



Bright Futures School

Overview

BFS is a small, nurturing school with a very high staff to pupil ratio. We recognise that most of our pupils flourish with individual, specially tailored attention and we have invested in staffing to provide this. Most of our learning sessions take place on a 1-1 basis, with some very small group work. The children are regarded as individuals and their progress and successes are measured against highly individualised targets – both academic and developmental.

Admissions

We consider any pupil with a diagnosis of autism or related developmental difficulty. Pupils are accepted if, following a brief assessment by the Head of Development, we consider that they will fit with the current cohort of pupils at school.

Meals at school

Pupils bring packed lunches to school. There is a microwave and a hob for heating food but no facility to make meals for school lunches on site.

Clothing and jewellery

Pupils wear their own clothes to school. We ask parents to provide a change of clothes to be kept at school, and a warm, waterproof coat for learning outdoors during colder weather.

Jewellery should be kept to a minimum and of an appropriate, small size. Swimming gear should be brought into school on the appropriate day, for those going swimming.

Bringing items into school

Pupils should not bring any items into school other than their school bag, lunch, communication book and any MP3 player that they may listen to in break or during their taxi journey.

School hours and holidays

Our school day runs from 9.15am until 3pm with breaks at 10.40am to 11.00am and 12noon to 12.45pm. School starts at 10.10am on Fridays. We follow OMBC school holiday schedule.

Charging

All school activities including swimming, cooking, etc. are provided free of charge. We occasionally invite a voluntary donation to 'Friends of Bright Futures' as a contribution from parents towards to cost of a special one-off event, activity or outing but any contribution is entirely voluntary.

Uniform

We do not have a school uniform. We expect pupils to arrive at school smartly dressed in casual clothes and wearing suitable footwear. It helps if a pair of wellingtons can be left at the school for use by pupils (e.g. at Jane's farm) on wet days.

Homework

We have a 'no homework' policy, taking the view that our pupils will have worked hard in coping with their school environment during the school day. Pupils are encouraged to follow up interests developed in school during their time at home.

Attendance

Pupils who attend Bright Futures School usually join with a poor previous record of attending school due to various reasons which can generally be attributed to their autistic difficulties and the failure of some schools to adequately address and deal with these issues.

Whilst at BFS, pupils say that they feel understood, safe, secure and happy to attend. Our detailed data shows a marked improvement in pupils' attendance rates. We aim to find ways in which our pupils can feel competent and valued and in doing so our pupils are able to access educational opportunities which were previously closed to them.

Most of our pupils currently show attendance rates of 90% and above, with some at 100%. We have few instances of unauthorized absence.

Attendance is carefully monitored by the Head of Learning and good staff relationships with parents as well as support from our Education Welfare Officer helps parents cope with any issues that may arise.