

Ladybird Class Rationale

The Unique Learner: We are a mixed Primary class of ten pupils, the youngest pupil is currently in year 1 and our oldest is in year 5. Pupils in Ladybird class all have profound and multiple learning difficulties and/or complex medical needs and multisensory impairments.

Positive Relationships: This class is supported by a Specialist Teacher and a team of Teaching Assistants. Our role is to support pupils learning whilst meeting their care, postural management, and health needs. Pupils in Ladybird class also have support from a wide multi-disciplinary team including our onsite NHS nursing team, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Hearing Impairment and Visual Impairment Teachers. We work collaboratively with them to develop an individualised programme which aims to have the greatest impact on pupils' progress in all areas of their development.

Engaging Environments: Ladybird class is a calm but stimulating environment which provides multisensory experiences in a variety of ways. We have a large and spacious classroom, with a ceiling mounted H track hoist for moving and handling and a designated area for enteral feeds and medication. We also have a large soft matted area for floor time, wedges for position changes, a range of physiotherapy equipment, book area, messy and sensory play area, an interactive white board, object of reference display, early phonics area, music area, specialist wall mounted sensory panels and a range of multisensory toys and lights to enhance our learning experiences. We have our own under cover outdoor learning space which is suitable for all weathers with a mud kitchen, raised tuff trays for sand and water, outdoor art area and a range of sensory and musical toys.

We also have weekly forest school sessions in the warmer months, hydrotherapy in our heated pool with specialist lighting and sound system. We access an interactive sensory room with lights, music and the ability to create an immersive experience. This room also has a dark area for work with glow in the dark resources and a UV light. A portable interactive floor known as a 'magic carpet' is also used in class each week.

Learning and Development: We deliver a 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 we never underestimate their abilities; we love watching them grow, develop and achieve their personal goals. We believe that a strong foundation in Lower Phase is the basis to future learning.

We deliver an adapted curriculum, based on topics reflecting those in the National Curriculum but adapted to suit our multisensory learning style. Sessions include multi-sensory stories, TACPAC, Sensology and Massage. Pupils are working towards their EHCP outcomes which are embedded into our practice and evidence is captured on the Evidence for Learning app. Pupils in Ladybird class are pre-subject specific learners, our observations are written using the Five Areas of the Engagement model; Exploration, Persistence, Realisation, Initiation and Anticipation. We also use Willow Dene Footsteps as a way of tracking early skill development.

September 2021