



# Woodlands Meed



## Information for Families 2014-15

Information for parents and carers of pupils who may be joining the school or college in the coming year



Woodlands Meed's Youngest and Oldest pupils take part in the Official Opening Ceremony October 2012 with our architect, Johanna Foster and WSCC County Councillor Peter Griffiths

# **Woodlands Meed**

## **In the heart of the Mid Sussex community**

Woodlands Meed first opened on September 10th 2012. It is a generic special school catering for a wide range of special educational needs, spread over two sites, and centrally located for Mid Sussex in Burgess Hill.

Woodlands Meed has now been open for two full years and is now fully established. Ofsted rated the school as Good in spring 2014 and we are ambitious to move further

### **The Vision**

#### **Building Unique Futures Together**

**Governors and Staff agreed a revised vision for Woodlands Meed in summer 2014.**

For the child, this means:

- I know there is a team of people who care about me
- I know there is a team of people who understand me
- I know there is a team of people enabling me to learn and succeed
- I know there are people who will listen to me
- I know I am valued, respected and understood

For staff, this means:

- Providing a safe, secure environment
- Recognising the individual needs and strengths of each child
- Planning and facilitating unique, enjoyable opportunities to maximise learning and potential
- Working with parents/carers and outside agencies to achieve the best for each child
- Ensuring opportunities from the wider community are utilised

For parents/carers, this means:

- Working with the school and outside agencies to achieve the best for my child
- Knowing I can contact the school with fears and anxieties and that I will be supported
- Feeling confident that my child is safe, valued, understood and respected
- Knowing my child is being challenged to achieve to the best of their ability

## How are the two sites organised?

Pupils aged from 2-14 (and older pupils in the specialist PMLD classes) are based at the new building, off Chanctonbury Road, Burgess Hill. This is called the '**School**'. The site is shared with Oakmeeds Community College and London Meed Primary School.



Pupils aged from 14-19 are based in the '**College**' at Birchwood Grove Road, Burgess Hill. This site is shared with Birchwood Grove Primary School. The College building is a 15 minute walk or 5 minute drive from the new School building. Woodlands Meed is organised to keep the links between the 2 sites strong and to ensure pupils can make smooth and trouble-free transitions between our different buildings.



## The Curriculum

At Woodlands Meed, pupils follow the National Curriculum, including the Early Year Foundation Stage, at an appropriate level for their learning needs, maturity and key stage. Pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) pupils follow the Routes for Learning programme and older pupils work towards a range of accreditation including GCSE, Entry Level Certificates (WJEC). Whatever curriculum plan or accreditation scheme is chosen, we aim to deliver it at an appropriate level to ensure that each pupil

has the best chance of making good progress. Our curriculum also includes a wide range of social learning and real life experiences and stretches into the lunch times and informal play. Three times per week, pupils at the School site have Enrichment Activities for half an hour, where they get the choice to follow interests from a range of learning and leisure opportunities. Most College site pupils have some options within their learning so they can develop special interests and follow vocational courses.

Please see our website for our Curriculum Statement and further details.

## Before School Provision

**At School Site only:** Before School, we run a free club from 8.45am for local pupils who need to be in school before our start time of 9.20 am, and there is a Breakfast Club (charges apply) between 8 and 8.45 am.

## After School Provision

### **School Site:**

After School we work with Kangaroos to offer activities including sport, music and drama on some days of the week.

### **College Site:**

At College we run Code Club after school where pupils can develop their computer skills with the help of volunteers from American Express and familiar staff. There is also a weekly after school Music Club.

Other Clubs and leisure activities are held during the lunchtimes on both sites, as not all pupils are able to staff to after school clubs as a result of their school transport arrangements. At school site there are the Enrichment Sessions in school time, three times per week.

## Working with the Community

Both sites are co-located with other schools which gives Woodlands Meed opportunities to create appropriate, but inclusive activities with mainstream pupils. The Headteacher collaborated with the other schools on our two sites throughout the process of setting up the school and this is continuing now we are open. London Meed School offers inclusion opportunities for some pupils and Oakmeeds students come in every day to support the Enrichment Activities at the end of the school day.



**Candida Reece (Head of London Meed) and Colin Taylor (Head of Oakmeeds) at a meeting to discuss shared use of the School site**



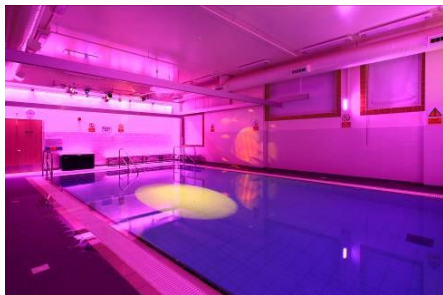
We have close links with local Further Education Colleges and 6<sup>th</sup> form provision, and offer integration opportunities to pupils of all ages, where appropriate. The school's ethos of being a valuable part of the Mid Sussex Community will be reflected in a curriculum for pupils, which aims to help each of them play a full part in their local community. Ideas we are exploring at present include offering wider range of NVQ vocational qualifications, and specialist qualifications including in RHS gardening courses, opportunities in retail and other areas.



Here some KS4 pupils are entertaining Age Concern visitors to the College site.

Woodlands Mead pupils sometimes also benefit from negotiated use of facilities at Oakmeads Community College. This could include the floodlit synthetic turf pitch.

Our own new facilities, such as the new warm water pool, are already being used out of school hours by other groups to benefit Mid Sussex at large.



Warm water Pool and Library

## School Uniform

The Temporary Governing Body decided that the school will have a simple uniform that is easy to wear and cost effective to buy. While uniform with the school logo is available, it is also acceptable to wear plain sweatshirts, jumpers and cardigans from well-known chain stores.

When Governors consulted parents, pupils and staff on their preferred colour for sweatshirts in 2012, they found that there was a great deal of support for 3 different colours: Red or Light Grey or Navy Blue.

In discussion, Governors decided that we will show our commitment to our pupils having an element of choice by adopting the following system:

### **School site (Pupils aged up to 14):**

Nursery and Primary aged pupils will wear coloured sweatshirts or jumpers. The family and child can choose to wear either Red or Light Grey.

Pupils from Year 7 upwards can also choose to wear Navy Blue sweatshirts, similar to pupils attending Oakmeeds Community College.

In summer, girls may choose to wear a red gingham style school uniform dress.





### **College Site:**

Older pupils clearly preferred Navy Blue in our consultation, so this was adopted as the uniform colour for KS4 (pupils aged 14-16).

For pupils in KS5 (Year 12-14, aged 17-19) Uniform is optional (but not forbidden). Older pupils are preparing for adult life, and the option to learn to dress appropriately for learning and working is an important life skill.

More details on how to purchase the school uniform and about our dress code will be given to new parents before their child starts at Woodlands Meed school.

## **Safeguarding our pupils**

**Every pupil, member of staff and visitor deserves to be safe – and feel safe – at Woodlands Meed. We acknowledge that school safety is a commitment shared by all: Governing Body, all staff, pupils, families and visitors and it is the responsibility of all to promote and uphold a ‘Be Safe’ culture.**



Woodlands Meed  
Headteacher: Gill Perry

**School Site for pupils 2-14**  
**Gill Perry is based at this site but visits the College site regularly**

**Deputy Head: Mr Ian Hickey**  
**Assistant Head: Ms Kathy Thomas**  
Head of Early Years: Tara Wheatland  
Head of KS1 and KS2 (Primary): Mrs V. MacRae  
Head of KS3: Mrs Kim Gow

**Class Structure**

There are 18 classes at the new building: Nursery Provision plus 16 Classes for pupils aged 4-14. This includes 2 specialist Classrooms for pupils with PMLD (Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties) aged 2-19.

Class groups are formed in a flexible and responsive way to best meet pupils' needs and age range. Within in each age banding (Key Stage) there are some classes with a specialist remit (e.g. PMLD provision and specialist provision for some pupils with Autistic Spectrum Conditions) and others which are more general in nature.

Facilities on the School site include:

- Warm Water Pool
- Music and Drama Room
- Therapy and Nurse's rooms
- Science Classroom
- Design and Technology Classroom
- Art Room
- Food Technology Room
- Sensory Room
- Soft play
- Parents' Room
- Meeting Room
- Outdoors there are dedicated play areas for many classes and a shared playground area with some new play equipment.
- There is a bike track and a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) for the Woodlands Meed pupils.

Each classroom has been equipped with high quality furniture and equipment for pupils to learn, and all have H Frames for hoisting. The acoustic specification, aimed to enable pupils and visitors with hearing impairment to hear well, is high.





School Site Classrooms



KS3 and KS4 pupils from Woodlands Meed and Oakmeeds Community College working together

## College Site for pupils aged 14-19

### Head of Site: Mr Kevin Banfield

### Assistant Head: Ms Kathy Thomas

Head of KS5: Mrs Annette Smith  
Head of KS4: Mrs Christine McLellan

There will be 11 classes at the College site. Six of these are for pupils aged 14-16 and five of these classes are for pupils aged 16-19.



We are keen to develop personalised pathways for our older pupils. Some of the classes at the College site have a specialist approach to meeting particular needs, and are planned in response to the needs of the current pupils.

Facilities on the College Site include:

- Dedicated Science, Art, Performing Arts, Design Technology and Food Technology Rooms
- Outdoor facilities for Gardening Courses, outdoor leisure. exercise and sensory activities
- Appropriate learning and leisure facilities for 16-19 year old pupils

For further information about Woodlands Meed, see our website

<http://www.woodlandsmeed.co.uk>

The school website will be updated as new information becomes available. Alternatively contact the school office for information.

[office@woodlandsmeed.co.uk](mailto:office@woodlandsmeed.co.uk)

Gill Perry

Headteacher

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