

School Prospectus

2025 / 2026

Education

Therapy

Futures



Proprietor details

Witherslack Group

Lupton Tower
Lupton
Cumbria
LA6 2PR

Tel: 015395 66081

Email: admin@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Head Teacher's name and contact details

Darius Robinson

01254 833579

darius.robinson@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Holiday contact details

As above or alternatively

Natalie Bennett (Regional Director)

07771 001785

Natalie.bennett@witherslackgroup.co.uk

School ethos/mission statement

To make significant academic and social developments that will, in turn, provide young people with positive life opportunities.

Aims of school

We aim to make young people feel safe and happy within their learning environment. This helps us provide a high standard of education, care and therapy and offer a personalised and structured curriculum for our pupils.

Meadow View Learning Centre is a specialised fully integrated facility which provides a high quality, well resourced school for up to nine young people with complex learning difficulties and challenging behaviour. The learning centre provides a highly personalised curriculum to encourage learning and positive social outcomes for young people.

Meadow View Learning Centre is a modern, well equipped school registered with the Department of Education. It provides a personalised and structured curriculum for up to nine pupils at key stages 2, 3, 4 and 5. The Head Teacher, Mr Darius Robinson, leads a team of qualified teachers and teaching and learning assistants.

Details regarding admission process

We specialise in providing education and care for pupils between the ages of 8 and 18, who have ASC and /or behavioural, social and emotional difficulties with attachment.

Initial enquiries and informal visits are always welcome but referrals will come to us directly from the pupil's local authority.

Applications are considered by our admissions panel and a non-prejudicial visit will then be arranged. Following this visit a place may be offered to pupils whose needs can be fully addressed by the school. Fees and NASS approved contracts will then be agreed with local authorities.

There will be an assessment period followed by an interim review meeting after 6 weeks.

Referrals can be made throughout the academic year.

If you wish to discuss making a referral please contact the Witherslack Group placement team.

The school's Admissions Policy is available on request.

Clinical Input

Essential to the Witherslack Group Therapeutic Model are our Clinical Services Team who work alongside the wider multidisciplinary team to provide an integrated provision of therapeutic intervention, care and education.

Each of the children's learning environments are supported by a designated and bespoke team of clinicians which may include: Therapists, Psychologists, Speech & Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and Assistant Psychologists.

Our children, young people and the staff supporting them also have access to other specialist clinicians within the wider group including our Consultant Child & Adolescent Psychiatrist.

All of our practising clinicians are registered practitioners with The Health and Care Professions Council or their appropriate designated regulatory bodies such as The British Association of Counselling Psychotherapists, British Association of Play Therapists, and the United Kingdom Council for Psychotherapy, and all receive supervision from other senior clinicians within the group or from externally commissioned specialists within their field.

Line management for the clinicians is provided by senior clinical colleagues and the Regional Director Clinical, who in turn is line managed by the group's Clinical Director.

All clinicians are supported to maintain their registrations through Continuing Professional Development opportunities, many being supported by the group to develop specialisms such as Sensory Integration Therapy and Trauma Informed Communication Approaches.

Clinical Governance is the responsibility of the Clinical Director who chairs the quarterly Witherslack Group Clinical Governance Board; attended by external advisors and internal Directors.

Details of approach to positive behaviour support, exclusions, rewards and sanctions

A major aim of the Learning Centre is to help children develop controls from within. Therefore appropriate patterns of behaviour are taught, encouraged and rewarded. Reflection, consequences and sanctions are also used as a part of enabling pupils to learn from mistakes made.

At times when children or young people are placing themselves or others at risk of harm, staff may need to use physical intervention to keep them safe. This is used within strict guidelines, only as a last resort, and staff are trained in using the BILD accredited framework PRICE (Protecting Rights in a Caring Environment). Staff receive regular training in de-escalation

strategies and Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) strategies. The Learning Centre's leadership team monitors any use of physical intervention through data on a day to day and monthly basis, which helps to identify any patterns of behaviour and develop any necessary intervention strategies to be put into place reduce its use.

A full copy of the Behaviour Policy is available upon request. This explains in detail the expectations and support in promoting positive behaviour.

Provision for EHC Plans

The school works closely with local authorities to set up, review and update EHC Plans. Annual reviews are held to ensure that pupils needs within these plans are identified, being met and that documents are adjusted and updated to reflect any change in need.

Details for consideration of pupils/ parents whose first language is not English

On admission a child's need for additional support is identified. Appropriate provision is then established prior to the pupils start date. One to one support from a bi-lingual support assistant will be provided if this is an identified requirement.

Details of complaints procedure

In accordance with the Children's Act 1989, all children at Meadow View Learning Centre have access to a Complaints Procedure. Informal complaints or concerns will be addressed by personal tutors, the Head Teacher or the Pastoral Manager. Formal complaints directly from the child or via a parent/carer or member of staff should be reported directly to the Pastoral Manager and Head Teacher.

Complaints or concerns arising from adults also follow set procedures. Firstly the concern should be addressed informally with the school. We have had no complaints within the last year. Copies of these policies and procedures are available on request.

Statement regarding accessing exam results

Pupils can gain access to a range of educational and vocational qualifications. This may be via GCSE entry, entry level, functional skills, vocational qualifications or another accredited route. This will be planned according to the strengths, needs and aspirations of the individual pupil. Pupils will be entered in exams at different stages throughout the year and results will be provided at allocated times to the pupils and their authorities. Access to these results can be gained through consultation with the school at any time.

Safeguarding Mission Statement

Meadow View Learning Centre is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our children and young people. We believe in the importance of working with partner agencies to ensure that children and young people are kept safe, happy and healthy. All staff working here are made aware of the need of protection and how to respond to these concerns.

Where we suspect that a child has been abused or neglected, we have a statutory duty to make a referral to relevant agencies. Where local procedures allow, we will inform the parent[s] of the referral. The school will share any information relevant to the referral with those agencies and will contribute to any assessments being undertaken.

We have a 'Safeguarding Policy' and all staff are supported by our designated safeguarding lead – Courtney Metcalf (Pastoral Manager) and deputy designated safeguarding leads – Simon Wynne (Deputy Head Teacher) and Darius Robinson (Head Teacher).

If you require further support on safeguarding matters you can contact:-

Designated Safeguarding Lead – Courtney Metcalf (Pastoral Manager).

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Simon Wynne (Deputy Head Teacher).

Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead – Darius Robinson (Head Teacher).

Group Safeguarding Co-Ordinator – Mary Aurens.

Promoting General Welfare

There are a number of structures in place to support individual pupils. Upon admission, every pupil is supported by his or her personal tutor, the Pastoral Manager and the Head Teacher, whose responsibility it is to ensure that the pupil settles into school routines. Personal tutors meet regularly with Key Workers in the home to discuss progress, achievements and concerns. Pupils have (at least) fortnightly sessions with their personal tutors and will look at appropriate and relevant rewards on a regular basis.

At Meadow View Learning Centre, pupil rights and responsibilities are central to the purpose of The Learning Centre. Pupils are encouraged to accept their rights and responsibilities as members of the Learning Centre and the wider community and are assisted to make appropriate choices about their education and care.

Anti-Bullying

We pride ourselves on our warm and caring atmosphere. All members of our community are entitled to safety and protection and therefore bullying will not be tolerated. We have clear policies and guidelines raising awareness in staff, children and young people to signs of bullying. During the last 12 months there were zero bullying incidents recorded.

The school's Anti-Bullying Policy is available on request

Health and Sex Education

Sex education is carried out principally within PSHE and Science lessons in accordance with current legislation. Materials and visiting speakers are carefully chosen to ensure they are appropriate to the needs and ages of our pupils and according to the National Curriculum. Sex Education is taught within the context of relationships and family life.

Parents/Carers have the right to withdraw their child from the sex education programme.

Health and Safety

At Meadow View Learning Centre we have an ISO 45001 accredited safety and health management system that ensures risks have been identified and effective control measures are in place. Monitoring is undertaken by the Head Teacher, Darius Robinson and the Senior Management Team assisted by the Health and Safety Representative, Nicola Tattersall. The whole site has internal health and safety checks in place for the staff to complete, with an action plan put in place to rectify any faults.

The school have support from the Witherslack Group Safety, Health, and Environment Team, who are competent health and safety professionals who provide advice, guidance and training to create safe and healthy environment for everyone. They undertake a health and safety audit of the school annually and complete additional visits when needed.

Risk Assessments

Our role is to support children to lead a positive life, helping them to understand daily risks that they face and to learn how to overcome them safely. Due to our children's difficulties, some of them exhibit 'risk taking' characteristics; we therefore have rigorous procedures to ensure everyone's safety. Individual risk assessments will be completed for all pupils during their 12-week assessment period and will form part of the post-admission assessment review.

Risk assessments are in place and regularly reviewed that cover the environments, lessons, and general activities that take place within the school. Where off site activities are planned, the visit leader would complete a risk assessment and update our Evolve System which ensures all pre-visit checks have been completed and the visit is authorised by a senior member of staff. A fire risk assessment has been undertaken and this is kept updated following any changes to layout, heat-generating activities or fire hazards introduced. An annual review of fire safety is undertaken by a competent person.

First Aid/Medical Care

All staff as part of their induction training complete a one day Basic First Aid course for children's services. All First Aid training is followed up with refresher training every three years.

The on-site Children's Home administer prescribed medication to students. All medication is recorded and kept in a locked medical cupboard.

Details regarding staffing and recruitment

Our staff team is made up of the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher, Pastoral Manager, 4 Teachers, 5 Teaching and Learning Assistants and a Senior Administrator.

Meadow View Learning Centre follows a rigorous recruitment process in order that we recruit high quality staff and ensure that children and young people are kept safe. Senior Leaders involved in the recruitment process undertake safer recruitment training and all staff employed within the school are subject to an enhanced DBS check.

Attendance Data

Despite difficulties pupils may have had in previous placements with attendance, we have high expectations and excellent levels of attendance within the learning centre.



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