



Children's Services

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Shawclough Community Primary School

School Context

Shawclough Community Primary School is a two form entry primary school on the edge of Rochdale with a diverse school community. In the mainstream provision there are approximately 370 children with an additional onsite Nursery which takes children from 2 years upwards. The Nursery has places for up to 40 children.

Approximately 70% of the pupils come from Ethnic minority backgrounds with a smaller proportion of English as a second language speakers. Shawclough has a rich language culture - there are in the region of 18 different languages spoken within the school.

The school currently has 20% of children eligible for Pupil premium funding.

The percentage of SEND pupils is broadly in line with National average and statistical neighbours. However, alongside the mainstream provision, Shawclough has developed specialist SEND unit which takes in children from across the borough. The unit is split into two specialisms – Rainforest provision for complex needs – 8 pupils and Rainbows provision for Autism – 21 pupils. The Rainbow provision was opened in 2019 and the Rainforest provision more recently in 2023. The Specialist unit has a dedicated team with a qualified SENDco as Lead teacher. The specialist SEND provision is integrated into the main school site and the status of this provision reflects the wider ethos of inclusion within the school.

Leadership

The current leadership structure reflects the size of the school –

HT

DHT x 2 – 1 PT

AHT

Lead Teacher for specialist provision

The leadership team is a stable, well established team with a wealth of experience. The school has a wide range of experience across the staff and the capacity to support and develop ECTs and teachers at the start of their careers.

One of the DHT is currently employed by the Pioneer ScITT for 2 days a week to lead the Teacher training programme for the ScITT.

The school has a SENDco team of three staff members led by the Lead teacher for the specialist provision. This team support the needs of the children and families in both the mainstream and specialist provision.

The governing body of the school is a particular strength with a range of experience and skills. The governors are able to support and challenge school leaders effectively.

Outcomes & Ofsted

The most recent Section 8 Ofsted inspection in 2023 confirmed that the school remained a good school.

The report recognised and highlighted many of the schools strengths :-

They [pupils] have warm and positive relationships with the adults who work with them. Pupils are kind to each other and understand that it is important to respect each other's differences.

Leaders and teachers have high expectations of how pupils should behave and what they can achieve. Pupils work hard in lessons and behave well.

Leaders have ensured that the curriculum is broad and balanced. Leaders have built a curriculum that reflects their high aspirations for all pupils.

Outcomes data – 2024 - unverified

Phonics 2024 – Year 1 - 67.9% WS

KS2

Combined 2024 – 63.2%

Maths 2024 – 73.7% EXP – 28.1% GDS

Reading 2024 – 77.2% EXP 17.5% - GDS

Writing 2024 – 78.9% EXP 5.3% - GDS

GPS 2024 – 75.4% EXP 40.4% - GDS

Curriculum

School leaders have developed an exciting and diverse curriculum based around the school drivers.

- Personal, learning and thinking skills
- Independent enquirers
- Creative thinkers
- Reflective learners
- Team workers
- Self managers
- Effective participators

Subject leaders have carefully designed and ordered the curriculum so that pupils can build their knowledge from the time they are in the early years to the end of Year 6.

The mainstream school has developed a bespoke curriculum using selected schemes to support specific knowledge development and Read Write Inc as their synthetic phonics approach.

In the specialist provision, Rainforest use the Equals curriculum and Rainbows use an adapted National Curriculum.

School environment

Shawclough sits on extensive grounds which have been well developed and utilised over the years. There is bespoke outside provision for Nursery, EYFS and the specialist provision. The children benefit from carefully planned outdoor learning spaces and playground areas. The building itself has been well maintained and has no significant issues.

Attributes for leadership

A successful leader in Shawclough will need to be committed to inclusion and to understand the needs of a variety of children.

They will need to understand the foundations of learning are meeting the basic needs of children first to ensure they are happy, safe and loved.

It will be essential that they understand the importance of building excellent relationships with staff at all levels.

The school by its designation and its nature is a community school and a holistic approach to families and community will be important to governors and staff of the school.