

ORRETS MEADOW SCHOOL



"To raise the aspirations of every child and give them the confidence to fulfil their potential through positive learning experience"

Orrets Meadow School
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Dear Parents

Orrets Meadow is a special school for children aged 7-11, who have difficulties in reading and spelling. They may also have difficulties with maths, memory, organisational skills, spatial awareness and, for some, difficulties with fine and gross motor skills. Some of our children may have Autism and associated social communication difficulties.

Orrets Meadow offers small classes, tuition using multi-sensory techniques and a carefully structured approach with opportunities for reinforcement and revision. Our learning programmes and methods are tried and tested but are flexible and adapted to suit the needs of the individual. Success and praise quickly build confidence.

In September we opened two new ASC classes, for children with social communication difficulties and specific learning difficulties. The new classrooms have their own toilets, changing/shower facilities and access to a sensory room. Each class has 6 to 8 pupils, a class teacher and 1.5 teaching assistants.

Our policy is to re-awaken interest in learning, to restore the child's confidence and self-esteem and to help every pupil reach his or her potential.

At the same time, we provide a broad and balanced curriculum relevant to the pupil's needs and abilities. Progress is carefully monitored in a variety of ways, including standardised diagnostic reading and spelling tests.

Our recent Ofsted inspection (May 2012) describes Orrets Meadow as 'Outstanding'.

We hope that if your child joins us he or she will be happy and will make excellent progress and return to mainstream education with the skills and confidence to succeed.

C Duncan
Headteacher



1 Who will come to our school

All of the children at Orrets Meadow have a Statement of Special educational Needs, naming this school.

2 What will happen if my child has additional needs?

If you are concerned that your child may have additional needs please raise these concerns with the class teacher or with the headteacher or deputy.

We work in partnership with many agencies and are able to access support from the ASD team, Behaviour Support, Vision and Hearing Impaired Services, Educational Psychology Service and English as a Second Language Service. We buy in our own Speech & Language therapist, who visits weekly. Please be assured that none of these services will be consulted regarding your child without your knowledge and permission.

There is full wheelchair access to the school, changing room/shower facilities and a disabled toilet.



3 Is the curriculum different at Orrets Meadow?

The school's curriculum covers all the subjects your child will have studied in their mainstream school. The difference is in the balance and the emphasis on teaching literacy and numeracy skills.



We also hope to teach the children to recognise their difficulties and to develop strategies to cope with them, thus becoming increasingly independent. Our aim is that your child will successfully reintegrate into mainstream education.

Each curricular area has a policy which is available from the school if you require it. The Policy regarding Complaints is available from the school or the Children and Young Peoples Department or its website.

Multi-sensory Learning



4 Will my child have access to the Arts?

The children at Orrets Meadow will have weekly art and music lessons. We have recently had an Art Day, led by the Art Advisory Teacher. In small teams the children produced 3D sculptures based on the topic "Coasts."

We have had visiting artists who have come to school to work with the children and have also had visits from dancers, musicians and theatre groups. The children also have the opportunity to attend concerts at the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic and year 4 children also have weekly whole class instrumental teaching as part of the Wider Opportunities Programme.

There is also a regular Art club during the lunch break.

5 Will my child do PE?

The school is fully equipped to offer PE to the required level. We have a PE specialist to deliver lessons covering a wide range of sports and activities. Visiting coaches also offer extended activities such as Dance, Judo and Fencing. We have fixed apparatus in the Hall for Gym as well as basketball and netball. We also offer the children football, rugby, rounders, table tennis, cricket, hockey and athletics. Swimming is available every year for two weeks during the summer term. Opportunities for outdoor and adventurous activities such as climbing and orienteering are also provided for the older pupils. With the PE funding given to every school we have Claremount Sports Specialist College come in once a week to coach the children and professionally develop the teachers.



Our playground has a number of climbing frames and balancing equipment to make playtimes fun or children can play football on the large pitch. Orrets Meadow frequently enters teams into local sporting competitions and plays football matches against the local mainstream school.



6 Is there a Sex Education Policy?

There is and it is available for parents at school and on the VLE. Sex education is taught in terms of relationships and emotional development and forms part of the SEAL curriculum, under the theme 'relationships'. Should any parent wish to withdraw their child from any aspect, they should request this in writing. It is usually taught during the summer term and parents and carers are invited in to see and discuss materials used in this work.

7 Does the school teach RE?

The children are taught about cultural and moral aspects of a variety of religions. The school is not affiliated to any one religion. Children can be withdrawn from RE and the collective act of worship. These children will sit in the Library to read quietly.

Each teacher rewards one or two pupils in their class at our Friday Assemblies. This may be for good work, thoughtfulness or kindness etc.



8 Does the school have a Discipline Policy?

Yes, and it is available at the school. Poor behaviour is usually dealt with by a verbal reprimand or withdrawal of privileges – perhaps staying in at break time. There is a Code of Conduct which is agreed with children each year. There is also an anti Bullying Policy and we have several incentives to encourage good behaviour.

Pupils are divided into four Houses, and can win points for their House via various sports tournaments, good behaviour on school transport and earning class prizes in the weekly Rewards Assembly. At the end of each term a treat is organised for the winning House.

More serious incidents are recorded and persistent poor behaviour may result in parents being contacted to discuss possible causes and ways to improve future conduct. It may be decided to place the child on a Points System where the child's behaviour will be monitored and recorded throughout the day.

School rules are kept to the minimum and are written in a positive way – the aim being to encourage self-discipline. Rules are discussed at the beginning of each year, with regular reminders throughout the year. They are also displayed around the school.

All staff are trained in Team Teach and this is only used as a last resort, to keep the child from hurting themselves or others. All Team Teach and behaviour incidents are recorded and kept in the Headteacher's office. Parents will always be informed if Team Teach has been used.



9 Who will teach my child?

At Orrets Meadow we have a dedicated team of experienced teachers and Teaching Assistants. The following staff work at Orrets Meadow:

Mrc C Duncan – Headteacher
Mrs R Wright – Deputy Headteacher
Mrs Billington – Assistant Headteacher

ASC Base classes 1 and 2 :

Teachers: Mrs Wright, Miss Calveley, Mr Campbell,
Teaching Assistants: Mrs Oakes, Mrs Ward and Mrs Maddocks

Teacher:	Teaching Assistants
Year 4: Mrs Tunna	Mrs Stores and Mrs Adams
Year 5 Miss Spear Mr Saul	 Mrs Nicholls and Mrs Binnell Mrs Doyle and Mrs Binnell
Year 6 Mrs L Billington Miss O Brien	 Mrs Davidson Mrs Charlton Mrs Dunn Mrs Williams

Mrs M Breeze – covers classes for PPA time and other occasions as necessary.

10 What will my child's day be like?

The children arrive at school by bus or taxi at about 8.55am. They are met by our Teaching Assistants who remain with them until 9.05. During this time they may buy toast or fruit and/or a drink (fruit juice, milk, hot chocolate). All items cost 10p. This includes milk for those pupils who want it and for those children entitled to free milk.



9.05 – 10.45	lessons
10.45 – 11.00	break
11.00 – 12.00	lessons
12.00 – 12.30	Groups time – meeting the child's additional needs
12.30 – 1.30	lunch
1.30 – 1.45	assembly
1.45 – 3.30	lessons

Children are in lessons for 24hrs and 10 minutes per week.

On a Friday children are asked to join Mrs Duncan on the Special Table for lunch. This rewards good behaviour and attitude towards learning.



Parents and friends will be informed of special achievement assemblies as they arise.

11 Will my child have Homework?

Your child will get homework and we would ask you to support this work. If children receive support at home, they usually make greater progress and children love being able to achieve!

Homework is set each day and we ask parents to check that it has been completed to a reasonable standard. It will comprise about 10 minutes reading, probe and spelling. Maths will usually be set once a week. We usually hold a meeting in the Autumn term aimed at Homework help. If for some reason difficulties arise from the homework, please contact the school and we may be able to suggest some alternatives.

12 What happens if my child is unhappy?

We work hard to create a warm and caring environment in which your child will feel secure. We are aware that many of our pupils have had unhappy experiences in their education and it is our aim to ensure that these are not repeated here.

With this in mind, we are always ready to listen to our pupils and their parents and to do our best to sort out any problems or difficulties that may arise. We would therefore urge you to contact school if you are aware of anything which is causing your child distress. Usually the staff are able

to put the child's mind at rest and to deal with the problem immediately. Wherever possible, staff will always contact parents to inform them of the outcome.

Occasionally a problem will arise which staff feel unable to deal with without the advice or guidance of an outside agency, possibly the school nurse or Social Services.

You will appreciate that if a child raises an issue with a member of staff, or if a member of staff has concerns for a child's welfare, it is imperative that all steps are taken to ensure the safety and well-being of the child. Such occasions occur rarely. However if it should involve you and your child, we hope you will realise that our first responsibility is to the child. In such circumstances we would ask for your co-operation and understanding.

13 What do I do if I have a complaint

Speak to someone as soon as possible, either the class teacher or the Headteacher.

14 Can we keep our child off school for a holiday?

The Headteacher is unable to authorise Holidays in school time, except in exceptional circumstances.

15 Is attendance Important?

Regular attendance is very important, especially for those with learning difficulties. With regular attendance, your child will be more settled in their new school and will certainly progress. They will also gain and keep friendships. The class with the best attendance at the end of each half term receives a reward and each child with 100% attendance receives an end of term certificate. We aim for 96% and above, if a child's attendance falls below 90% a letter of concern is sent home and if it falls below 85% the Headteacher will ask parents to attend a meeting to explain why this pattern has arisen.

The class with the best attendance at the end of each term has a special treat. This will be agreed on by the class and class teacher.

Attendance

2010 -2011 – 95%
2011 – 2012 – 94.6%
2012 – 2013 – 95.6%

Last three years show that overall attendance has been at least average and the last year was above average.

16 Are there any charges made by the school?

The Governors have adopted the Authority Policy on charging for activities. A copy is available from school. We will charge for:

Materials provided for practical sessions, tuition provided by the Authority's Music Service and board and lodging for residential trips.

Any costs linked to repair or replacement of materials or fabric of the building damaged by your child.

You will be asked for a voluntary contribution towards:

School trips or visits – no child will be excluded from such trips for non-contribution.

We will pay for: materials, books, and equipment used during school hours



Term dates for September 2013– July 2014

Autumn Term 2013

Staff Development Day
School opens for pupils
School closes

Monday 2nd September
Tuesday 3rd September
Friday 18th October

Half term week, Monday 21st October – Friday 25th October

School opens for pupils

Monday 28th October

Term ends

Friday 20th December

Spring Term 2014

Staff Development Day
School opens for pupils
School closes

Friday 3rd January
Monday 6th January
Friday 14th February

Half term week, Monday 17th February – Friday 21st February

School re opens

Monday 24th February

Term ends

Friday 11th April

Summer Term 2014

Staff Development Day
School opens for pupils

Monday 28th April
Tuesday 29th April

May Day bank holiday – Monday 5th May

Half term week, Monday 26th May – Friday 30th May

Staff Development Day
School opens for pupils
Term ends for pupils
Staff Development Day

Monday 2nd June
Tuesday 3rd June
Thursday 17th July
Friday 18th July

SATs - SATs will take place during the week beginning 12th May 2014.
Parents should ensure that children in Year 6 are able to attend that week.

17 What do the children wear?

We have an Orrets Meadow Sweatshirt, which can be bought from school.

We ask that the children wear the following:

Boys Plain, dark coloured trousers, plain shirt or polo shirt, sweatshirt and sensible shoes.

Girls dark skirts, pinafores or trousers, plain blouses or polo shirts, cardigan or sweatshirt and sensible shoes. In the summer term school dresses can be worn – any colour. Long hair should be tied back.

PE white t-shirt or vest and dark shorts, pumps or trainers.



18 Is there anything they are not allowed to wear?

Children should not wear denim jeans. For reasons of safety, no jewellery is allowed in school except for wrist watches. Appropriate hair cuts are also requested.



19 What happens about food during the day?

As children leave home early in the morning, we run a breakfast club. Children can buy toast or fruit, fruit juice, milk or hot chocolate. All items cost 10p each and money should be brought to school each morning. This is when milk is available for those who wish to buy it and for those children entitled to free milk.

Lunches are prepared in our kitchens each day and there is a choice of three meals each day. Meals currently cost £2 per day, and should be paid weekly by sending £10 each Monday. Parents can also pay half termly or termly if preferred.



If your child is entitled to a free school lunch, this will continue in this school.

If your child prefers to bring a packed lunch, please send it in packed securely in a container with the child's name on. These can be kept in a chiller until lunchtime. Drinks should be in a plastic bottle or carton.

Fruit and breadsticks are on sale at break times for 10p a piece.



20 Can my child get drinks through the day?

All children are provided with sports bottles for water, which can be filled at the chilled water fountain.

Milk is available at a cost of 10p per day. The milk is available when they arrive at school. Children entitled to a free school meal can receive free milk also.

21 Is there anything children should not bring to school?

We ask that children do not bring in sweets or chocolate for break times as we are a 'Healthy School'. Valuable items such as Nintendo DSs, Kindles, PSPs etc, for use on the bus, should be given to a member of staff on arrival at school and any cameras on them must be covered up. Mobile phones should not be brought into school.

22 Does Orrets Meadow have a football team?

We do not have a team which regularly plays against other schools, mainly due to the distances our children travel, however we do play against our local mainstream school every term. But our PE teacher coaches the pupils who want to play and the chosen players take part in tournaments whenever possible. Matches with other schools are arranged occasionally. The children also play organised matches each break-time and lunch time. They are supervised and organised by an adult and are purely optional. The children play on an all-weather pitch which we share with an adjacent school.



23 Are there any after school clubs?

Because of the distances our children travel, we hold most extra-curricular clubs at lunchtimes. This year the children have access to reading, football, lego, model making, gardening, computer, Art, sewing and Wii clubs.

24 How will our child get to school?

School transport is provided by the Local Authority. Each bus has an Escort, who is your direct link with the school.

Please have your child ready before the Escort calls, and remember to let the Escort know if your child will not be attending school due to illness or other reason. When your child is well enough to return, let the Escort know to call again.

If you have any queries, or need to make any changes to where your child is collected or dropped off, please phone 666 4213.



25 Can my child be given medication in school?

Prescribed medicines can be given to your child in cases where they are well enough to return to school after a short-term illness, or where chronic illness such as asthma or epilepsy needs to be controlled. We ask parents to complete a medicine form or asthma card.

All medicines should be sent to school in original packaging, clearly labelled with the child's name, dosage and timings. Medicines should be transferred by adults only.

We cannot accept responsibility in cases where timing and the nature of administration are of vital importance, or where technical or medical knowledge is required or where intimate contact is necessary.

26 What will happen if my child has an accident in school?

Bumps and grazes do occur from time to time and are dealt with as you would at home. If the injury is to the head, we will inform you by telephone if possible and by letter via the Escort.

If your child suffers a more serious injury in school, we will make every effort to contact you. If the injury requires emergency treatment then appropriate action will be taken immediately.

27 What does school need from you?

Please:

Take an active and supportive interest in your child's work;

Support your child with their daily homework;

See that your child attends school regularly;

See that your child has adequate sleep so that s/he is ready to learn the next day;

Support the school in terms of discipline – this will help your child to achieve maturity, self-discipline and self control.

Keep us up to date with changes in telephone numbers etc so that we can reach you in an emergency.

KEEP IN TOUCH

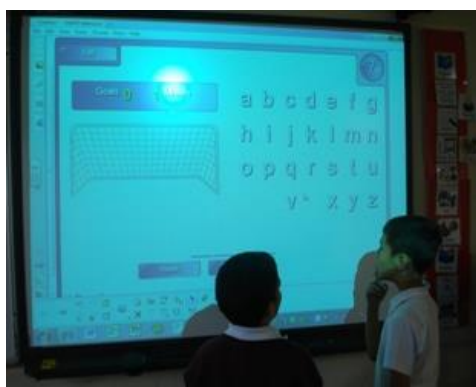
28 How do the Governors support Special Needs?

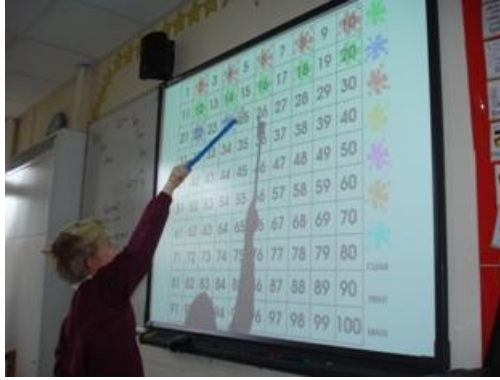
Governors regularly monitor the school's success in meeting the needs of our pupils as well as their progress. This may be by formal reports and through Governors' visits to the school. Funding is allocated to meet the school's Aims and its Development Plan, which is updated according to the changing needs of our pupils.

ICT Provision

We are well resourced at Orrets Meadow. In September 2012 we installed a new top of the range computer suite with 15 computers. We also acquired 12 i pads and 2 i pad touch to facilitate our IT and cross curricular subjects. Wireless is installed across the school and so we have two lap top trolleys which can be accessed in any classroom.

Our new school website keeps parents/ carers and children informed of life at Orrets Meadow, visit us on <http://orrets-meadow.eschools.co.uk>





Collaborative Learning

We encourage team work whenever possible and give the children a sense of belonging to a community with our Planets System. Each child belongs to a planet: Earth, Saturn, Mars or Neptune and earns points for their house team.

Points can be gained by:

- good attendance
- good behaviour on the transport
- good work
- acts of kindness
- inter house team competitions

The winning team is announced in our achievement assembly each Friday and the coloured ribbons on the House cup changed by the House Captain.

The winning team has a special treat at the end of each term.



Pupil Voice:

Each class is represented in School Council. This meets half termly to discuss issues raised by the children. Recently school council have voted on a new dinner menu.



Orrets Meadow School

Key Stage Two Results Over Time as a %

Subject		2011	2012	2013
Reading	L4+	32%	41%	45%
	L5	0%	18%	5%
Writing	L4+	5%	41%	10%
	L5	0%	6%	0%
English	L4+	5%	41%	10%
	L5	0%	6%	0%
Maths	L4+	27%	47%	30%
	L5	5%	0%	0%

Governors Targets and Results and FFTD Estimates over three years as a %

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
English 2 levels progress	73%	100%	80% R = 90% W = 85%
Maths 2 levels progress	64%	65%	75%
English and Maths Level 4+	0%	35 %	10%
No of pupils (Weighting)	22 (4.5%)	17 (5.9%)	20 (5%)

Progress made by pupils in Orrets Meadow School (Value added) is significantly positive for SEN children in all subjects. – Raiseonline 2012