

Welcome to Fellgate Autistic Unit



Information for Parents

Dear Parents,

Welcome to Fellgate Autistic Unit

The Unit is an 'additional resource base' at Fellgate Primary School. It is a 30 place provision for children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder, aged from 3-11 years. The Head of the Unit of the Unit, Moira Smith, is also the Assistant Head of the whole school. There are 5 other teachers, ten Senior Educational Practitioners and an HLTA level, Communication Champion. The pupils are split into 5 classes of six pupils. Your child's development, progress and general well-being are at the forefront of all activity in the Unit. We hope your child will be happy here, while reaching their potential.

The following is some information that will find useful:-

COMMUNICATION

-with Pupils

All children with an Autistic Spectrum Disorder will have some level of language difficulty – either expressively and/or receptively. Staff use Makaton signing, visual symbols, PECS and i-pads as aids to communication. At times, language is kept to a minimum as short specific instructions will be more easily understood.



- with Parents/Carers

All pupils have a Home/School Diary which is filled in daily to inform parents of what the child has done that day, refer to any exceptional behaviour, offer advice etc. One of the class team will fill in the diaries. Parents are encouraged to use the diaries to inform staff of successes, concerns, appointments etc. Pupils also have a visual weekend diary which they fill in on a Friday afternoon, with staff, and at the weekend, with a member of the family

SCERTS

Since January 2012 the ethos of the Unit has been supported by the introduction of the SCERTS model. The acronym refers to: 'SC' - Social Communication; 'ER' - Emotional Regulation and 'TS' - Transactional Support. Its primary aim is to enhance a pupil's desire and ability to communicate, by understanding what they need to regulate their behaviour and putting support in place so that these needs are no longer a barrier to effective, spontaneous communication. The model provides a systematic method that ensures that specific skills and appropriate supports are selected and applied in a consistent manner by the significant adults in his/her life.



THE CURRICULUM

There is a topic-based approach to the curriculum. Each week the class activities will be based around a particular area of the topic but all your child's learning objectives will be specific to them – the level they are at and what they can be expected to achieve. Educational visits are often linked to the topics. As well as an academic focus, each week's curriculum will highlight communication and social development targets.



UNIFORM

All items of clothing, bags etc need to be named as they can so easily get mixed up as uniforms, especially, all look the same

The uniform is a white polo-shirt, royal blue sweatshirt and grey/black trousers or skirt. The sweatshirt can be plain or with the Fellgate Primary logo. These can be purchased in local shops. However the majority of parents opt for the specific 'Autistic Unit' logo which has to be ordered through the school office. An order form is enclosed in your Welcome Pack.

Pupils also need a plain white T-shirt, blue shorts and black plimsolls for P.E. which can be left in school.



PERSONAL HYGIENE

We ask for at least one spare set of clothes which can be left in school for all pupils, more for those being 'toilet trained'. For those still learning to use the toilet, we will need a supply of wipes, nappies and cream. All children clean their teeth after lunch so a toilet bag with toothbrush and toothpaste is needed. We will send this home at each half term break. Older pupils can bring in deodorant etc for after physical activities

MONIES

There is information in the pack about diner and milk monies. We also ask that parents give a voluntary donation of £1 per week for the Unit fund. This helps with snacks and cookery ingredients and can help keep down the cost of educational visits. We 'Thank you' in advance for this.



MEETINGS AND PERFORMANCES

Early in September, you will be invited to a 'Meet the team' meeting with your child's staff when they give you a class specific timetable etc. There is also the opportunity for more formal parent/teacher meetings during the year. At other times you may telephone for information or to arrange an additional meeting.

We also welcome parents to our 3 'performances' a year – at Christmas, for the Celebration of Success in spring and sport's day in the summer. These are definitely 'must see' occasions.



TIMETABLE

a.m

8.30	Class teams meet. discuss learning objectives, individual support etc
9.05	Pupils arrive by mini-bus or taxi near the front entrance, staff welcome them at the vehicle and escort them into school. A few local pupils arrive with their parents at the main entrance
9.05 - 9.15	Registration in Class group
9.15 - 9.30	Movement break
9.30 - 10.30	Session 1
10.30 - 10.45	Snack time (some staff on break, others cover snack)
10.45 - 11.00	Break time (remainder of staff on break, others on yard duty)
11.00 - 12.00	Session 2

p.m.

12.00 - 1.00	Lunch and break for children
1.00 - 2.05	Session 3
2.05 - 2.15	Break time (all staff outside on yard duty)
2.15 - 3.05	Session 4
3.05	Home time for the children
3:05	Staff break
3:20 - 4.30	Team meeting in classroom and preparation time

TRANSPORT

We work closely with the personnel transporting your child to school. They will let you know the pick up and drop off times and it is always useful to swap contact details. Food and drink of any sort are not allowed on the bus/taxi. It is also beneficial if toys etc are left at home as they can cause issues with other children.

If you have any further queries then please do not hesitate to ask – your child's education is a journey we make together. Thank you so much for your cooperation.