



**The
Birtenshaw Group**
Transforming Lives

Special Needs Information Report 2025 - 2026

This information report is published in accordance with section 69(3) of the Children and Families Act 2014.

It should be read in conjunction with relevant policies and procedures which are available at <http://www.birtenshaw.org.uk>

Section 1 – Provision:

What kinds of special educational needs and disability does Birtenshaw make provision for?

Birtenshaw School Merseyside is registered as an independent special school and is on the Section 41 Secretary of State approved list

We offer education for children aged 3-19 with moderate to severe and/or complex learning needs in conjunction with:

- Autistic spectrum disorder
- Communication difficulties
- Multi-sensory impairment
- Significant medical conditions
- Physical disability
- Behaviours that some may find challenging

Section 2 – Identification of needs:

How would Birtenshaw School Merseyside identify and assess my child's special educational needs?

All children attending Birtenshaw School, Merseyside have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or are already in the process of statutory assessment.

During the transition and induction processes, and the first twelve weeks of the placement, detailed assessments are completed by class teacher, speech and language therapist and occupational therapist. Therapeutic input is planned on an individual basis and monitored by therapy staff (Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist)

Every child has an individual learning plan and targets which includes both academic and personal development targets.

Progress is monitored on a half-termly basis and interventions put in place as necessary.

Section 3 – School Policies and Procedures

a) How does Birtenshaw School Merseyside evaluate the effectiveness of the provision for pupils with SEN

A robust system of monitoring and evaluation is in place, which includes classroom observations, regular learning walks, scrutiny of pupils' work, class meetings to discuss pupil progress, half termly assessments against targets, close working with therapists and external agencies as required.

We regularly update our School Development Plan and School Evaluation Form against the Ofsted Framework.

We actively seek feedback from pupils, parents/carers, social workers and Local Authority SEN officers.

b) How will my child's progress be assessed and how will I know how well they are doing?

Academic targets are set based on prior attainment. Formative assessment is ongoing and teachers and learning support assistants use next steps feedback to ensure progress is continuous. Regular summative assessments using SOLAR software shows which targets have been achieved.

Parents/carers receive daily/weekly updates, via email or home-school diary

Parents and carers receive a termly written report relating to academic progress and there are meetings scheduled throughout the year.

Parents/carers are always welcome to contact the school to discuss any issues – including progress at any time.

c) What is Birtenshaw School Merseyside's approach to teaching pupils with Special Educational Needs?

Birtenshaw School, Merseyside's aim is 'Transforming Lives' for children with special educational needs or disability.

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

Each pupil at Birtenshaw School, Merseyside has individual and unique needs and abilities so we plan accordingly to ensure that all pupils are enabled to achieve their full potential.

d) How does the curriculum and learning environment support children with SEN?

Our school building is airy and spacious. It has been designed and purpose built to meet the needs of children with Autistic Spectrum Conditions and/or a physical or learning disability. It is fully accessible including tracking hoist system and accessible toilets and changing facilities.

In addition to the accessible classroom spaces, the school has a range of therapeutic areas such as the sensory integration room, multi-sensory room, rebound therapy room, hydrotherapy pool with multi-sensory sound and light system and soft play area. The base classrooms are equipped with appropriate furniture to ensure comfort and safety and state of the art technologies such as touch screens and iPads.

The school is committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum, based on an adapted National Curriculum and WSP Steps for those children of compulsory school age and the Early Years Foundation Stage for children aged 3-5. This is blended with opportunities for pupils to develop functional skills, independence skills and skills for working life.

The school is a registered exam centre. We offer a range of accreditations, e.g. Entry Level Qualifications in Functional Skills as well as BTEC, ASDAN, Arts Award and the AQA unit award schemes.

Our pupils have complex learning needs. In addition to the academic curriculum their individualised timetables provide opportunities for pupils to withdraw from some lessons to participate in therapy sessions with our Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist.

We operate a Total Communication Approach, and use objects of reference, symbols and signs – communication boards and Makaton to assist with communication. We ensure that our structures and routines are clear to support the children to feel safe and happy.

e) How much support will my child receive?

Prior to placement an initial assessment is completed which determines the level of staff support required. This is subject to review if the needs of the child change.

The level of additional support by therapy staff will be assessed during the first 12 weeks of placement.

Pupils are supported throughout the school day both inside, and outside, of the classroom.

f) Will my child be able to access extra-curricular activities, and visits?

There are a number of opportunities for extra-curricular/enrichment activities; regular visits in the local community linked to learning outcomes include shopping, visits to local parks, museums, places of interest.

PE and Arts are timetabled and are differentiated to meet need and ensure inclusion.

Both class and whole school trips are planned throughout the year to support and enrich pupils learning outside of the classroom.

g) What support is there for my child's well-being?

Our aim is to promote a sense of well-being at all times by celebrating small steps progress in a caring and supportive environment.

Planning is person-centred. All pupils have a tailored timetable to support their individual needs: this will include therapeutic input at various points during the week as we recognise that children learn best when their emotional, physical and sensory needs are met.

The school has facilities to promote a sense of well-being and provides a therapeutic environment.

We work closely with local health partners and staff are trained to meet the personal care and medical needs of individuals.

Section 4&5 – Staff expertise and training

What qualifications, training and experience do the staff have?

All class teachers have QTS (qualified teacher status) or equivalent. Our on-going programme of CPD for all staff ensures that we maintain “best practice” standards.

Some of the topics covered: Safeguarding, roles and responsibilities, personal care, administration of medication, epilepsy, communication, autism awareness,

behaviour management, Team Teach, First Aid, what makes an outstanding lesson, assessment for learning, recording and reporting.

Learning Support Assistants are encouraged to complete a Level 3 qualification in supporting teaching and learning

The training plan is drawn up in consultation with school staff and in response to identified needs.

Section 6 – Equipment and facilities

How accessible is Birtenshaw School, Merseyside?

Birtenshaw School is fully accessible and is all on one floor. It has state-of-the art equipment and facilities to support children with special educational needs.

In addition to the accessible classroom spaces, the school has a range of therapeutic areas such as the sensory integration room, multi-sensory dark room, hydrotherapy pool with multi-sensory sound and light system and soft play area. The base classrooms are equipped with appropriate furniture to ensure comfort and safety and state of the art technologies such as touch screens and iPads

Section 7 & 8 – Consultation with pupils and parents

How can I be involved in my child's education and what decisions can my child be involved in?

From the outset of any placement, we ensure that parents know that we value the relationship between school staff and parents. During the referral and induction process, parents meet with the head teacher and the class teacher.

We offer daily or weekly communication by email or home/school diary – whichever is most useful to parents. We also send photographs of pupils' work and achievements at significant points.

In addition to the statutory review meetings, there are also celebration assemblies and regular scheduled parents' consultation afternoons and evenings.

Parents/carers are welcome to contact the school at any time to discuss their child's progress, specific needs or any concerns they may have.

There are currently two parent representatives on the school's governing body.

We take a person-centred approach to planning, with the child's interests, aptitudes and development targets leading as far as is possible the planning of their timetable.

Our pupils are encouraged to be involved in all decisions which impact upon them and we have a school council meeting once a half-term.

Section 9 – Concerns and complaints

What would I do if I was concerned about the school's provision for my child?

Parents/carers are welcome to contact the school at any time to discuss their child's progress, specific needs or any concerns they may have.

We would expect any concerns to be dealt with in discussion with the class teacher and/or head teacher.

In the unlikely event that a concern is not resolved in this way, a formal complaint may be made and would be dealt with under the procedures of Birtenshaw's Complaints Policy. Contact can be made via the email address:

merseyside.school@birtenshaw.org.uk

The school's policies are available on the website: www.birtenshaw.org.uk

Section 10 & 11– Involvement of other agencies

How does the school involve other agencies to meet the needs of my child and support the family?

We have strong links with other agencies who provide support to our pupils.

We have links with Health Partners who provide training and support as required for children with complex health needs. We also have good links with CAMHS.

We have links with other schools and the local college to provide additional opportunities for our pupils.

We are able to offer advice and guidance on various issues and "sign-post" to other organisations where appropriate.

Section 12 – Transition

How will the transition into school be managed? How will my child be prepared when the time comes to move on?

Our Transition and Induction Policy sets out the processes of transition in detail. See www.birtenshaw.org.uk

Our approach to transition and induction is person-centred. Planning with parents/carers is important to ensure that the first few days and weeks of the placement are a positive experience. Once an initial plan is in place, we adapt as we go to ensure that the process is meeting the pupil's needs and is at the right pace.

When pupils reach KS4: we will be proactive in preparing them for adulthood and future placements. This includes participation in all local authority planning meetings, discussions with parents/carers, transition planning into new placements, supporting transitions by working with staff in the new provision, college visits and work experience placements.

Our core curriculum includes life skills and independence training. Reading and Phonics, Literacy, Communication and Numeracy lessons are grounded in real life experiences where possible.

Pupils all have access to the life skills area and are involved in preparation of food and learning about the importance of good hygiene.

Section 13 – The Local Offer

Where can I find further information about the services available for my child?

Information about the services available in Liverpool can be found at:

<http://fsd.liverpool.gov.uk/kb5/liverpool/fsd/localoffer.page?familychannel=10>