

School Prospectus 2026 / 2027



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

Mrs Vicky Size
Lakeside School
Naylor's Road
Liverpool
L27 2YA

vicky.size@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Holiday contact details

School Secretary: Mrs Vicky Earley

victoria.earley@witherslackgroup.co.uk

School Administrator: Allison Blacklin

lakeside@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Telephone number: 0151 487 7211

School ethos/mission statement

‘Nurturing every child’s talent to release their full potential’

Aims of school

Lakeside School seeks to provide a family orientated, therapeutic and nurturing environment, where children grow in confidence and self-esteem, to make academic progress. We seek to promote children’s resilience and provide opportunities which allow them to develop into healthy, independent and responsible members of society.

Details regarding admission process

We specialise in providing high quality education for pupils with complex communication and/or learning difficulties with related anxieties and behaviours, between the ages of 5 to 16 years. 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 a Post-Admission Review meeting after 10 to 12 weeks.

Referrals can be made throughout the academic year.

If you wish to discuss making a referral please contact Olivia Forrest, Partnerships Manager, on 01539566081 or 07586559136 or Olivia.Forrest@witherslackgroup.co.uk

The school’s Admissions Policy is available on request.

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

Behaviour Support

The overall aim of Positive Behaviour Support is to improve the quality of a person's life and that of the people around them. This includes children, young people and adults. Every child has a Positive Behaviour Support Plan and an individual Risk Assessment which helps identify anxieties they may have and how we can reduce such anxieties. Pupil behaviour is supported by a simple system of rewards and consequences which is understood by all pupils and staff, and which can be easily adapted to the individual needs of specific children.

Due to the nature of our children's difficulties, there may be times when rewards and consequences are ineffective in promoting good behaviour and, on such occasions, children may place themselves or others at risk of harm. We use a holistic approach to behaviour management, as outlined by Positive Behaviour Support. All our staff are fully trained at induction and receive refresher training on a half-termly basis. The expertise of our staff and their knowledge and understanding of the individual child's needs promotes de-escalation of potentially volatile situations through the use of verbal and non-verbal strategies. As a last resort a continuum of gradual and graded physical techniques and strategies may be required to support children in keeping themselves and others safe. On a half-termly basis we analyse incidents requiring the use of physical intervention, with any patterns of behaviour identified and appropriate intervention strategies put in place.

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 (British Institute of Learning Disabilities) accredited framework, PRICE (Protecting Rights In a Caring Environment). Staff receive regular training in de-escalation strategies and Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) strategies. The school'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 to reduce its use.

A copy of our Positive Behaviour Support Policy is available on request.

Suspensions and Exclusions

At Lakeside School the sanction of a fixed term suspension is only ever invoked after serious deliberation and appropriate consultation with relevant parties. This would be in response to the most serious of circumstances, where a child has endangered themselves or others in a way which makes their continued presence at the school an unacceptable risk. Since opening

in January 2001, Lakeside School has only needed to permanently exclude one pupil, and we pride ourselves on the accepting, tolerant and inclusive environment that we have created.

Provision for EHC Plans

All of our children have an Education, Health and Care Plan. We strive to provide a specific, bespoke curriculum to meet each pupil's individual needs through careful setting of pupil targeted support/intervention, daily structure/routine and through detailed assessment procedures. Each pupil has an ITAC (Individual Team Around the Child) Outcomes document, reviewed half termly, which highlights their specific Outcomes (as per their EHCP) and related SMART targets, to support progress and achievement.

We have a multi-disciplinary team consisting of teachers, pastoral staff, teaching assistants, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, therapists (counsellor and art therapist), assistant psychologist and clinical psychologists.

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 Lakeside School have access to a Complaints Procedure. Informal complaints or concerns will be addressed by the class teacher or teaching assistant. Formal complaints directly from the child or via a parent/carer or member of staff should be reported directly to the Head Teacher, Mrs Vicky Size, Mr Michael Clark or Mrs Janet Smyth, Deputy Head Teachers.

Complaints or concerns arising from adults also follow set procedures. Firstly, the concern should be addressed informally with the school.

Number of complaints in the last academic year 2025/26 = 1

Copies of the Complaints and Representations Policy and Procedures are available on request.

Statement regarding accessing exam results

Our children who are academically and emotionally able to access KS2 SATs tests (primary) and GCSEs and Functional Skills Assessments (secondary) will do. This is assessed on an individual basis.

The Key Stage 2 SATs, GCSEs and Functional Skills Assessment results for the Academic Year 2025/2026 are available upon request.

Safeguarding Mission Statement

Lakeside School 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 for 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 Child Protection Policy, and all staff are supported by our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Mrs Elizabeth Clarke.

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

Liz Clarke, Lakeside School DSL, T:0151 487 7211

Mary Auren, Head of Safeguarding T: 015395 66081

Catherine Ballans/Pauline Trubshaw, Liverpool LADO, T:

0151 233 0840

Promoting General Welfare

Arrival at school

At the start of the school day, we provide the chance for children to have a “soft landing” with an option for them to enjoy a range of healthy breakfast options and drinks if this is needed. This time affords opportunities for the children to partake in calm, settled, social activities with their peers.

Once the children enter the Secondary department this time is called “Form Time”. This allows them to engage in a number of activities with their form teacher, these may include reading, discussing news items and engaging in current affairs quizzes.

Break times

Fresh fruit, snacks and a choice of drinks are provided by the school at morning break.

School lunches

Lunches are provided by the school. A hot or cold meal (including a vegetarian option) is available, along with fruit, salad and yoghurt. Pupils are encouraged to eat healthily. Water is available throughout the day in each classroom. Pupils may bring a packed lunch to school with them, as an alternative to having a lunch provided by school.

Uniform

The primary school uniform consists of a purple sweatshirt and a white polo shirt (provided by school). The secondary school uniform consists of a grey blazer, white shirt and grey tie (provided by school). There is also a secondary school tracksuit for use in PE lessons and for general use for those pupils with Sensory Processing Difficulties.

For both the primary and secondary pupils, parents/carers are asked to provide grey school trousers/skirt and a pair of smart black school shoes/plain black training shoes. Pupils are expected to arrive at school with a smart appearance and a neat, tidy hairstyle.

Additional information regarding our uniform and guidance on appearance can be found in our Behaviour Policy, available on request.

Personal property

Lakeside School does not accept any liability or responsibility for the loss or damage of personal property. Pupils are allowed to bring in to school some personal items e.g. electronic tablets, iPads, mobile phone, etc. for use in transport to/from school (depending on the rules of their transport provider). These items are not allowed to be kept on their person or used in school. They are handed over to staff on arrival, to be stored in a safe place in the main school office during the school day; pupils collect their items at the end of the day, ready for use during their journey home. For health and safety reasons, jewellery is not permitted under any circumstances (small plain earring studs are permitted for children who have their ears pierced).

Home/School Liaison

We keep in regular contact with our pupils' parents/carers via telephone calls and/or email communication. Lakeside School also makes use of the Seesaw platform, to share with parents/carers the wide variety of learning opportunities and activities which our children have access to. Parents/carers are invited to sign up to Seesaw at their child's point of admission to Lakeside and are then able to see photographs, videos and examples of work to inform them of their child's day. The Pastoral Team is available to discuss, via telephone, any issues or concerns that arise, either at school or at home. Parents/carers are encouraged to attend Parents Evenings, Parent workshops, Meet the Teacher evenings, review meetings and any other events that we hold. Every term our pupils take home an end of term report highlighting their academic progress in each subject and giving grades for effort.

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

Relationship, Health and Sex Education

All our pupils will receive age and ability-appropriate relationship, health and sex education on an annual basis. Consent is sought from parents/carers prior to any non-mandatory topics being taught and parents/ carers can request withdrawal from some aspects of this curriculum.

Health and Safety

At Lakeside School, Health and Safety is coordinated by Mr Ronnie Thompson, Maintenance Manager. The whole site has internal health and safety checks in place for the maintenance staff to complete, with an action plan put in place to rectify any faults. The Witherslack Group's Safety, Health and Environment Team visit and audit the school each term.

First Aid/Medical Care

The school has a First Aid room on the ground floor secondary corridor. All staff complete a one-day Emergency First Aid at Work course which is then followed up with refresher training every three years.

The school is only allowed to administer prescribed medication, this is administered by members of staff who are trained in the administration of medication. All medication is recorded and kept in a locked medical cupboard. Paracetamol and Calpol can only be administered with parent and carer consent.

Details regarding staffing and recruitment

Lakeside School 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.

Head Teacher	1
Deputy Head Teacher	2
Assistant Head	2
Pastoral Manager	1
Designated Safeguarding Lead	1
Deputy Pastoral Manager	2
Pastoral Assistants	3
Family Liaison Officer	1
Administrative Staff	4
Teachers	23
Teaching Assistants	39
HLTA	4
Drivers/Escorts	8

Maintenance	3
Cook In Charge	1
Assistant Cook	3
Occupational Therapist	3
Clinical psychologist	2
SALT	3
Assistant Psychologist	1
Therapist	2

Attendance Data

Excellent attendance is encouraged for all pupils. We pride ourselves on pupils' attendance records greatly improving from previous schools they have attended.

We work closely with pupils' families to support all pupils in maintaining an excellent attendance record.

Rate of attendance during the last academic year (2025-26)

Pupil percentage attendance 84.91%

Percentage authorised absence 9.6%

Percentage unauthorised absence 5.49%

If a child needs to be absent from school for any legitimate reason, a telephone call and notification in writing are required. A copy of Lakeside School's Attendance Policy is available on request.

Great importance is placed on school attendance and we ask that holidays be arranged during school holidays.



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