



Putting the needs of learners first



Hardwick House School is a specialist school for learners with a diagnosis of autism or related communication disorder. We are located in the suburbs of Loughborough, within commuting distance of a range of local authorities in the East Midlands area.

Putting the needs of learners first. Our individualised approach ensures that we can meet our learner's educational needs whilst facilitating their development as individuals, through an inclusive and fun environment.

Introduction to KS2

Located on the school site, our Key Stage 2 cohort have their own building, separate play space and facilities, whilst still having full access to all that the school has to offer. We have capacity for a group of up to 6 learners within Key Stage 2, with spaces available each new academic year as learners from our current cohort transition into our secondary school.

“ Key Stage 2 is a lovely place to be; there is such a nice atmosphere, we have fun and laugh... a lot! ”

- KS2 Learning Support Assistant

We offer a holistic and thematic approach to the curriculum.

“My child is having the best year. He is thriving.”
- Parent

Curriculum

Literacy and numeracy are covered alongside a wider range of subjects such as cooking, art, physical education, and humanities, centred around a topic. Topics, such as the Greeks, circus, and rivers, change termly and will have either a citizenship, PSHE or humanities focus.

Lessons in community skills provide a sound platform for our learners to develop their social skills and independence. Our KS2 students are taken out into the community on a weekly basis to visit libraries, cafes, parks, new places, and to practice road safety. Each year, learners undertake wider educational visits such as to museums, zoos, and memorials, to enrich their curriculum and for personal development.

“I enjoy being able to plan and teach creative lessons that cater for individual needs and abilities - we work at the pace of the learners and will not move on if they are not ready to do so. We have a lot of fun and try to make every day different!”
- KS2 Teacher

Outdoors

The outdoor learning area provides a sanctuary of nurturing opportunities. Learners help to care for a range of animals by feeding and looking after our chickens, rabbits, degus, birds, guinea pigs and fish. The outdoor allotment is a space for the learners to grow their own plants and vegetables, gradually taking them through their complete life cycle.

Forest school activities support the development of creativity, practical skills, and teamwork. A fortnightly wellbeing breakfast around the campfire provides an additional enriching opportunity for the learners to socialise in a less formal environment.



Transition

The majority of learners who join us at Key Stage 2 continue their specialist education with us, following the traditional pathway right through to Key Stage 4. We offer a strong transition; during the Spring and Summer term, students take regular lessons in the main school which are delivered by core subject teachers, gradually increasing from half days to full days.

Emotional and Therapeutic

As part of our therapeutic offer, speech and language therapy is embedded into social communication lessons. Learners are assessed by our Occupational Therapist and a sensory diet forms part of their daily activities, including yoga sessions. All of our learners have access to a qualified Counsellor and Emotional Literacy Support Assistant.

Communication

Our staff team regularly liaise with parents through phone calls and emails to keep them updated on their child's holistic progress. In addition, the school holds a progress review afternoon each term, parents are supported through the annual review process, and a journal of achievement to sent home at the end of the academic year which the learners have contributed to.



All of our pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which specifies Communication and Interaction as their primary need. We understand that learners with autism have an uneven profile of abilities. As part of our admissions process we consider whether their cognitive ability matches our curriculum offer, aspiring to sit GCSEs at the end of Key Stage 4, their suitability to fit within the current peer group, and their potential to close any gaps.

We welcome parents of Key Stage 2 learners to visit us for a tour, either in person or virtually. Once we have been consulted by the local authority, we carry out an assessment and welcome your child to a visit and taster session.

To enquire further about a place in Key Stage 2, please contact us.

“My child has benefited immensely from being in such a relatively small and nurturing school environment... there are a lot of positives and real gains that have been made (thanks to) everyone that has worked and been so supportive of him. It's a genuine team and one I am fully trusting of to work collaboratively to achieve the best outcomes possible for my child”
- Parent

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