



## Bright Futures School

### Overview

BFS is a small, nurturing school with a very high staff to student ratio. We recognise that most of our students 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 student with a diagnosis of autism or related developmental difficulty. Students 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

Students 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

Students 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

Students 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 9.15 – 3pm with breaks at 10.45 – 11.15 and 12.30 – 1.15. School starts at 10am on Fridays. We follow OMBC school holiday schedule.

## Attendance

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

Most of our students 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.