**Rosebank School**

**Information for applicants**

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Rosebank School is a specialist primary school providing an excellent education for children with Autism Spectrum Condition and associated learning difficulties. The school is registered to admit pupils aged 4 to 11 years of age and is accredited by the National Autistic Society (re-accreditated in 2021). All pupils have access to NHS Commissioned Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy (if appropriate) and all families are supported by the school’s full-time Family Support Worker. At its last inspection, in March 2017, the school was graded *Good* by Ofsted.

The school is funded for 49 places although currently there are 52 pupils on roll. The school operates with small class sizes, usually comprising 7 pupils, with 1 teacher and 2/3 teaching assistants (depending on the level of pupil need). The annual budget of the school is nearly £1,400,000 and over the last 3 years the school has generated an underspend which has been used to fund capital developments. It is anticipated that a similar situation will arise at the end of the current budget cycle in March 2022.

The core curriculum is based on a combination of an adapted and differentiated EYFS/National Curriculum and the Autism Education Trust Progression Framework. It is driven by each child’s EHCP. The TEACCH approach is used to provide a very structured and systematic environment to support pupils’ learning. Staff are well trained and highly skilled at working with autistic pupils and their associated difficulties and are able to address the differences in learning styles. Teachers are flexible in the use of autism approaches, tailoring these to meet the needs of each pupil. All pupils have an individual positive behaviour support plan outlining their individual needs and preferences. Letters and Sounds is used as the basis for phonics lessons to support children with reading and writing.

To prepare and enable pupils to learn, emphasis is placed on physical activity and developing self-regulation and resilience. Throughout their time at Rosebank School, in addition to PE sessions and regular use of the outdoor play areas and indoor sensory spaces, pupils also have access to the teaching of PE core skills, football coaching and swimming.  Some pupils also take part in Horse Riding (RDA). To ensure pupils with sensory processing difficulties have their needs met, each pupil is assessed to create an individual sensory profile. A variety of tailored sensory equipment and interventions is used to support pupils to develop their understanding and self-management over time.

To meet the specific needs of each pupil, there are a variety of additional interventions used when appropriate including Emotional Literacy Support (ELSA), Draw-Talk Therapy, Lego Build2Express, Relax Kids, Sensory Diet and Dyslexia support.

To enable pupils to be able to transfer those skills that they learn within school, all pupils take part in weekly Independence and Community Participation visits. These are themed in line with the Autism Education Trust Progression Framework.

Most of the pupils live within the Cheshire West and Chester area. A significant number of pupils live within the Cheshire East area and small numbers of pupils live in neighbouring local authority areas. Some children are transported to the school by their parents, but the majority are transported by taxis provided by the pupil’s home local authority.

Many of the pupils are unable to access externally provided ‘out of school’ activities. Therefore the school has traditionally operated an After School Club, staffed by school staff, to which pupils can attend.

**Staff Team**

In addition to the Headteacher the school staff comprises

8 Teachers\*

4 HLTAs

24 Teaching assistants (Grades 3 – 6)\*

Family support worker

School Business Manager

2 Admin support\*

Site Manager / Caretaker

3 Cleaners\*

\* Not all of these staff members are full time.

**Senior Leadership Team**

The Senior Leadership Team meets at least weekly and currently comprises

Rosemary Charlton (Headteacher)

Louise Tarsky (Assistant Headteacher)

Tracey Erasmus (Assistant Headteacher)

**Wider Leadership Team**

The Wider Leadership Team extends leadership throughout the school and meets at least every half term. In addition to SLT members the wider Leadership Team also includes:

Natasha Tompkins (SENCO)

Lisa Noden (School Business Manager)

Lizzie Wiffen (Family Support Worker)

**School site**

The school is situated in the village of Barnton to the North of Northwich in Cheshire. The school is easily accessed by the motorway network, being less than 10 minutes from Junction 10 of the M56. It is easily accessed from the cities of Chester, Liverpool and Manchester – all of which are within a 30-minute drive.

The school building is of a single storey construction. In addition to classroom spaces, small work rooms and offices it also includes a light room and a sensory room. All classrooms have direct access from the classroom to a designated outside area. An extensive re-fenestration project is part way through completion. Residential accommodation was historically provided on site but, over a period of time, this space has been converted into classroom spaces, staff work areas and speech and language facilities.

The school has extensive grounds which contain a playground area, climbing frame and activity areas, a sensory garden (opened September 2021), a growing area used by classes and further grassed area used for sports and PE activities. The grounds are securely fenced and are solely used by the school community.

**External Links**

The school is an active member of the Cheshire West Association of Special School Heads (CWASHH) who meet together on a monthly basis. These meetings will also be attended by representatives of the Local Authority. Links with these schools are well established and will often be the first point of contact for support, advice or encouragement. The school is also a member of the Northwich Education Improvement Partnership.

There are strong links with the local mainstream primary school and, when appropriate, pupils join classes (with support) as part of the integration programme. The school works in partnership with local schools to offer a range of social, moral and cultural opportunities such as joint sports, art and music projects along with equality projects such as ‘No Outsiders’.

As a specialist autism provision, the school provides a range of training opportunities and outreach to mainstream schools to support the local authority’s inclusion agenda.

The school has links with the local community through annual events like Harvest and Christmas which make use of facilities within Barnton but outside the school. The nearby public library is frequently visited by classes for story time and members of the local community serve on the Governing Body of the school.

**Headteacher Vacancy**

This vacancy arises due to the appointment of the previous Headteacher to another special school in Cheshire West in January 2021. At that time, the current Headteacher, Mrs Rosemary Charlton, agreed to delay her retirement until August 2022 in order to support the school community and its Governing Body through the uncertainty caused by the global pandemic.