



# Tor View School

TOGETHER WE INSPIRE, LEARN,

ENJOY AND ACHIEVE



Primary Department



# Primary Department

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## THE VISION



Welcome to Tor View Primary Department. We have a team of specialist teachers and dedicated support staff who work hard to ensure the best education for your child.

The Primary Department comprises of 2 Key Stage 1 and 4 Key Stage 2 classrooms.

## RATIONALE

Our Department aims to provide a firm foundation for learning for all our pupils. Our focus is to equip your child with a wide range of skills that will help them 'Learn to Learn'. All of our pupils are immersed in a total communication environment which fosters and develops their own communication skills. Primary staff are trained in a wide variety of teaching approaches that can support and develop your child's skill acquisition. Within primary we use aspects of: Education for the Developmentally Young (EDY), Derbyshire Language Scheme (DLS), Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communications Handicapped Children (TEACCH), Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) alongside Augmentative Alternative Communication (AAC), Makaton, various symbols and photographs to support communication.



## ASSESSMENT

If your child is new to the school assessment will begin on entry in an unobtrusive manner. A Target Setting Review will take place within the first half term of your child starting Tor View School. From this a detailed Key Skills and Care Plan will be developed which will be discussed further with parents/carers. This plan outlines the priority targets to be addressed over the coming year and will be constantly updated and amended as the pupil settles and makes progress.

Within primary we pay specific attention to early literacy and numeracy skills, self-help and independence skills, organisation skills, feeding and basic personal hygiene skills. In order to begin to work, your child needs to be equipped with a readiness to learn. These 'Learning to Learn' skills such as being able to sit, take turns, listen to and follow very basic instructions and the use of 'gentle hands' ensure that children are ready to learn alongside their peers. Within our department we pride ourselves on our ability to develop these skills within our pupils.



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## FACILITIES

The Primary Department is able to share and benefit from the expertise available in the Secondary Department. The specialist PE teachers share their knowledge and teach the Primary pupils. Pupils also benefit from timetabled access to the Multi-Sensory Room and the Multi-Sensory Hydro-Therapy Pool. Most of our pupils in Key Stage 2 access weekly swimming at Marl Pits Leisure Centre. The children in lower primary access weekly swimming lessons in the Multi-Sensory Hydro-Therapy Pool three half terms of the year.

## OUTDOOR FACILITIES



Pupils benefit from an easy access play area with a wooden climbing frame and a further yard with swings and a smaller climbing frame. There is also a trampoline and roundabout on the primary playground. Throughout the year pupils have timetabled access to the large Bike Track and Pond Area located on the large field. We have an outdoor Amphitheatre a performance and play space.

## CURRICULUM

All children within the Primary Department work towards the National Curriculum in all subject areas. Lessons are fun, motivating and tailored to the needs of the individuals in the group. We use a Creative topic approach and our focus is on skill acquisition and the development of communication skills. We also have an Educational Visit every half term to link with the topic.



Our pupils also have access to a varied Lunchtime Club programme. Each half hour session is run by a teacher. As a Healthy School we encourage all our pupils to ride a bike. Opportunities for 1:1 sessions whilst on a bike are offered at lunchtimes and during key skills lessons on a rotation basis.

The progress the pupils and students have made in reading over the past few years has been outstanding. Every day for 15 minutes after lunch time, every pupil and student across school has dedicated reading time with staff from their class.

All key stage 2 pupils have weekly swimming lessons at Marl Pits swimming pool in Rawtenstall. Lessons are taught by Tor View School's swimming teacher and supported in the water by staff.



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## INCLUSION



Tor View is committed to the inclusion of all pupils within the school community. We ensure that all pupils within the primary department have full and equal access to all facilities and all areas of the curriculum. The primary department also welcomes links with local mainstream schools. Individual pupils are offered social inclusion opportunities if appropriate to their needs.

In addition, the primary department has a long standing and successful link with Haslingden Primary School. Primary pupils from in Key Stage 2 attend Haslingden Primary school on a daily basis. The pupils have a base classroom at the primary school, staffed by a teacher and Teaching Assistants from Tor View School. The pupils are supported by staff from Tor View and benefit from access to mainstream lessons whilst ensuring their key skills are targeted and their social/emotional needs are catered for. Further information is available on request.

## COMMUNICATION

Communication is integral to all children's learning. Communication through gesture, eye contact, vocalisation, speech, symbol exchange and the use of Objects of Reference is encouraged and built upon. It is vital that children become confident communicators for academic, social and emotional reasons. The development of communication skills is at the heart of our practice and we use a wide variety of strategies and programmes alongside our structured teaching to encourage effective communication between all pupils and staff.

Within the classrooms pupils are immersed in rich language experiences, modelled continually by understanding and empathic adults. Carefully structured direct teaching also ensures that pupils progress in language comprehension. If you would like to know more about any of the techniques and strategies we use in the Primary Department please contact us for an informal chat. One lesson per week is dedicated to Speech and Language. They are taught by their teacher who has had training from the Speech and Language Therapist. The Speech and Language Therapist works closely with the Head of Department to set up the groups each year and ensure staff are supported in the delivery of these sessions.

## CARE AND CONTROL

At Tor View we believe that every child has a right to retain their dignity. Pupils who struggle to manage their own conduct often require adults to support them and this requires confidence, skill and training. Conduct Support Plans can be put in place to ensure pupils are rewarded for positive behaviour, examples of these can

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be viewed on request. All staff complete Team Teach training which equips them with a range of strategies to deal with challenging conduct. Whenever possible de-escalation and distraction techniques are used to prevent the need for positive handling. However, some pupils do require further support. If a pupil's conduct requires physical intervention, then a Positive Handling Plan will be drawn up in consultation with a member of the leadership team. The Positive Handling Plan details the nature of the challenging conduct, the protocol and language to be used and any appropriate positive handling. This plan will be accompanied by a Risk Assessment to ensure the safety of pupils and staff is maintained at all times.

## **PARENTS AS PARTNERS**

Every pupil within Primary is provided with a book bag and a Home-School Diary. This is our daily point of contact. Please feel free to note any experiences you would like us to know about, any concerns you have or any up and coming appointments for your child. There may be times when the Home-School Diary is not written in on a daily basis; however, we will do our utmost to keep you informed on a daily basis of things that have happened in school. Comments from staff will inform you of events, successes, changes to timetable and any necessary personal care requirements. If you would like to discuss any issue at length, please feel free to telephone to arrange a convenient discussion time. Most teachers are available after school. If you would like further assistance, the Head of Department is always happy to help. The Head Teacher and Deputy Head Teachers are also available for consultation, if required.



RCN: 1055330

We have a charity, which raises money for projects around school, enhancing the experiences for children and young people. Our registered charity, Friends of Tor View, is run by parents in collaboration with school staff. Friends of Tor View organise all events in school such as the summer and Christmas fair, Ladies Night, Fashion shows and Discos. We welcome all parents to be part of the group to support and share new ideas of how to help raise money for our charity.

## **EXTERNAL AGENCIES**

Pupils within school often have multiple needs. Our teaching staff work in collaboration with many external agencies including Physiotherapy, Speech and Language therapy and Occupational Therapy. Programmes are devised and then implemented by the staff team. In some circumstances children are withdrawn by the therapist for specific work. As a school we also work in liaison

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with Social Care, Learning Disability Team, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and the Educational Psychology Service (EPS). Specialist teachers from the Lancashire Education and Inclusion Service (LEIS) are also involved with our Hearing Impaired pupils. We are fortunate to have a school nurse available within school who works closely with parents on health related issues such as diet, tube feeding, tracheotomy care and medication.

## RESIDENTIALS

Each year we offer the year 3 and year 4 pupils an opportunity to attend a sleepover in school. The children go on an Educational Visit on Thursday then arrive at school for an evening meal. After eating, the children play games, watch a movie and have a shower before settling down in the classroom in sleeping bags for the night. The children have another Educational Visit on the Friday before returning home as usual after school.



Every year we offer pupils from year 5 and year 6 the opportunity to go on a Residential two night experience. Recent trips have been to Coldwell Inn to experience outdoor life and to the Wingate Centre in Cheshire. The Wingate Centre has a specialist gymnasium attached to the centre. For some children (and their parents/carers) it is their first time away, however, it is always an exciting life affirming time for pupils and staff. Look out for next year's Residential letter!

## CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Over the course of a year your child will take part in numerous exciting cross-curricular events which you will be notified about as the year progresses. Recent events have included a whole school celebration of World Book Day, a themed Cognitive Week, the Shine Festival, Sports Day and a Healthy Lifestyles themed Week. We also have an Enterprise Week where the students in the secondary department make and sell products.



To celebrate weekly successes, we hold a Whole School Achievement Assembly every Friday afternoon where pupils receive certificates for progress and achievement.



In July we hold our annual Presentation Afternoon where parents, carers and family members are invited to celebrate each child's progress and view some of

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the activities we have all taken part in over the year. Awards for outstanding progress are also presented. Each year you will have the opportunity to purchase a CD of your child's year which will contain a slideshow of photographs accompanied by music.

## **MOVING ON**

Pupils in Year 6 begin the process of transition into the Secondary Department from May half term. Primary pupils are already familiar with the Secondary Department layout but the transition process aims to familiarise them with the playground games, movement between lessons, staff faces and lunchtime routines. A carefully planned transition timetable is arranged with support via symbols and photographs where needed.