

# Welcome to Our Co-located Specialist and Mainstream Primary School: Highbury @ Field Lane



## What is Co-location?

Co-location means that a specialist school and a mainstream primary school share the same site. Each school maintains its own identity and curriculum, but they work closely together to share resources, spaces, and expertise.

## Why is it happening?

Many mainstream schools are experiencing falling pupil numbers, leaving classrooms and facilities underused. At the same time, there is a growing need for specialist school places. Co-locating allows us to make the most of available space while meeting the needs of all learners in our community.



## How will it benefit my child?

- Children will learn in a more inclusive environment that celebrates diversity.
- Pupils from both schools will have opportunities to play and learn together. This has proven to be hugely beneficial to pupils from Highbury who have attended satellite provisions at Copley and Withinfields. Being amongst typically developing peers who have good social interaction skills, it provides a great role model for all the children who can practice skills such as playing and talking together.
- All children will benefit from wider exposure to and education about disability and difference. We can raise awareness and understanding in a supportive teaching environment.
- Teachers will share expertise, improving learning for all.
- Shared facilities mean better access to resources like sensory rooms and outdoor spaces.
- Children will be on Highbury roll and will benefit from access to the resources on both sites.
- The short distance from Field Lane to Highbury means that children will be able to easily access the Lower Edge site and will be able to practice key skills such as road safety.

# What can parents expect?

You can expect a warm, inclusive school community where every child is valued. There will be regular communication, opportunities to get involved, and support for families from both schools. We are committed to working with you to ensure your child thrives.



# How do you decide which children attend which site?

Admission to Highbury is the same. Parents/carers must make a request to the school via the SEN team and every child must have an EHCP which details the needs and provision needed for their child. The SEN team will advise families on the process and help to decide which setting is right for each child.

The senior leadership team reviews every request that is made to the school and will decide whether the school can meet the needs described in the EHCP. The Local Authority make the final decision on whether a place is allocated or not.

As Highbury will now be operating across two sites, the senior leadership team will review your child's needs and consider where their needs will be best met.

**Children who attend Highbury@Lower Edge** will have significant and complex needs that include severe learning needs, sensory and regulation needs and language and communication needs. The children based at Highbury@ Lower Edge will predominantly be working towards the engagement curriculum and will be learning how to engage in teaching and learning through hands on experiences and concrete approaches.

**Children who attend Highbury@Field Lane** will be working on subject specific curriculum and will benefit from the inclusion opportunities and social interaction that will be available within the mainstream school.

As with the placement of all children at Highbury, children are based according to their needs and not their age and this can be flexible as needs can change over time.

