



Penn Fields School

Contextual Information

Penn Fields School is a special school based in the Penn Fields area of Wolverhampton Local Authority.

Penn Fields School is an all age special school catering for pupils from the age of 5 to 16 years. As a special school, we draw our intake from across the whole of the City and therefore we have a very diverse community. The Government's index for measuring deprivation places Wolverhampton as the 27th most deprived council in England. In terms of unemployment and education, pockets of high deprivation exist. 64% of our pupils are on free school meals.

All pupils have statements of Special Educational Needs. Pupils have Moderate Learning Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties or General Learning Difficulties plus a range of many additional syndromes including Autistic Spectrum Disorder, Behavioural Difficulties, Communication Difficulties, Hearing Impaired, etc. The school has 160 pupils on roll and at the present our roll is full!

The School is divided into two age phase settings; the primary phase consists of four classes for pupils aged 5 to 11 years and the secondary phase which caters for pupils aged 11 – 16 years. Each age phase has a Phase Manager who is a member of the school Senior Management Team. Class sizes are large, averaging 16 pupils in the primary phase and 20 pupils in key stages 3 & 4. We have a teaching staff of 17 (including the Deputy Head) who are expected to teach across key stages. Every classroom has at least one computer and an interactive whiteboard.

Penn Fields School was built in the 1960's but has outgrown its present facilities. The School is moving to a new build in Sept 2012, co-locating with a local secondary school, as part of the BSF programme.

As a school, we recognise the importance of serving our communities. We have a close knit school community of pupils, parents, carers, staff and governors. We have excellent links with our wider community of local residents, businesses, local schools and colleges, the local police force, church, religious groups, voluntary groups, etc. By welcoming the local community into our school, we have developed an awareness of the importance of being an 'Inclusive School' which is of benefit to the whole school community.

We have close working relationships with many external agencies who are welcomed into our school, including staff from the Hearing Impaired Unit, the Visually Impaired Unit, physiotherapists, occupational health specialists,



educational psychologists, music therapists, social services, Children with Disabilities Team, school nurse service, Connexions, Parent Support Group, SHARE parenting, Speech and Language Therapists, etc.

The School has an Outreach Support Service for pupils with MLD/GLD throughout the city. The Outreach team assist schools by providing INSET, teaching strategies, behaviour management programmes, resources, classroom support, etc. The school has also employed its own Speech and Language Therapy Technician giving us ongoing support for our pupil's speech and communication needs.

The school nurtures a very caring attitude and many charities are supported by pupils, staff, parents/carers, governors and friends. This year we have supported Acorns Trust Children's Hospice, Children In Need, Comic Relief Day, British Legion Poppy appeal, Harvest produce to local pensioners. We are not a church school, however we have close links with the local church and our values are broadly Christian in character, but recognising the religious diversity in our local community.

Penn Fields School continually strives to develop good practice. The school has achieved the following awards that demonstrate its desire to improve for the benefit of all its community stakeholders. This includes:-

- Inclusion Quality Mark 2006
- Sportsmark 2008
- Activemark 2008
- Investors In People updated in 2008
- NAACE Mark 2005
- ICT Mark 2006
- School Achievement Awards
- Leading Aspect Award 2008
- FMSIS 2007
- We are also a host school for SLICT

We offer many aspects of an extended school through our school clubs, breakfast club, youth clubs and extra-curricular activities, Outreach Support, residential visits for Key Stages 2, 3 & 4, our Parent Support Group, the SHARE parenting accredited course, work experience placements, college links, emergency services, army cadets, Inclusion links, etc.

In conclusion, the ethos of our school is centred on supporting all of our pupils to attain their full potential. We aim to provide a full and extended curriculum that addresses the academic, personal and social development of every child and one that stimulates and motivates them to achieve, with confidence,



success and enjoyment. We have a very strong, dedicated and committed staff group who are well qualified to meet the challenging and diverse needs of all of our pupils.

Finally our OFSTED report of December 2009 graded the as outstanding and commented:

'Penn Fields is an outstanding school which rightly deserves its strong reputation with parents and the community'.

When examining 'what the school does well' – the report stated

- Teaching and Learning – 'Good planning of lessons underpins good quality teaching, enabling pupils to learn effectively and make good progress. Strong teamwork, with very effective support by teaching assistants, has a positive impact on learning....'
- Curriculum and Other Activities – 'The outstanding curriculum has continued to improve since the last inspection, with new partnership initiatives to enrich learning. Pupils are given the opportunity to participate in a wealth of relevant and engaging learning experiences, both in and beyond the classroom'.
- Achievement and Standards – ' Good progress was seen in the majority of lessons and in some lessons progress was outstanding because work was matched precisely to learning needs and assessment was used extremely well to move pupils' learning forward.'
- Leadership and management - 'provide outstanding leadership in driving the school forward and setting a clear direction for school improvement. They are effectively supported by the staff who are very committed to sustaining the schools excellent provision'.
- Care Guidance and Support – 'Pupils make outstanding progress in their personal development and grow in confidence as they move through the school because of the outstanding quality of care, guidance and support provided for them'.