

“When we are no longer able to change a situation, we are challenged to change ourselves.”

Viktor Frankl

Barley Lane School

Ready, Respectful, Safe.



Welcome note from the team at Barley Lane School

On behalf of the team of staff and governors, thank you for taking the time to find out about our school. We are a small and friendly school that can take up to 79 pupils across key stages two, three and four (age 7-16). Our primary unit is on the same site but separate from the secondary part of the school.

The most frequent question we are asked by parents is what is a SEMH school? And our reply is - forget the label we are just like a 'specialist' mainstream school but smaller and we are here for young people who are not thriving currently in education; children who need to know their teachers better, explore their self-worth, talents and abilities and in smaller classes who may also need more support and encouragement to feel safe and happy in order to be able to summons the curiosity to want to learn.

We continue to be a 'Good' School (Ofsted, May 2023) yet, like all schools, continue on the journey of school improvement and development.

We are proud of our strong, trusting and collaborative relationships with the families, parents, grandparents, carers and professionals that choose to trust us with the care and education of their children; many of us are parents also that can empathise with our school family and community and we want for other people's children what we would want and aspire for our own. Helping and supporting to ensure our students are safe, happy and developing into positive contributors to society is something we work very hard together to role model and achieve every day. Existing parents, carers and children are overwhelmingly positive about the school (*see school website, parents tab, what the parents say*)

Our children take a wide range of qualifications matched to their needs including Entry Level, Functional skills, GCSEs and other qualifications that include vocational courses such as mechanics, catering, construction and barbering in addition to lots of other fun and challenging experiences, like canoeing, rock climbing and Forest school with a number of the youngsters having achieved both Bronze and Silver Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

A very large majority (between 80%-100%) go onto post 16 education, training and employment. Our school aim is for our students to go on to lead as independent, fulfilling and as happy lives as possible as they develop into young adults and to gain as many of the skills needed to do that during their time with us. We place great emphasis on developing our students' social communication skills, resolving issues with clear routes to redemption when things seem challenging and that help them to go on to make some good friendships and to enjoy being part of the school community.

As headteacher, I am proud of the strong work ethic, high expectation, commitment and compassion of the staff team and with that, the benefits that of all these qualities bring to the children's lives and education. These priorities are scaffolded by our core values, high quality pastoral care and relational practise followed by high quality teaching. Empathy, compassion, forgiveness and fresh starts and reasonable boundaries (values) are some examples of our approach that create the rock upon which we build our school.

'Ready, respectful and safe' is at the heart of Barley Lane School. Leaders prioritise this so that pupils feel safe and are ready to learn. Pupils value the difference that the school has made to them. They describe how staff listen and give them the help they need to manage their emotions successfully. Pupils appreciate that, even when they have shown challenging behaviour, staff understand them and there is always a fresh start.

Above all, we are a very proud school community. Please explore our website to find out more.

With warm wishes

David Jones, Headteacher

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'Never look down on anybody unless you are helping them up.' Jesse Jackson