration



Achievement



Aspiration



Our Vision and Values

Hammer Lane Academy is a setting which seeks to continually develop its students and staff and influence practices and attitudes. At Hammer Lane students and staff work together in a safe and happy environment where there is a culture driven by nurture and passion to prepare children for the future. It is our belief that every child should have the provision in place which allows them to achieve their full potential, we are aspirational and strive for achievement for all.



Nurturing and



**preparing
children**



for the future



Aspiration and



achievement



for all

Our Staff Team

We take great pride in our staff team and ensure that we are always working to further improve the quality of offer that our children receive. We enable this to happen in the following ways;

- Our support staff are paid a full time week to ensure they are involved in all aspects of planning, preparation and resourcing
- All staff attend all CPD sessions to ensure that everyone receives the same training, key messages and level of quality
- Staff are encouraged to deliver their own CPD sessions using their individual strengths and experiences to build breath of experience alongside staff value
- Across our settings we have a strong network of support that ensures we are always learning from each other. This includes visiting partner settings and sharing good practice.
- We provide opportunities for staff to follow their skills and interests to ensure our development is innovative
- We operate a 1:2 ratio within setting so there is an adult for every 2 children. Thia is a flexible model – staff are not assigned children, they work with everyone in their class.

“

I feel proud and privileged to work at Newstead Academy. Staff are passionate about nurturing and encouraging our children's love of learning and making them feel safe and valued.

Bonnie

“

I never felt as big a part of a team as I do at Newstead, everyone is working to the same means which is positive outcomes for all the children. Our children are the most amazing children you will ever meet and it is a privilege to be in their lives and be part of helping to shape their futures.

Craig

Our Children

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I really enjoy coming to school, I didn't like my old school... I like Newstead.

AF

Our staff are given the opportunities above so that we can recruit and retain high quality, effective, motivated and resilient staff. We ensure this is in place so that we know that our children are receiving an educational offer of the highest quality. Our children all have unique personalities, backgrounds and needs and it is our job to provide an educational experience that meets each unique profile and ensures that optimal progress is being made at all times.

It is our purpose to ensure that our children are;

- Safe
- Happy
- Engaged
- Motivated
- Learning
- Progressing

“

School is fun!

Hugh

Our Parents

Our parents work exceptionally well with us as a school- the partnership between us is key to ensuring that our children are safe, happy and progressing. Many of our children arrive to school via transport and so it is crucial that our parents feel that they are kept well informed and that they feel they can get in touch with us via their preferred method of communication. To boost our parental engagement and parents' knowledge of the school day we use a variety of methods;

- A weekly newsletter with key information, 'shout outs' for the week and information regarding what each class has covered that week.
- Tapestry- this is an online tool that parents can use to access photos and videos of their child and written information about their current assessment levels and next steps.
- Open emails and direct contact with school leaders and class teachers so that any queries are answered on the same day.
- Stay and play events where parents can attend to spend time with their child in the school environment.
- A parental co- production group led by our SENCO to look at any developments and ensure that these happen.
- Regular parents evenings and 'check in' phonecalls led by staff.

“

Excellent school, my child has come on loads since being at this school and we are so grateful for this opportunity. I can't thank all the staff there enough because they are all amazing at what they do.

Parent

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Thank-you to all the Waterton Newstead staff who go above and beyond every single day to ensure our children have the access to education which will hopefully pave the way to a path with opportunities and life chances as peer groups without SEND!

Parent

Our Governors

We have a strong Academy Standards Committee (ASC) in place for our Newstead site who have the vital role of providing challenge and support for school. Our Governors meet once per term and also complete monitoring visits during this time to ensure that they are well informed in regard to our offer and current position. We have a wealth of knowledge and experience across our ASC to ensure that we are being appropriately challenged for the best interests of our children. The knowledge and experience includes;

- Headteacher of local mainstream setting with an attached SEN provision.
- Inclusion Manager who has worked for LA services focused on SCI needs and autism.
- SENCO
- Primary Strategy Lead for a local Trust of Specialist settings and schools
- IT manager



Curriculum

Our curriculum is designed to inspire, engage and motivate our children to build interest and access to learning and to ensure that each child is making progress within their own learning journey.

To achieve this we use Cornerstones as the basis for our curriculum and then adapt this to ensure our children are receiving the precise offer that they need. Our curriculum is built around the theme of 'ambition without limits' we push our children to achieve their absolute best.

Our curriculum is built around the child- our children are our starting point- where they are now, where we would like them to go next and how they will get there. This means that knowledge of each child must be substantial, accurate and constantly updated to ensure group and individual activities are pitched at the exact level that each child needs. We ensure that we constantly reflect on the learning point of each child and ask ourselves-'What next?' We consider 'How do we know?' We move at the pace that is right for each individual child but ensure that this is done in way that ensures no time is wasted. This can be difficult to achieve which is why we only employ the very best staff, we provide regular high quality CPD and we ensure that our setting as a whole is reflective.

We regularly review our curriculum offer through learning walks and monitoring activities including book looks and talking to our children. We use termly pupil progress meetings to carefully track progress and identify any areas that may require a particular focus to ensure progress is optimised.

Our curriculum and work that children complete is shared daily with our parents and carers through Tapestry which is our online learning tool. Parents can see photographs and videos of their child and staff can use these to track and evidence progress and next steps.

So what does this look like?

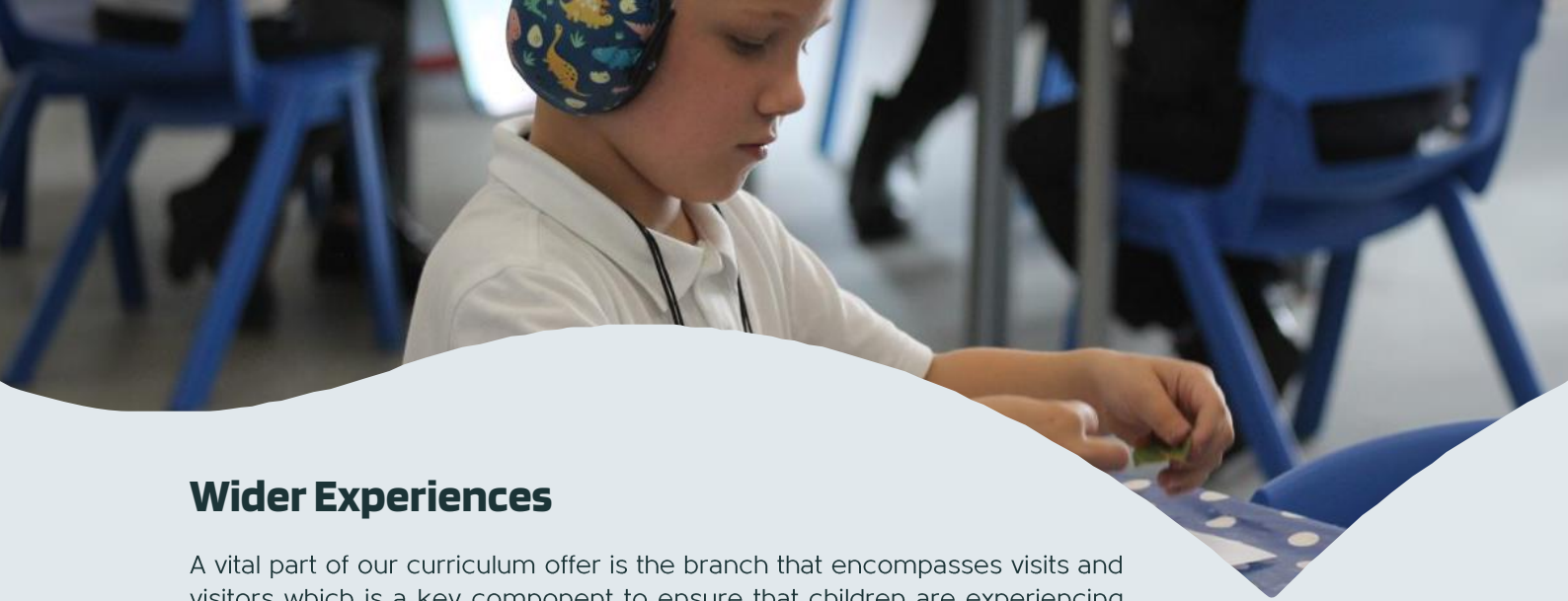
The learning experiences we offer our children work as whole class, small group and individual learning activities and tasks. Each class has a curriculum approach that is precisely tailored towards the cohort and individual children within the class. For some children this means that many activities are based around sensory experiences and exploratory play in order to learn and develop. Some of our children can engage with small groups tasks and challenges and work cooperatively to complete set activities. Where children are able to they will access elements of more formal learning. We ensure that every child is challenged and

supported each day, week and term to make progress and small steps towards their targets.

Which approaches do we use?

At Hammer Lane Academy we use a range of approaches to meet the needs of our children and to ensure that they are able to access the full curriculum that we offer. We regularly revisit and reflect upon the approaches that are brought used for group and individual sessions to ensure that strategies and provision in place are the most suitable for each child at that point in time. Examples of some of the approaches and strategies that we use are;

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| ▪ TEACCH | ▪ Attention Autism | ▪ Tacpac |
| ▪ PECS | ▪ Intensive Interaction | ▪ ELSA |
| ▪ Makaton | ▪ Lego Therapy | ▪ Schema |
| ▪ Music interaction | ▪ Sensory circuits | ▪ Drawing club |



Wider Experiences

A vital part of our curriculum offer is the branch that encompasses visits and visitors which is a key component to ensure that children are experiencing the breadth of curriculum offer. Each unit within Cornerstones has an experience linked to it- this may be an experience that takes place within the classroom where children design or make something. Alternatively, some of the experiences include visitors to the classroom for example a vet, a doctor or a chef. Other units include visits outside of the classroom and children may go to places such as Yorkshire Wildlife Park, a local farm. We are keen to ensure that our offer is as full and rich as possible and we actively work to ensure that additional elements and components are added- child dependent.

Community

We have links with local providers and are keen to develop further links within the local community.

We want our school to be viewed as a vital element of the Sharlston community and we want our children to be seen as active citizens within this.

Our children deserve the very best learning opportunities and a chance to explore the world and all the wonder contained within it.

Examples of links we have made within our Newstead setting include:

- Links with the community café- with cookery lessons taking place there
- Links with the local gardens and allotments- we support with digging and planting vegetables to grow
- Links with the local Library- with visits to look at and share books together
- Links with a local farm- to experience handling and caring for animals

As we establish ourselves as a brand new setting in Sharlston we will aim to develop links to provide such opportunities for our Hammer Lane family.



www.hammerlanceacademy.org

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