



# MEREFIELD SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



## Ofsted 2019

This is an **OUTSTANDING** school

The quality of Teaching is outstanding

The behaviour of students is outstanding

Staff have high ambitions for students

Children in the early years make outstanding progress

## Parents Comments **PARENT COMMENTS...**

- The staff at Merefield clearly understand my child and his needs. They provide a fantastic range of learning activities and that is reflected in his progress.
- A brilliant school with an incredible staff team that cares about each and every child that attends.
- My child is very lucky to be able to attend Merefield school. He is growing in confidence all the time thanks to the wonderful support he gets from all the dedicated staff.



## Welcome to Merefield School

### A word from our Headteacher...

Dear Reader,

I am delighted to write a few words of introduction to our school. Merefield is a special school with a diverse pupil population: our 100+ pupils have severe, complex or profound learning difficulties and we have many pupils on the autistic spectrum. Our age range is 3 – 19 years. Pupil, family and staff engagement is extremely important to us and we endeavour to provide all our children and young people with memorable experiences that will truly enrich their lives. We strive to involve the whole school community in making Merefield a safe, happy, forward-thinking and truly outstanding place for our pupils to learn. Our talented, multi-disciplinary staff team have high expectations of our pupils and we aim to provide the kind of special education which families want for their children. We are never complacent about our achievements and constantly strive to improve our practice. We are research-focussed, pupil and family-centred and we invest in our staff to ensure that we offer the very best educational provision for all our children and young people. Our school benefits from impressive facilities enabling us to offer a wide range of opportunities for learning both inside and outside the classroom. We have good links within the community, allowing our pupils the chance to work and play alongside mainstream peers as well as enjoy local community facilities.

The best way to learn about our work is to visit and spend time with our staff and pupils and whatever the reason for your interest in Merefield School, you are very welcome. If your son or daughter is joining us soon, I hope they will be happy here and I look forward to working in partnership with you.

**Joanne Sharpe BA(Hons), QTS, NPQH**  
Headteacher



## Our Vision for Merefield School....

**Together we are building a progressive, beacon learning community with an outstanding holistic curriculum centred on the needs of each individual pupil. All pupils will be suitably challenged and encouraged to reach their potential within a caring, safe and happy environment. The voices of all members of the Merefield Community will be respected and valued at all times.**

Our school motto is at the heart of everything we do.

**'Working together to provide an exciting place where every child can achieve success'**

Our vision is supported by three key principles

### Pupil-Centered

- Education should meet individual needs
- The holistic development of our children and young people will be nurtured
- We will make a positive difference to the lives of children and their families
- Planning and decision making will be open, honest, transparent and person-centred
- Pupils will be enabled to reach their full potential within the context of their individual needs
- Pupils will be actively encouraged to exercise control over their lives
- All children and young adults will be treated with dignity and all contributions are celebrated
- Individual differences will be recognised, respected and celebrated and equality of opportunities recognised

### Progression

- We will have the highest expectations for our young people
- We will be passionate about progress and be open minded with regard to notions of 'progress'
- We will have an unswervingly positive ethos that embraces innovation and new ideas

### Partnership Working (pupils, parents/carers and staff)

- Pupils and students will have a voice that is respected and listened to, however subtle or loud
- Parents will be consulted, listened to, respected and supported
- Staff will be valued, consulted, listened to, respected and supported

### Family Involvement - A Positive Choice

We invite parents/carers and family members to visit Merefield. There are opportunities for families to come into school to discuss their child's progress, e.g. Coffee Mornings and Annual Reviews. A home visit can be made at the request of the families or may be suggested by a member of staff. Families can phone their child's class teacher about anything concerning their child's education, preferably after 3.45 pm. There are many events in school during the year, including family forums, workshops, Summer and Christmas Fairs and drama productions.



## GENERAL INFORMATION

Address	Merefield School Westminster Drive Ainsdale, Southport, Merseyside PR8 2QZ
	Tel. 01704 577163
Website	<a href="http://www.merefieldschool.co.uk">www.merefieldschool.co.uk</a>
Email	<a href="mailto:admin@merefieldschool.co.uk">admin@merefieldschool.co.uk</a>
Type of school	Sefton LA maintained special school
Age Range	3 - 19 years
Chair of Governors	Mrs Brenda Porter
Headteacher	Ms Joanne Sharpe
Designated Safeguarding Lead	Ms Joanne Sharpe
Deputy Headteacher	Mrs Katy Calder
Assistant Headteachers	Mrs Rachael Hyslop & Ms Lauren Barlow
School Business Manager	Mrs Gemma Parker
School Secretaries	Mrs Vicky Snape / Mrs Clare Howard
School Site Manager	Mr Mark Ruston



## **SO, WHAT'S SPECIAL?**

### **The Curriculum:**

Personalising the needs of the pupil is of paramount importance to us. The school curriculum is tailored to the child rather than expecting the child to fit in with the curriculum. We work as a transdisciplinary team to assess the child's individual needs and create a programme of learning outcomes in PLIMs – **Personalised Learning Intention Maps**. These learning intentions are written in close collaboration with families and taken from the Education Outcomes of the child/young person's current Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). We aim to offer pupils a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum, which incorporates the National Curriculum and which places the pupil at the heart of their learning. Teaching is done in small groups or one-to-one and work is pitched at an appropriate level for pupils of different abilities. We have a very favourable staff - pupil ratio, which works out across the school at approximately 1:3 respectively.

### **Extracurricular Activities and Educational Visits**

The school has three minibuses and two people carriers for educational and recreational trips. Visits offsite are made throughout the year, including an extensive enrichment timetable and residential experiences for pupils. Visits into school from external providers such as theatre groups and petting zoos are also arranged to tie in with our topic related learning. Lunchtime clubs and activities include signing choir, music, organised sports and gardening. Some after school activities are organised, e.g. Trips to the theatre, pantomime. After school club is currently available on a Tuesday. Summer Holiday Club is available for those pupils who cannot access local authority provision.

### **Specialist Resources:**

Merefield School is a purpose-built special school with excellent facilities. The classrooms are all on one level and are generously proportioned. Facilities include various appropriate playgrounds, a sensory garden, two dedicated multi-sensory rooms, a hydrotherapy pool, a food technology room, an ICT suite, a library, and a large Forest School Area, a Family room for meetings/training sessions, a therapy room, as well as a dedicated medical room. Food is prepared on site for meals. All classrooms are equipped with modern teaching aids, including interactive whiteboards and computers.

### **Specialist Support:**

The school is supported by team of School Nurses, Physiotherapists, Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapists who all support identified pupils and their staff teams. Merefield has a full time Specialist School Nurse on site, employed by Alder Hey Children's hospital, to oversee the medical needs of our most complex pupils. An Alder Hey paediatrician holds clinics in the school regularly and an Educational Psychologist also provides support to the school. The school has regular visits from the Sensory Support Team who advise on the educational needs of pupils with hearing impairment and also works in partnership with the Liverpool School for the Blind to provide specialist support for all pupils with visual impairment. The school has good contact with the Community Learning Disability services and Social Services. We also work in partnership with CAMHS and Shine Therapists to support our pupils experiencing any additional difficulties.



**Admission Procedure**

All pupil admissions will be made in accordance with Local Authority procedures and school policy. All pupils enter Merefield School with an Educational Health Care Plan. All admissions are made through Sefton LA.

The school is identified as a possible place for your child or young person during a meeting at your child’s home school or nursery, or in another professional meeting. The parent/carer arranges a meeting with the Headteacher. If the parent/carer makes the decision that the school is the right place for their child or young person, they will let the current school or Sefton SEND and Inclusion Team know.

A referral to the Headteacher for a place is made by Sefton Local Authority and the school reviews all the paperwork sent and may even visit the child in their current school setting, to decide if we can meet your child’s needs.

If the school has offered a place to your child or young person, we will arrange transition links.

We know transition can be a difficult and often a daunting time for children, young people and their parents/carers, which is why we work closely with schools to design a transition package which supports reducing anxieties for everyone involved, such as planned visits to your child’s current school; time to talk to the new class team and joining in shared activities with new pupils.

**Timing of the School Day**

Arrival	09.00 - 09.15
Circle Time/Registration	09.15 – 09.30
Lesson 1	09.30 – 10.30
Snack/Break	10.30 – 11.00
Lesson 2	11.00 – 12.00
Lunch/Playtime	12.00 – 13.30
Lesson 3 & 4	13.30 – 14.45
Dismissal	15.00 - 15.20

**Lower School Uniform** Non-Compulsory

- Yellow polo t-shirt
- Grey or black trousers, pinafore or skirt
- Royal blue jumper or cardigan with school logo
- Or blue gingham summer dress

**Upper School Uniform** Non-Compulsory

- White polo t-shirt
- Grey or black trousers, pinafore or skirt
- Navy blue jumper with school logo
- Or blue gingham summer dress

