

School Prospectus

2025 / 2026



Cheshire Hall
School

Education

Therapy

Futures



Proprietor details

Witherslack Group

Lupton Tower

Lupton

Cumbria

LA6 2PR

Tel: 015395 66081

Email: admin@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Head Teacher details

Mr Paul Lyons

Cheshire Hall School

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Holiday contact details

Senior Administrator:

Email: Judia.Small@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Telephone number: 01270 297680

School Vision

Be Connected

Be Honourable

Be Successful

We are committed to providing our pupils with a caring, positive and welcoming learning environment for them to achieve their full potential in their education and develop their social communication skills.

It is our aim to nurture, guide and encourage our pupils in an innovative and creative atmosphere, preparing them for their next steps on their educational journey and to be the best version of themselves.

Aims of school

Be Connected - building positive and meaningful relationships with others and feeling a sense of belonging to our school, the community and the people around us.

Be Honourable - being honest, fair and always doing the right thing even if it's hard.

Be Successful - making good progress, achieving goals and always giving their best, even when faced with challenges.

Details regarding admission process

We specialise in supporting pupils between the ages of 8 to 16 with a primary need of Autism, ADHD, Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH), Speech Language and Communication Needs alongside other neurodivergent diagnoses.

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

Referral applications are considered by our admissions panel, and a non-prejudicial visit can 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 within 12 weeks.

Referrals can be made throughout the academic year.

If you wish to discuss making a referral please contact Olivia Forrest, Partnership Manager, on 01539 566 081 or 07586 559 136 or Olivia.Forrest@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Our Admissions Policy in full is available on request.

Details of our Clinical Services provision

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 learning environment is supported by a designated and bespoke team of clinicians which may include therapists, psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and assistant psychologists. Our pupils and the staff supporting them also have access to other specialist clinicians within the wider Witherslack Group including our consultant child and adolescent psychiatrist.

Our practicing 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. 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.

Approach to positive behaviour support, exclusions, rewards and sanctions

Behaviour Management

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 pupils. Some pupils also have a Positive Behaviour Support (PBS) Plan and an individual risk assessment which helps identify anxieties they may have and how we can reduce such anxieties.

When a pupil is placing themselves or others at risk of harm, it may be necessary for staff to use physical intervention to keep them safe. This is used within strict guidelines, 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 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 Behaviour Policy is available on request.

Suspensions and Exclusions

At Cheshire Hall 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.

Provision for EHC Plans

All pupils have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) 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 lesson will be geared towards the individual needs of learners and provision maps will be put in place on a termly basis to reflect how the objectives in the EHC Plans are being implemented daily.

For all new pupils, a Post Admission internal Team Around the Child (iTAC) meeting will take place within the first 12 weeks after a pupil's admission. This meeting provides an opportunity to consider how a pupil has settled in and their early progress or barriers to learning. It also allows for our clinical services team to share the findings of their multi-disciplinary team assessment and any intervention programs to be agreed.

An iTAC meeting is a forum for all staff working with your child to contribute and collaboratively work together. The iTAC process has core functions which can be carried out by a range of practitioners from across different disciplines.

Our iTAC policy is available on request.

We have a multi-disciplinary team consisting of teachers, pastoral care staff, teaching and learning assistants, a speech and language therapist, occupational therapist, mental health practitioner, assistant psychologist and educational psychologist.

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

On admission a pupil'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, our pupils have access to a Complaints Procedure. Informal complaints or concerns will be addressed by the class teacher or teaching assistant. Formal complaints directly from a pupil or via a parent, carer or member of staff should be reported directly to the Head Teacher, Mr Paul Lyons.

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

The Complaints and Representations Policy is available on request and also on our website.

Statement regarding accessing exam results

Our children who are academically and emotionally able to access SATs tests will do. This is assessed on an individual basis.

Safeguarding Mission Statement

We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of our pupils. We believe in the importance of working with partner agencies to ensure that all 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.

We have a Child Protection Policy and all staff are trained and supported by our Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL) Mrs Kerry Locke with support from Mr Michael Melbourne, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead, (DDSL). The DSL and/or DDSL can be contacted via the school office on 01270 297680.

Where we suspect that a pupil 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]/carer[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.

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

Mary Aurens, Witherslack Group, Safeguarding Lead: Mary.Aurens@witherslackgroup.co.uk

Alternatively, you can contact Cheshire East LADO on 01270 685 904 or by emailing LADO@cheshireeast.gov.uk

Promoting General Welfare

Breakfast Club

Before the start of the school day we provide a breakfast club where the children may choose from a range of healthy breakfast options and drinks. This time, leading up to the start of the school day, is highly supervised and provides opportunities for pupils to partake in calm, settled, social activities with their peers.

Break times

Fresh fruit, healthy 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 or yoghurt. Pupils are encouraged to eat healthily, and water is available throughout the day.

Uniform

We provide each child with a uniform which includes two polo shirts, two jumpers and t-shirt for PE. These items will be provided by the school and replaced once a year. Parents/carers will need to provide their child with smart dark black trousers or skirt and black footwear.

Additional items will be available for you to purchase online.

Pupils are expected to arrive at school with a smart appearance.

Personal items or money should not be brought into school unless it is by special request.

Personal property

The 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,

iPods, MP3 players etc. for use in their transport. These are kept in a safe place in the school office during the school day and 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 apart from small plain earring studs for pupils who have their ears pierced.

Home/School Liaison

We keep in regular contact with our pupils' parents or carers via telephone calls and/or email. The Pastoral Team is available to discuss, via telephone, any issues or concerns that arise, either at school or at home. Parents or carers are encouraged to attend Parents Evenings, Sports Day, and any other events that we hold. Every term our pupils take home an end of term report highlighting their academic progress and next steps in each subject.

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 a clear Anti-Bullying Policy and Strategy in place to raise awareness to staff and pupils of the signs of bullying and how this can be addressed.

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

Relationships, Health and Sex Education

Our pupils will receive age and ability-appropriate relationship, health and sex education on an annual basis as part of our PSHE programme. The school's RSE policy is available on the school website which outlines further details of this, including how we consult parents and carers and the right to withdraw their child from these lessons. Alternatively, a printed copy can be requested from the school office.

<https://www.witherslackgroup.co.uk/our-locations/our-schools/cheshire-hall-school/policies-procedures/>

Health and Safety

Our Maintenance Supervisor, Carl Shelly is responsible for co-ordinating our Health and Safety responsibilities at Cheshire Hall School. The whole site has health and safety checks in place for 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

Our school has a medical room located on the first floor. All staff as part of their induction training complete a one day Emergency First Aid at Work course. All First Aid training is followed up with refresher training every three years. Key staff have completed additional First Aid Training.

The school is allowed to administer prescribed medication, and 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/carers consent.

Details regarding staffing and recruitment

Cheshire Hall School follow a rigorous recruitment process so that we recruit high quality staff and ensure that all pupils 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.

Our current staffing model is as follows:

Head Teacher	1
Deputy Head Teacher	1
Assistant Headteacher	1
Pastoral Manager	1
Pastoral Assistants	2
DSL	1
Family Liaison Officer	1
Administrative Staff	1
Teachers	7
Teaching Assistants	7
Cook	1
Site Maintenance	3
Educational Psychologist	1
Therapist	3

Attendance

Excellent attendance is encouraged for all pupils. We pride ourselves on pupils' attendance records greatly improving from previous schools they have attended. Great importance is placed on school attendance, and we ask that holidays be arranged during school holidays.

We work closely with pupils' families to ensure all pupils maintain an excellent attendance record. Our aim for academic year 2024-2025 is for our overall attendance to remain above 95% as a minimum.

If a child needs to be absent from school for any legitimate reason, a telephone call and/or notification in writing are required.

At Cheshire Hall School, positive school attendance is important, and we ask that holidays are arranged during school holidays.

A copy of our Attendance Policy is available on request.



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