

School Prospectus **2024 / 2025**



Proprietor details

Witherslack Group

Lupton Tower
Lupton
Cumbria
LA6 2PR

Tel: 015395 66081

Email: admin@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Head Teacher's name and contact details

Mr Shane Rowe

School office: 01922 661280

Email: shane.rowe@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Bescot Hall School

Scarborough Road

Walsall

WS2 9TY

Website: www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/our-locations/our-schools/bescot-hall-school

Holiday contact details

School office: bescot-hall@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Tel: 01922 661280

School ethos/mission statement

We are committed to providing our pupils with a caring, positive and welcoming learning environment for them to achieve their full potential in their education and develop their social communication skills.

The broad curriculum allows pupils to pursue both academic and vocational paths, allowing individuals to strive in their areas of strength.

Aims of school

- To provide a curriculum and educational experience which is broad, balanced and accessible to all pupils
- To enable each pupil to achieve their full potential in the academic, social, moral and cultural sense
- To provide a happy, secure and supportive environment where pupils are valued and can develop their confidence, self-esteem, independence, self-discipline, respect and concern for others
- To celebrate achievement in all its forms
- To develop positive links between home, school and the wider community in order to support pupil's learning
- To prepare pupils for the demands of adult life in order to maximise their opportunities for personal fulfilment and happiness

Details regarding admission process

We specialise in supporting pupils between the ages of 8 to 16 with a primary need of Social, Emotional and Mental Health alongside other diagnoses such as ASD, ADHD, Dyslexia and Dyspraxia.

Initial enquiries and informal visits are always welcome however, referrals will come to us directly from the pupil's local authority.

Applications are considered by our admissions team and a non-prejudicial visit will then be arranged. Following this visit a place may be offered to pupils whose needs can be fully met by the school. Fees will then be agreed with Local Authorities and will vary dependent on the individual pupil's needs. Fees and NASS approved contracts will then be agreed with the placing local authority.

There will be a collaborative decision made between all stakeholders about how a young person should transition into the school which will include a pre admission visit, home visit by our Family Liaison Officer and then a planned transition into the school day. This is all in a personalised way that is based in our best interest approach, in line with the expectations of the code of practice. **There will be an assessment period followed by a Post Admission review meeting after 12 weeks of a young person starting with us.**

Referrals can be made throughout the academic year.

If you wish to discuss making a referral please contact Mr Shane Rowe, Head Teacher on the school office number.

The school's Admissions Policy is available on request.

Our Clinical Offer

Essential to the Witherslack Group Therapeutic Model are our Clinical Services Team who work alongside the wider multidisciplinary team to provide an integrated provision of therapeutic intervention, care and education.

Each of the children's learning environments are supported by a designated and bespoke team of clinicians which may include: Therapists, Psychologists, Speech & Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Assistant Psychologists.

Our children, young people and the staff supporting them also have access to other specialist clinicians within the wider group including our Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist.

All of our practising clinicians are registered practitioners with The Health and Care Professions Council or their appropriate designated regulatory bodies such as The British Association of Counselling Psychotherapists, British Association of Play Therapists, and the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy, and all receive supervision from other senior clinicians within the group or from externally commissioned specialists within their field.

Line management for the clinicians is provided by senior clinical colleagues and the Regional Director Clinical, who in turn is line managed by the group's Clinical Director.

All clinicians are supported to maintain their registrations through Continuing Professional Development opportunities, many being supported by the group to develop specialisms such as Sensory Integration Therapy and Trauma Informed Communication Approaches.

Clinical Governance is the responsibility of the Clinical Director who chairs the quarterly Witherslack Group Clinical Governance Board; attended by external advisors and internal Directors.

Details of approach to positive behaviour support, exclusions, rewards and sanctions

Positive Behaviour Support

The overall aim of Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) is to improve the quality of a person's life and that of the people around them. This includes children, young people and adults.

PBS provides the right support for a person and their family to help people lead a meaningful life and learn new skills without unnecessary restrictions. It is not simply about getting rid of problematic behaviour. With the right support at the right time the likelihood of children exhibiting behaviours which challenge are reduced.

Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) approaches are based on a set of overarching values.

These values include the commitment to providing support that promotes inclusion, choice, participation and equality of opportunity. Behaviour that challenges usually happens for a reason and may be the person's only way of communicating an unmet need. PBS helps us understand the reason for the behaviour so we can better meet people's needs, enhance their quality of life and reduce the likelihood that the behaviour will happen.

We aim to help children develop the skills they need to manage their own behaviour and therefore good behaviour patterns are taught, encouraged and rewarded.

In each lesson and in unstructured times such as break, pupils can earn points for displaying positive behaviour and the school values; Acceptance, Resilience and Achievement. Pupils' collect their points and can exchange these for rewards throughout the school year.

Every child has a risk assessment and where appropriate a PBS plan. PBS plans are developed in partnership with the child/young person and their family. A PBS plan promotes pro-active and preventative strategies and includes the teaching of new skills.

At times when children or young people are placing themselves or others at risk of harm, staff may need to use physical intervention to keep them safe. This is used within strict guidelines, only as a last resort, and staff are trained in using the BILD accredited framework PRICE (Protecting Rights in a Caring Environment). Staff receive regular training in de-escalation strategies and Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) strategies. The school's leadership team monitors any use of physical intervention through data on a day to day and monthly basis, which helps to identify any patterns of behaviour and develop any necessary intervention strategies to be put into place reduce its use.

Provision for Education Health & Care Plans

We make sure that the work in the classroom is at the right level for each pupil and if a student needs some extra help or additional academic 'stretch', we will arrange this too. This could include;

- Extra support from a teaching assistant or the pastoral team
- Individual interventions to develop literacy or numeracy skills
- Use of our sensory room
- Support from one of our therapy team. (Play therapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy)
- Additional assessment and support from our Educational Psychologist
- Additional and more complex work being provided
- Extended project work or homework
- The opportunity to explore concepts out of the classroom

All pupils have an annual review of their Educational, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Family and representatives from the placing local authority are always invited to these review meetings.

The school is able to access support from the wider Witherslack Group to meet a range of additional needs. This includes the additional needs detailed in the statement of SEN or EHCP and other issues such as English as an additional language.

Details for consideration of pupils/parents whose first language is not English

On admission a child's need for additional support is identified. Appropriate provision is then established prior to the pupil's start date. One to one support from a bi-lingual support assistant will be provided if this is an identified requirement in line with the agreement with the placing local authority.

Details of complaints procedure

In accordance with the Children's Act 1989, all children at Bescot Hall School have access to a Complaints Procedure. Informal complaints or concerns will be addressed by contacting the school office and asking to speak to the class teacher or the Family Liaison Officer. Formal complaints directly from the child or via a parent/carer or member of staff should be reported directly to our Head Teacher Shane Rowe.

Complaints or concerns arising from adults also follow set procedures. Firstly, the concern should be addressed informally with the school. Copies of these policies and procedures are available on request.

Statement regarding accessing exam results

Bescot Hall School has been open since 2024. A summary of accreditation results for Year 11s is available upon request to the school.

Safeguarding Mission Statement

Bescot Hall School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people. We believe in the importance of working with partner agencies to ensure that children and young people are kept safe, happy and healthy. All staff working here are made aware of the need of protection and how to respond to these concerns.

We have a 'Child Protection Policy' and all staff are trained and supported by our Designated Safeguarding Lead Gary Burns to ensure it is fully and effectively implemented.

Where we suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, we have a statutory duty to make a referral to relevant agencies. Where local procedures allow, we will inform the parent[s] of the referral. The school will share any information relevant to the referral with those agencies and will contribute to any assessments being undertaken.

If you require further support on safeguarding matters you can contact the school.

If you require further support on safeguarding matters from our corporate team you can contact the Witherslack Group Lead for Safeguarding Mary Aurens. (Mary.Aurens@witherslackgroup.co.uk) or Walsall's Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) via phone 0300 555 2866 or email : MASH@walsall.gov.uk

Promoting General Welfare

Uniform & Equipment

We provide each child with a uniform which includes two polo shirts, two jumpers and t-shirt for PE. Parents/carers provide their child with smart dark black trousers and black footwear.

Personal items or money should not be brought into school unless it is by special request.

Risk Assessments

Our role is to support children to lead a positive life, helping them to understand daily risks that they face and to learn how to overcome them safely. Due to our children's difficulties, some of them exhibit 'risk taking' characteristics; we therefore have rigorous procedures to ensure everyone's safety. Individual risk assessments will be completed for all pupils during their 12-week assessment period and will form part of the post-admission assessment review.

Risk assessments are in place and regularly reviewed that cover the environments, lessons, and general activities that take place within the school. Where off site activities are planned, the visit leader would complete a risk assessment and update our Evolve System which ensures all pre-visit checks have been completed and the visit is authorised by a senior member of staff. A fire risk assessment has been undertaken and this is kept updated

following any changes to layout, heat-generating activities or fire hazards introduced. An annual review of fire safety is undertaken by a competent person.

Food/Menu

We provide free meals for all children following national nutritional guidelines. We offer a wide variety of freshly produced meals within a warm and friendly environment where social skills are developed. Each day begins with a breakfast snack option, followed by a selection of fruit and snacks at break and a main meal at mid-day.

Our menus are being continually evaluated and improved to provide children with a well-balanced but enjoyable diet. Pupil's views are sought in the evaluating and planning of the menus.

Anti-Bullying

We pride ourselves on our warm and caring atmosphere. All members of our community are entitled to safety and protection and therefore bullying will not be tolerated. We have clear policies and guidelines raising awareness in staff, children and young people to signs of bullying.

The school's Anti-Bullying Policy is available on request.

Health and Sex Education

As a part of our education at Bescot Hall School we promote personal wellbeing and development through a comprehensive Personal, Social, Health, Economic (PSHE) and Citizenship education programme. PSHE and Citizenship are subjects that give young people the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live safe, healthy, productive lives and meet their full potential.

From September 2020, the law relating to some aspects of PSHE changed, with new requirements for Relationships and Sex Education (RSE) and Health Education. All schools must have a policy for RSE and schools must consult with parents on this. The RSE Policy for Bescot Hall School is available on our school website or alternatively you can request a printed copy from the school office. Our RSE Policy includes a curriculum map for RSE so parents can see a summary of the content, which will be taught this academic year. We continue to be committed to working in partnership with parents and carers and as such, your thoughts are valued and feedback will be provided.

Health and Safety

At Bescot Hall School we have an ISO 45001 accredited safety and health management system that ensures risks have been identified and effective control measures are in place. Monitoring is undertaken by the Head Teacher, Shane Rowe and the Senior Management Team assisted by the Health and Safety Representative, Dennis Jones. The whole site has internal health and safety checks in place for the staff to complete, with an action plan put in place to rectify any faults.

The school have support from the Witherslack Groups Safety, Health, and Environment Team, who are competent health and safety professionals who provide advice, guidance and training to create safe and healthy environments for everyone. They undertake a health and safety audit of the school annually and complete additional visits when needed.

First Aid/Medical Care

The school has a medical room in the corridor before upper school classrooms. We respond to any first aid incidents with qualified staff and quick treatment. We inform parents of issues arising where necessary and appropriate.

The school is only allowed to administer prescribed medication. All medication is recorded and kept in a locked medical cupboard. Paracetamol and Calpol can only be administered with parent and carer consent.

Details regarding staffing and recruitment

Bescot Hall School follows a rigorous recruitment process in order that we recruit high quality staff and ensure that children and young people are kept safe. Senior Leaders involved in the recruitment process undertake safer recruitment training and all staff employed within the school are subject to an enhanced DBS check. Witherslack Group pride themselves on their rigorous induction and probation processes.

Frequently Asked Questions

What happens if...? - Frequently asked questions by new parents.

What happens if my child is unwell?

If your child is unwell at home and won't be attending, please let us know by phoning the school office as soon as possible. You will also need to contact the taxi company if your child uses school transport. Good attendance is important to us, so we will ask you to explain why your child will not be at school.

If your child becomes unwell at school, staff will take care of them and let you know as soon as possible. We have a medical room that pupils can use but we will not give out any medication unless we have your permission. If necessary, we may ask you to come and collect your child.

What happens if my child doesn't want to wear school uniform?

We do expect everyone to wear school uniform in school. The pastoral team will work with you to identify the problem and find a way to overcome it. We have a good track record of convincing some very determined young people that they do need to wear school uniform – and it does make a difference to achieving points and prizes! All pupils are provided with polo shirts and sweatshirts free of charge.

What happens if my child needs medication in school?

Contact a member of the Pastoral team through the school office. If you need to send medication in with the taxi driver, please phone school first and then make sure it is in a sealed envelope with the taxi driver. The Pastoral team will make sure it is collected, logged in our schools medication systems and administered at the right time.

What happens if my child doesn't like school dinners?

Our kitchen staff are happy to prepare food for a special diet. Just let us know the problem and we'll work together to find a way around it.

What can my child bring into school?

Pupils should not need to bring food or drinks into school as all of these are supplied. Fizzy drinks, energy drinks and those high in sugar are absolutely not permitted and will be confiscated as they are damaging to our pupils ability to concentrate and focus.

Electronic toys/ phones / music equipment for use during the taxi journey will need to be handed into staff on arrival. These are then locked safely away until the end of the day. Please let us know if equipment needs charging for the homeward journey and we will do our best to help.

Please don't bring toys or games into school, we have lots of equipment here for you. We don't allow pupils to swap / buy any toys from each other.

Cigarettes, all smoking equipment and vaping equipment are not allowed on site. Pupils should not bring alcohol, illegal substances or anything that could be used as a weapon onto the school site. The school reserves the right to confiscate such items.

If you think your child requires an exemption for some reason to any of the above e.g. a diabetic child needing access to a sugary drink this will be agreed at the point of admission or diagnosis, so don't worry.



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