

## Lion Class Rationale 2022-2023

**The Unique Learner:** There are nine children in Lion Class with an age range from ten to thirteen years old. The children have severe learning difficulties and some have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder.

**Positive Relationships:** The children are supported by a consistent team of one assistant headteacher, one teacher and five teaching assistants. We also have two SEN support workers for each day to support the children's learning, dinnertime and personal care routines. We strive to foster positive relationships with the children and all members of staff support all of the children in Lion Class. The children have a named Key Worker, who is a member of the Lion Class team and part of their role is to communicate with families and other professionals about the child.

We work with a range of professionals such as speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, school nurse, school family support worker and any other external agencies and professionals that provide support to the children.

We value the importance of working together with families and multi-agency professionals in order to improve outcomes for the children.

**Engaging Environments:** The classroom is presented in a consistent layout which comprises of a group area, table area for table top activities and mealtimes, quiet area and a TEACCH station. We also have a small outdoor area which is used for curriculum and physical activities and for a quiet space outdoors. A Total Communication approach is used consistently in the classroom and during lessons.

In addition to the classroom, we use the group room and therapy room for individual and small group sessions. We use the secondary playground for outdoor play which includes the use of the climbing equipment, the multi-use games area and the swings and roundabout. We have timetabled sessions for using specialist rooms such as the library, gym, computer room, cookery room, music room and the outdoor learning area. We also use the interactive magic carpet on a weekly basis.

**Learning and Development:** The learning and development in Lion Class is delivered through our 'Learning to Learn' and 'Subject Roots' curriculum involving sessions focussed on My Communication, My Thinking, My Wellbeing, My Body and My World. There is a termly theme which is used to support delivery of the curriculum in the different areas where appropriate. The children have a personal provision plan which provides targets to work on towards their EHCP outcomes. We provide daily opportunities for developing self-help skills and working towards independence as appropriate. We use multi-sensory resources and children's motivators to engage them in their learning and we have access to specialist equipment and resources to meet the children's sensory needs.

Each day is structured so that we have a consistent daily routine, lessons and a range of therapies and approaches to meet the needs of the children; some of these being additional physical activities, sensory diet, PECS, ALDs, TEACCH and intensive interaction. We also participate in daily activities linked to the whole school 'SMILE' project which focusses on promoting emotional health and wellbeing.

We have timetabled sessions with specialist teachers including the swimming teacher, the forest school leader and a music session provided by Dudley Performing Arts. Some of these sessions are weekly and some are on a half termly basis.

We provide homework, an appropriate reading-based activity and resources to support with individual targets for the children to develop and extend their learning at home.

September 2022