



The Birtenshaw Group

Transforming Lives

Birtenshaw Education Services SEND Policy

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Rationale:

The aim of Birtenshaw is 'Transforming Lives'. In order to achieve this aim we recognise that an individual's learning, physical and health needs must be met in order for them to achieve their potential.

Aims:

Our aim is to ensure that all pupils/learners, receive appropriate educational provision, therapeutic input and pastoral support to achieve good outcomes and make outstanding progress.

Each pupil/learner attending any of Birtenshaw's Educational Services has individual and unique needs so we plan accordingly to ensure that all pupils/learners are enabled to achieve their full potential.

We aim to provide for the learning, physical, social and care needs of all pupils/learners in a supportive environment.

Education Provision:

All children/adults attending Birtenshaw's Educational Services have an Education, Health and Care Plan in place or are already in the process of statutory assessment.

We provide education in the schools for pupils aged 3 to 19 and in the college for learners aged 16 to 25 with moderate to severe and/or complex learning needs in conjunction with:

- Autistic Spectrum Conditions
- Communication / speech and language needs
- Multi-sensory impairment
- Significant medical conditions
- Physical disability
- Behaviours that some may find challenging

Both the schools and college operate a Total Communication approach and we ensure that routines and structures support the pupils/learners to feel safe and happy. Communication is supported through objects of reference, signing, use of symbols, communication boards and assistive technologies.

We believe that the physical environment is important in setting the climate for learning. Learning environments are designed to be airy and spacious and provide a calm and safe environment in which young people can thrive.

All pupils and learners have access to facilities within Birtenshaw which promote a sense of well-being and provide a therapeutic environment: there are sensory integration rooms, multi-sensory dark rooms, hydrotherapy pools with multi-sensory sound and light systems and soft play areas as well as touch screens and iPads.

There are also safe, enclosed, outdoor spaces for learning and recreation

The inclusive gym (Birtenshaw College Site) provides a safe environment for pupils/learners to participate in exercise and fitness. With accessible equipment and calm, quiet surroundings, the gym is a safe environment which helps to promote confidence, mobility and social interaction.

The Community Café based at Birtenshaw College allows pupils/learners to gain experience within a realistic working environment.

Curriculum:

The Curriculum at Birtenshaw supports our vision of *transforming lives* by giving pupils/learners the opportunity to learn and develop in a supportive and creative environment in which there is a focus on recognising achievement, supporting progression and ultimately preparing pupils/learners for the future by developing independence. The curriculum is individualised and flexible allowing for the needs of each pupil/learner to be met and designed to support the long-term aspirations of all pupils in line with their Education Health and Care Plan targets.

Both the schools and college are committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum.

The schools' curriculum reflects three different learning pathways which are creative and thematic with high levels of differentiation of the task, level of support and expected outcome. In each of the schools there is also a pathway which replicates the National Curriculum, but is adapted for the cognitive abilities of the pupils in that pathway. There are also opportunities for pupils/learners to develop functional skills, independence skills and skills for working life, within the Sixth Form curriculum, so that they are prepared for their future destinations.

The curriculum at College is planned to support learners to develop basic skills alongside independent living skills and employability skills.

Pupils/learners use a variety of resources and strategies to support their learning, including visual aids, communication aids and objects of reference. Across all education services there is a huge focus on community engagement and embedding classroom learning in real life applications.

Curriculum policies can be found for both schools and the college on the website at www.birtenshaw.org.uk

Health and Therapy:

Education staff work with health staff to ensure that therapeutic needs are met throughout the learning day. For example, where specific strategies are suggested by OT or SaLT, these are reinforced by class teachers and support assistants to ensure a holistic approach.

We have close relationships with our Health Partners in Bolton and Merseyside to access additional health input as necessary.

Staff are trained to meet the care and health needs of each of our pupils/learners.

Reviewing Progress:

Progress against targets is monitored on a half-termly basis. Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are in place to set and monitor targets against prior attainment.

Written reports are sent to parents/carers and the local authority at the end of each term.

Parents are formally invited into school or college to discuss progress in addition to the annual review of the Education Health and Care Plan.

The annual review of the Education Health and Care Plan is an opportunity for all of the people involved in working with a child or adult to come together with the parents, and the child/adult, to discuss progress, plans for the following year and to raise any concerns. The annual review meeting is a person-centred process.

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Next Review – September 2024

Where appropriate we try to hold joint educational and social care reviews to ensure a wraparound service for children/adults and their families.

Equal Opportunities:

Birtenshaw supports the rights of all pupils/learners to equal access and opportunities regardless of age, culture, religion, gender, ability, disability or sexuality.

Birtenshaw promotes an ethos of respect for everyone.

Continuing Professional Development:

A programme of ongoing CPD is in place to ensure that our staff are fully able to respond to and meet the needs of each pupil.

Complaints:

Any complaints made to the governing body from parents of pupils/learners concerning the provision made at the schools or college are dealt with under the procedures of Birtenshaw's Complaints Policy.