



OAKLANDS  
SCHOOL

*“Enjoying learning and school life”*



# Welcome

## Welcome to Oaklands School

A new co-educational, independent day school established to provide unique, contemporary and enjoyable learning experiences for young people aged 5 – 16 years with special and individual needs.

Our pupils will be full time and have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Oaklands School is a learning community for staff and pupils, where everyone feels welcome, included and respected.

We believe that everyone has the right to be free from prejudice and discrimination. Children develop and learn in different ways and we have created a school which is flexible and can adapt to pupils' needs and offer the following, **without exception**:

- 1. Personalised, pupil-centred education for every pupil**
- 2. Small class sizes with enriched activities**
- 3. A family-style school of the right size**
- 4. Warm, caring and nurturing environment**
- 5. Well qualified, dedicated and motivational teachers**
- 6. Modern building and contemporary facilities**

## From the Chair of Governors

I am delighted and privileged to be the founding Chair of Governors for Oaklands School. This school was created specifically to provide a unique and enjoyable learning experience for children and young people aged 5 – 16 years with additional needs. We believe that 'learning should be fun' and that every pupil should be 'happy and successful'.

This is why we have taken the very best school practices and built them into our school – our curriculum offer is therefore broad, balanced, relevant and personalised to meet individual pupil's needs. Our approach fits perfectly with EHC planning and partnership working, personalisation and accountability.

We therefore welcome parental and carer engagement and feedback on all aspects of the school. Our success will be measured by your child's happiness and achievements in school and in later life.

A very warm welcome to Oaklands, I look forward to meeting you.



**Julie Smith**  
*Chair of Governors*

# You & We Are Special

We provide specialist academic and therapeutic support in a welcoming and friendly setting for pupils with unique learning profiles, including Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) and associated communication, language, social, emotional, and mental health needs. For families who do not have English as their first language our policy is to appoint staff representative of the community, speaking other languages.

Our approach fits with the pupils' Education and Health Care Plans, using a personalised approach and including the voice of parents and the child. Our school removes barriers to learning and participation, providing an education through our five curriculum pathways. As parents and your child's first and best teacher, we at Oaklands School, will work with you to shape your child's academic, social and personal development.

## Our Vision

To be recognised as the very best performing school for pupils with special and individual needs, serving children and young people in the region.

Pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) have the greatest need for excellent teaching and are entitled to the provision that supports their achievement here at Oaklands. Our evidence-based approach is consistently reviewed in order to analyse and create individual and small group programmes to achieve this vision. We stand out because we are committed to creating the most positive and supportive environment for all our pupils **without exception**.

## Our Mission

To provide innovative, personalised and exciting learning opportunities that ensure our pupils are happy and successful in life.

## Our Mantra

- **A Passion for Education**
- **A Vision of Excellence**
- **A Mission to Succeed**

## Our Promise

We promise to take all possible steps to ensure our pupils and parents are delighted with the education that we provide.





# Our Curriculum

## Each Child Is Different

We believe that learning is an adventure – one filled with inspiration, creative opportunities and a variety of experiences to enable every individual to grow and become their best self. Learning opportunities are diverse and pupil centred, with an emphasis on life skills, communication and developing independence; giving everyone the opportunity to achieve both academic and personal success. We work together to break down barriers and cultivate a respectful, inclusive community.

Our children and young people study the National Curriculum, which is carefully differentiated to meet their individual needs. Our core curriculum aim is to prepare our pupils for the future - ensuring they are equipped with a range of skills that allow them to be as independent in their next steps as possible and to prepare them for the wider world.

Through our positive and caring approach to learning, we support pupils to reach their full potential and celebrate each milestone reached along their learning journeys. Many of our pupils have barriers to learning and may be behind their peers. We offer high-quality literacy and numeracy intervention, with a focus on phonics intervention. We place a strong emphasis on developing the basic skills necessary to become a competent and independent learner and a successful adult.

The curriculum is taught through a combination of subject specific and cross-curricular sessions linked to themes derived from the National Curriculum and topics of interest. These lessons are taught alongside specialist input which meets the physical, sensory and communication needs of our diverse cohort. All planned provision is linked to EHCP outcomes.

We create curriculum maps for each mixed age class across the primary and secondary years to ensure planned progression of skills and knowledge. The planning of the curriculum is linked to rolling cycles of topics to ensure full coverage is possible for pupils as they progress

through the school. These topics are regularly reviewed to make necessary improvements to the existing programme of work.

Pupils are assessed according to their individual strengths and needs. Developing their independence, their motivation as learners and their sense of responsibility as future citizens, is at the heart of all teaching and learning. The staff at Oaklands School work hard to inspire pupils by planning lessons that are interesting and challenging.

## Curriculum Themes

We believe that young people learn best when they are having fun, so all topics begin with exciting launch days, continue through engaging learning opportunities and are commemorated by celebration days that bring each topic to an end.

Themes are assigned to age related phase groups, and it is the curriculum pathway that a pupil follows which determines how learning is taught and assessed. Our topic themes are cross-curricular lessons that incorporate curriculum and PSHE objectives. Pupils across the pathways take part in themed lessons each week. The topic themes run on cycles linked to the length of each key stage. They are chosen through national curriculum objectives and the interests of our pupils – most are linked closely to a geographical area or historical period.

Each of our curriculum pathways and themes will be enriched through enjoyable events, educational visits, guest speakers and residential trips - we firmly believe that real life experiences like these create lasting memories and strengthen pupils' passion for learning about the world around them.

## No Child Is Left Behind

A nurturing approach and strong sense of our multicultural and multifaith community are central to life at Oaklands School. We have a high staff: pupil ratio. We offer a highly specialist and therapeutic wrap around education programme for young people with complex barriers to learning.

We discuss pupil's needs for therapy with them, their parents and other professionals during their admission

process. Through our pathways, we also offer art, music and play therapy to enable young people to express themselves and improve their emotional wellbeing.

We encourage and promote a lifelong love of learning for all pupils. We are committed to evolving our approach through high-quality research and innovative practice as this impacts on their future.

## Our Curriculum Pathways

There are five curriculum pathways across our school:

<b>Foundation</b>	Curriculum objectives are personalised to each child and linked to the steps within Development Matters: Birth to Five. Staff focus on developing communication, physical development and sensory processing, in order to prepare our youngest pupils for the next steps of their learning journey.
<b>Engage</b>	Pupils are taught functional literacy and maths in short and repetitive sessions, alongside daily Physical Development, Sensory Processing and Communication sessions. Pupils benefit from a high level of adult support throughout their day and are taught at their own pace in a familiar and individualised way.
<b>Evolve</b>	The pathway is nurturing and calm, benefiting those pupils who rely on familiarity. Lessons are short, repetitive and structured. We focus on pupils developing their social and emotional understanding – building social skills and interactions through group work and structured communication based activities.
<b>Explore</b>	We focus on challenge and stretch, encouraging pupils to work well with peers and communicate their thoughts, ideas and questions clearly, independently, in pairs and in small groups. Independence Skills and Work-Related Learning sessions start in year 7 in preparation for qualifications and formal assessment.
<b>Challenge</b>	Our Challenge Curriculum is for pupils in years 10 to 11. Curriculum objectives are personalised to each young person and linked to opportunities to develop independence, work related skills and a range of qualifications as they leave our school and branch out into the next stage of their growth and development.



# Our Therapies

## We Are an Autism Friendly School

Teachers and support staff work closely with our Psychologist to assess and design programmes to enable our pupils to achieve and develop to their best ability. We keep up to date with current thinking and developments in education for children with ASC.

We tailor our approach to each child, as no two children with ASC think and learn in the same way. We have dedicated staff members who specialise in therapies to meet the wide-ranging needs of our pupils, including speech and language therapy, play therapy and occupational therapy. As the school grows and develops we plan to appoint our own therapy team to work alongside the teaching and classroom support staff.

## Speech and Language Therapy

Speech and language therapy provides treatment, support and care for pupils who have difficulties with communication, or with eating, drinking and swallowing. Our Speech and Language Therapists work as part of a team with our other therapists and work with teachers, parents, carers and other professionals to provide support tailored to the individual pupils needs, as outlined in their Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

## Play Therapy

Our play therapist is now in post. Learning through play, supports pupils who need support to express emotions. They will work with toys, equipment and materials to recreate issues that represent emotional conflicts that are important to the child.

## Occupational Therapist

Our occupational therapists will support all pupils when participating in meaningful activities to aid them in improving their quality of life and wellbeing. These types of activities can include self-care, productivity, and leisure activities.

## Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA)

In the future, our specially trained teaching assistants who support our pupils, in learning to understand their own emotions, while becoming aware of and respecting the emotions of the pupils around them.



# Excellent Learning Facilities

## Our Facilities

The learning environment has been designed specifically for Oaklands, with a range of classrooms, break out and sensory spaces for small groups and one-to-one teaching. As the school grows and develops over time, all pupils as they enter key stages 3 and 4 will have access to specialist teaching rooms for IT, technology, media arts, fine arts and science. The ground floor includes facilities and offices for meetings, school leaders and administrators.

The school grounds are landscaped with secure outdoor play spaces for the pupils. The school has excellent community facilities nearby for swimming, PE and sport, music and drama. In addition we will be using school vehicles to access local resources and activities including Horse Riding and outdoor activities such as Forest School. The Dance and Drama Studio, includes tiered rows for seating 150 for school performances, productions, presentations and assemblies.



## Our Community Partners

The school is partnering with the Herongate Club in Hungerford, a volunteer community club providing sport, leisure and learning facilities for the benefit of the whole community. In addition, the school will provide links with other community based groups and projects, such as Horse Riding at the nearby RDA. Horse Riding offers the pupils a sense of achievement as well as an opportunity for enjoyment and to grow independence and confidence.





*“We look forward to pupils enjoying  
learning and school life  
without exception.”*

As an exclusive Special Needs School, we treat each application personally,  
with each application handled directly by our Headteacher.

We admit pupils with EHCPs who have challenges with autism and associated  
Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

**For more information about the admission process,  
please contact us directly.**

✉ [info@oaklands-school.co.uk](mailto:info@oaklands-school.co.uk)

☎ **01488 757367**



**OAKLANDS**  
SCHOOL

[www.oaklands-school.co.uk](http://www.oaklands-school.co.uk)

Oaklands School, Charnham Park, Tealgate, Hungerford, Near Newbury RG17 0YT