

Parrot Class Rationale 2023 – 2024

The Unique Learner: Parrot Class consists of Middle Phase learners, with a total of 9 pupils (7 boys and 2 girls) in years 4, 5 and 6. The curriculum that the pupils follow is designed to meet the needs of children with severe learning difficulties, complex communication needs and autism. Each of our pupils, having needs linked to autism, in addition to learning difficulties, require an approach to their experience in school as individual and unique as they are themselves.

Positive Relationships: To have continuity in Parrot Class we have a complementary, experienced staff team who bring their own unique skills to the group. This currently consists of one teacher, one HTLA, three teaching assistants and two Special Needs Support Workers who support the pupils learning and holistic needs throughout the school day. In addition, we have a Special Needs Support Worker who helps us at dinner time, play time and with personal care.

All our class staff take time to develop positive relationships with each pupil; promoting communication and positive interactions throughout the day. In addition, each child has a key worker who communicates daily with families via our School Life virtual diary.

Engaging Environments: Our children learn best and thrive in a positive, distraction free environment, that promotes communication, encourages independence, and provides new learning experiences. By delivering a curriculum that builds on the unique needs of the individual, it allows pupils to flourish whilst creating opportunities for EHCP targets to be met. Within Parrot Class, we focus on using a Total Communication approach, providing our learners with an environment and resources that are specially adapted to help them to communicate, understand and interact effectively.

Learning and Development: We deliver an holistic approach to learning, as we want to offer all our pupils a breadth of opportunities to learn, explore and have fun as well as having all their care needs met to a high standard. We have high expectations of all our pupils and always strive for pupils to achieve to the best of their ability. Pupils in Parrots class are a mix of pre-subject specific learners, and our approach is therefore embedded within our Pathway 2 Learning to Learn curriculum. Our observations are recorded according to the five areas of the engagement model; Exploration, Persistence, Realisation, Initiation and Anticipation. We also use the Willow Dene curriculum frameworks to ensure progression.

September 2023