

# Oaklands School



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



**Oaklands School**

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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 students have an Education, Health and Care Plan with the vast majority having moderate learning difficulties stated to be their most significant difficulty.

A number of students also have severe learning difficulties, social and emotional difficulties or speech and communication difficulties. In line with their learning difficulties, the attainment of students is significantly 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 students learn in a nurturing and happy environment. The caring environment provided by the excellent and supportive staff, enables students 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 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 has a clear Mission and Purpose Statement:**

*“We believe in making a lasting difference, by giving students the tools to meet the challenges of the future”*

**Our Ethos 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, History, Geography, Modern Foreign languages, Design and Technology, Art and design, Music, Physical Education, Citizenship, Computing, Careers, Emotional Literacy lessons, PSHE and RSHE.

**KEY STAGE 4 Curriculum—Years 10 and 11:**

As well as following core and foundation subjects, and PSHE, RSHE and Careers, students are able to choose from a range of option subjects to make up their studies including, Hospitality, ICT, Performing Arts, Animal Care, Health and Fitness and the Duke of Edinburgh award.





***"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 by prior appointment. 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
- ReachMore parents messaging/e-mail service
- Reports about student progress
- Annual Reviews and Parents Evenings
- Newsletters and informal contacts
- Website—[www.oaklandsschool.org.uk](http://www.oaklandsschool.org.uk)
- X—@SchoolOaklands
- Facebook—@SchoolOaklands
- Instagram—@schoolOaklands

We may also take the opportunity to contact parents/carers 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.

## 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 **Emma Bradford**

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 students. 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.





## 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 overseeing EHCP annual, transfer or transition reviews
- Liaising with external support agencies, including SALT, 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 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 are 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.

*"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*

*"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 may participate in during the academic year:

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

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

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

December is always a busy month in school, and it starts off with a visit to the pantomime and a Christmas Jumper Day in aid of Save the Children. The month ends with a Christmas coffee morning for parents/carers and an end of term Christmas lunch and disco for the students.

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

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

March is another busy month as our Year 9 students take part in a residential visit to Red Ridge in Mid Wales and get involved in a wide range of outdoor activities, and our Year 7 students attend a residential visit at Glan Llyn. We also visit Chester Zoo, watch a Creepy Crawley show in school and visit the Catalyst museum as part of Science Week!

Year 12 students undertake their one week work experience placements in April which are always a great success! April sees our Year 10 students heading off to the Lake District for their residential.

June brings exams for our Year 11 students and a visit to the Cheshire Show for our school choir.

July is always a busy month as rehearsals for our summer production begin with staff and students working extremely hard to prepare for the show. The year ends with a celebration rewards assembly, and school closes 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:**

NCFE Certificate in Personal and Social Development

OCN Awareness of British Values and Citizenship

OCN Certificate in Skills for Living and Work

NOCN Level 1 English Award and OCN London Level 1 and Entry Level Maths Award

Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

ICT

PSHE

Cooking

PE

Work experience

All qualifications are delivered at Entry Level 3 or Level 1 depending on previous pupil attainment.

## ADMISSIONS TO OAKLANDS SCHOOL

All 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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Winsford  
Cheshire  
CW7 1NU  
Tel: 01606 551048

Website: <http://www.oaklandsschool.org.uk>

Facebook: @SchoolOaklands

Office email: [office@oaklandsschool.org](mailto:office@oaklandsschool.org)

Headteacher: Mr Neil Oxley

Chair of Governors: Mr J Williamson



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