



Meadowbank School Prospectus





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A welcome from the Headteacher

As Headteacher for the past 8 years, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to Meadowbank School, a primary special school supporting children aged 4-11 years who have a range of complex learning needs & learning disabilities. Our school motto is 'Belong, Inspire & Flourish'. Most importantly we want our pupils to feel part of the school community, we want to inspire them to learn and develop at their own pace, and in turn see them flourish as individuals.

Recently the school has grown significantly in size. We now have 114 pupils on roll as of September 2025. Over the past few years we have worked particularly hard to adapt parts of our school building to meet the needs of our pupils. We have installed a soft play facility to support gross motor development and a fantastic interactive sensory room. We also have a children's kitchen to support the development of healthy eating and cooking. Further changes include the development of a bespoke regulation space to aid pupils with sensory feedback requirements and the addition of more sensory spaces within classes.

At the start of 2024 we opened a new bespoke building at the back of the school site. This space has a further 6 classrooms with identified changing facilities, large concert hall, offices and smaller multi-functional rooms. We feel it is important for our pupils to take measured risks in a safe and supportive environment as well as developing their gross motor skills. Our grounds have also been adapted with an Early Years outdoor playground at the front of the school as well as a football pitch, bike track and spider swing together with an exciting adventure trail and Forest School facility at the back of the site. We also have a beautiful fruit orchard, and several raised beds & poly tunnel to grow produce within our edible playground.

If you are considering Meadowbank as a placement for your child then we are happy to give you a tour of the school at your convenience. We are very aware that choosing specialist provision can be a difficult and uncertain time for families, especially if you are dealing with a new diagnosis or if a



mainstream placement has not been as successful as you had hoped. You may also be worrying about the implications of your child accessing different transport options such as taxis / travel via minibus. We hope to calm any fears you have and that you will be excited by the ethos in the school and the diverse curriculum that we offer.

Claire Hardy



Our school vision

Through nurture and support pupils develop a sense of belonging through the building of strong and reliable relationships with staff in a safe environment. We want to inspire pupils to learn and develop at their own pace, supporting them on their learning journey and in turn, see them flourish as individuals.

To achieve this, we aim to:

- Provide a safe, welcoming space where every pupil can express themselves and develop their communication and broader social skills
- Provide an adapted curriculum and appropriate learning environment that supports everyone's individual needs to support progress
- Recognise each success along everyone's learning journey and celebrate this
- Build strong relationships with families, multi-disciplinary professionals and our wider community to ensure that the children are at the centre of everything we do
- Value every pupil as a unique individual and support them to reach their full potential



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Our Curriculum

We have designed a curriculum that is adapted to meet the needs and abilities of the individuals in the school whilst implementing the Curriculum for Wales guidelines. We use a holistic approach that encourages pupils to learn and explore using their senses, through play and experience. Using our knowledge of child development, we ensure that curriculum activities and experiences are motivating and authentic, which in turn inspires curiosity and a love of learning. We aim to remove the barriers to learning, through developing approaches that are adapted to individual need and ability.

The four purposes are at the heart of our curriculum and support our learners to be:

- Ambitious, capable learners
- Enterprising, creative contributors
- Healthy, confident individuals
- Ethical, informed citizens

We base our curriculum on 5 developmental pathways, which feed into the 6 Areas of Learning and Experience. These are:

- Belonging
- Communication
- Exploration
- Physical Development
- Wellbeing

We are very proud of our Welsh roots and incorporate this into our teaching and learning. We provide experiences linked to our 'Welshness' such as an annual celebration of St David's day and encourage the use of incidental Welsh across the school. We celebrate the diversity we are fortunate to have across the school, and encourage pupils to explore different cultures, nations and religions through exploration, authentic experiences and play, to promote wellbeing and a sense of belonging. We encourage pupils to come together to celebrate and reflect through whole school events or in small groups.



What our families say...

At Meadowbank school we value the thoughts and feelings of our parents/carers and wider families. We love receiving feedback from parents/carers and families about their experiences, and are always looking for ways to make improvements and implement new ideas. We send out questionnaires to gather our feedback, but also value quick chats or longer conversations to ensure that everyone's voice is heard.

Here are some of the comments that we have received from parents in the summer term of 2025 on our parent questionnaire:

"I honestly can't praise you guys enough. C has come on so much since attending Meadowbank. We appreciate you guys so much. Thank you"

"Amazing school and staff. G has come on in leaps and bounds since starting here. Couldn't ask for anything more."

"Z's first year at Meadowbank has exceeded all expectations. I couldn't be happier. He has made incredible progress and is growing into a confident little boy, encouraged and supported to be his own unique self. Thank you for giving him the space to thrive."

"Amazing, caring, supportive, understanding, approachable, happy, flexible, nurturing, encouraging. Our son has thrived in so many ways in his first year, thank you all so much for welcoming us in your 'family' – always made to feel as important by all professionals involved in our child's educational needs."

"The school has really been very supportive for me and my family through a difficult time. Thank you. The staff and teachers are great and very welcoming."

"A has thrived since attending Meadowbank. She has gained so much confidence and I love how happy she is. I am so pleased with how well the school communicate, I am always able to contact someone if needed. Any issues I would have I feel that the school are brilliant to resolve. Thank you for being amazing to our little ones!"

"Meadowbank has been a second home for E. She has learnt a whole world of knowledge here. Teachers have been like second parents. Brilliant. Thank you everyone who has looked after E. Much love."

"Transition days are fantastic. We enjoyed sports day. K's end of year report was wonderful. All teachers are fantastic with K. K loves Meadowbank school."

"Meadowbank school provides a safe and stable environment for children with special needs. My child has had great opportunities to partake in various activities in and outside school to learn new themes and topics, that has broadened his horizons."

"My child loves Meadowbank school and since being there has come along so far, it's amazing! Staff are always happy to help and answer all questions and go above and beyond to make every day fun."

"Meadowbank has always listened to any issues and done their best to help out within them. I am grateful K has progressed positively."

Enriched Curriculum

Outdoor learning

We recognise that the outdoors can be crucial for lots of our pupils and it can improve mental health, wellbeing, confidence and resilience. It can inspire curiosity, awe and wonder. With this in mind, we have created an outdoor learning area for each classroom, so that learning can be taken outdoors. We also have three outdoor play spaces to allow space to develop our gross motor skills, play skills and social skills.

We also have an Edible Playground with an orchard to allow pupils to learn about plants and food in an authentic way whilst experiencing the changing environment and seasons first hand. Over the past two years, we have developed a Forest School area and sessions are led by our Forest Schools leader. This space allows pupils to be themselves in an open, peaceful and stimulating environment.



Experiences in the community

Educational visits play an important role in providing authentic and purposeful learning for our pupils. Staff organise trips to a variety of places that support curriculum themes as well as providing opportunities for pupils to transfer skills to new places. We have a school minibus that supports these trips as well as lots of places in our local area that can be utilised such as a park, a library and local shops. As we know how important these experiences are, we fund them for everyone and will not ask for any financial contributions.

We love to bring the community into school too, so that we can provide a rich and varied learning offer. We have links with music groups who perform live music for the pupils. We have been involved in community projects as well as enjoying educational visits from organisations such as the fire service.





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Supporting every individual

Meeting individual need

Our Pupil Support Pathway ensures that all individual needs are carefully considered and met, with support from our multi-agency partners being utilised where necessary. We work closely with health professionals from the Cardiff and Vale UHB and from the Cardiff Local Authority. We work with Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Educational Psychology, Health teams and Clinical Psychology to identify and implement strategies to support individual needs. We use a coordinated, team approach to ensure that the support is wrapped around the pupils and families where and whenever needed.

We work with our in-house music therapist and play therapist who provide individualised support for identified pupils. These interventions support learners to break down their barriers to learning using their creativity, providing alternative spaces in which they can express themselves and develop their communication skills.



Pupil voice

Pupil voice is important to us and we aspire to integrate pupil ideas, thoughts and opinions into our school life. Our proactive and positive approach to behaviour management supports emotional regulation and positive choice making.

Monitoring progress

Progress is monitored through close observation by Enabling Adults. These observations assist in assessing progress and deciding on next steps. Each success is celebrated and evidence is recorded and shared.

All pupils have an Individual Progress Plan that supports them to reach the targets set in their Individual Development Plan. The Individual Progress Plan breaks down the annual targets into smaller, more manageable steps and also allows for short-term targets to be set to aid progress and development.



Pupil care and wellbeing

Attendance

At Meadowbank school we believe that regular attendance at school is essential if children are to reach their full potential. We work hard to support families to ensure that as many children as possible achieve the target of 95% attendance as set by the Welsh Government. We appreciate that this can be challenging for some children and families, so endeavour to work with families to break down barriers and find a way forward in difficult situations.

Looked after children

We support children who are looked after with all aspects of their education. We monitor their achievements and assist them in overcoming any additional barriers to their success. We work closely with a range of agencies to support children who are looked after and ensure that communication is regular and effective.

Equity and diversity

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for all. We recognise and celebrate the diversity within our school community and embed fairness and equality at the heart of our school ethos.

Home and school partnership

We believe that an effective partnership between school and home is essential if pupils are to reach their full potential. We keep families informed about progress and wellbeing and value their input, interest and support.

Parents and Carers receive weekly newsletters to keep them up to date on school events and to support access to training, local events and online support. The parents' section of our school website offers lots of links to information and support. We host 'Coffee and Chat' events to encourage parents to get together. Regular updates can also be found on Seesaw individually and on X as a whole class.





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Admissions

Admissions to Meadowbank school are arranged by Cardiff Local Authority. Pupils will be offered a place once a panel of professionals have reviewed their needs and have decided that Meadowbank is an appropriate provision and that they school have agreed that they can meet pupil needs. Parents can visit the school by appointment once a placement has been confirmed.

Term dates and session times

Our school day begins at 9am and finishes at 2:55pm.

Term dates are set by the Cardiff Local Authority and can be found on our school website. There are 6 INSET days that are used for staff training, and these dates can be found on our website and will be regularly advertised on our school newsletters as a reminder for parents.

Further information

Further information about the school can be found on the school website at www.meadowbanksp.co.uk

This includes policies including the Complaints policy and Health and Safety policy. This is also further information on our provision, learning ideas for home, support for parents and carers and a 'Who's who' so that you can meet our staff and find out more about us.





Meadowbank School

**Colwill road, Gabalfa
Cardiff, CF14 2QQ**

Telephone: **02920 616018**

Email: **meadowbankspe@cardiff.gov.uk**

Headteacher: **Mrs Claire Hardy**

Chair of Governing Body: **Mr Mike Borley**

Type of School: **LA maintained special school**

