



Park School & Outreach Service



Prospectus



Welcome

A very warm welcome to Park School Belfast.

Park School is a co-educational, controlled school which currently caters for pupils with a wide range of learning difficulties, from 11 to 19 years. Pupils are drawn from all areas of Greater Belfast and beyond.



Park School provides a warm, caring and happy environment for our pupils, who are the heart of the school community.

Our highly skilled staff, Governors and parents work together to ensure all our young people achieve their potential academically, socially and emotionally.

I hope you find the prospectus informative. For more information, please visit our website and Facebook pages.

B. Davis

Mrs B Davis
Principal

About our School

Park School is a co-educational secondary school set within the grounds of Ormeau Park in South Belfast. The school caters for pupils aged 11 to 19, who are statemented as having learning difficulties. In addition, some pupils have diagnosed syndromes and disorders with associated behaviours. The majority of the pupils who attend are transported from the Greater Belfast area, although some pupils come from other Education Authority Regions.



Mission Statement

At Park School we prepare our pupils for life by providing a supportive learning environment in which their:

- > Talents will be discovered
- > Potential will be developed and
- > Achievement will be celebrated



We aim to develop self-confidence, self-esteem and independence in each pupil

Vision

Park School will be recognised as a specialist school which can meet the needs of children with a variety and complexity of special educational needs.



Aims:

At Park School we AIM:

- > To provide a happy, safe and supportive environment that promotes the development of the whole pupil.
- > To devote the school's resources to providing a flexible curriculum that caters for the specific needs of each individual pupil.
- > To develop self-confidence, self-esteem and independence in each pupil.
- > To provide pupils with the opportunity to participate in appropriate accreditation at Key Stage 4 and Post 16.
- > To develop a set of attitudes, values and skills that can be continued into adult life and which enable pupils to become contributing members of society.



Form/Base class

All pupils have access to the preventative curriculum during their core curriculum and daily registration periods in the morning and afternoon.

The programme includes health education, drugs awareness, relationship and sex education, peer pressure etc.

Some or all of these issues are addressed at the appropriate level with all year groups.

Guest speakers are also invited to speak to year groups and/or at our weekly assemblies.





Pupil Voice

Park School has a pupil council set in place which allows representatives from each form class to have an input into the operation of the school.

This gives pupils a platform to express and suggest ways to improve their learning environment.

Settling into Year 8

At Park School we understand how daunting it can be for our pupils moving from primary school to post primary, therefore we have in place a wide ranging transition programme to help your child settle in to their new school as smoothly as possible.

Year 8 Day

All new students will be asked to come to school for a taster day in June, with a parent/carer. During their visit, the students will have the opportunity to meet the others in their class, their new form teacher and to take part in some of the new practical classes they will do once in Year 8. The parents/carers will have the opportunity to find out some more information about the school, have any questions answered and receive the Year 8 Induction Pack with all the information for their child starting in September.

Year 8 start school in September a day earlier than the other pupils. This is to give them the opportunity to settle into school and meet all their teachers before the whole school begins.

Induction Programme

In September, Year 8 pupils begin a two-day induction programme in their base rooms. This helps pupils form friendships and to become familiar with their teachers and classroom assistant, learning areas and new timetable, all of which sometimes can be daunting.

Park School provide timetables in a pictorial format and colour codes different subjects to enable pupils to grasp timetable format more easily.

Year 8 will also have 'Bonding Days' throughout their first year. This is to help pupils build their self-esteem and confidence as well as reinforce team-building. Activities can range from indoor rock climbing, zorbing or kayaking to name but a few.

Peer Mentors

Our peer mentors are Post 16 students who work with Year 8 students to help them settle into life at Park. They will help in class during registration time and talk to the Year 8's. We find that both Year 8 and senior students enjoy getting to know each other and look out for each other around school.





Bonding Day

To help the students settle into Park and make new friends, the Year 8 classes have a bonding day. This normally takes place at the end of September when the students will go on an activity day together. This helps the students get to know their form class, classroom assistants and teacher better, while they take part in team building and new ways to communicate with each other.

“I love studying new subjects.
My favourite is Science.”

Jack (Year 8)

“Park School
is AMAZING!
We get lots of
help.”

Charlotte (Year 8)

“At first I
was scared
but I quickly
made friends.”

Luke (Year 8)

An educational

KS3

Junior School

Years 8, 9 and 10

Core Curriculum:

Mathematics
English
ICT (Cross Curricular)
Personal Development including LLW
Prince's Trust
Environment and Society
Modern Languages
Religious Education

Practical Classes:

Art
Health and Fitness including swimming
Technology and Design
Science
Music
Home Skills including cookery
Drama



journey to success

KS4

Senior School

Years 11 and 12

Core Curriculum:

- Mathematics
- English
- ICT (Cross Curricular)
- Personal Development including LLW
- Prince's Trust
- History

Practical Classes:

- Art
- Health and Fitness
- Technology and Design
- Science
- Home Skills including cookery

Vocational Choices:

- Catering
- Hair and Beauty
- Construction
- Digital Media

External Links

Vocational subjects are currently one day at Springvale Learning and Work Experience.

KS5

Post 16

Years 13, 14 and 15

(CCEA Occupational Studies, CCEA QCF, NOCN Level 1 and CCEA Entry levels)

Pupil Accreditation Classes:

- Mathematics
- English
- Personal Development including LLW and Travel Training
- Prince's Trust

Practical Classes:

- Art
- Health and Fitness
- Technology and Design
- Horticulture
- Home Skills including cookery

Safeguarding Team



Mrs E Dupree –
Designated Teacher



Mrs C Fitzpatrick –
Deputy Designated Teacher



Mr C Cooper –
Deputy Designated Teacher



Pupil Wellbeing

A Counselling Service through Barnardo's is currently provided one day per week. A room has been designated for use in school.

Pupils come through the Counselling Service by:

- > Self-referral
- > Parental referral
- > Teacher/Classroom assistant referral
- > Peer referral

The emotional health and well-being of our young people is a priority in Park School, therefore using outside agencies to partner with us, enhances the pastoral care provision.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

All staff endeavour to protect and keep safe all pupils in their care. Staff are specially trained and a safeguarding team is in place. Parents and children will know how to express any concerns and a system is in place for reporting these.



Outreach Support Service

Outreach Support provides literacy support to post primary students in five post primary schools around Belfast:

- > Ashfield Girls' High School
- > Belfast Boys' Model
- > Belfast Model School for Girls
- > Hazelwood Integrated College
- > Malone Integrated College



The main focus of Outreach Support is to develop reading as a lifelong learning skill. Support is given to Key Stage 3 pupils to help increase their reading age and confidence. The Outreach Support staff will assess the students reading ability and will use appropriate level of book from the Fast Forward Reading Scheme.

A student will receive at least 2 periods of tuition per week within their own school. This may be 1:1, small group or in-class.

The Outreach Service is staffed full time by a Head of Service and three specialist teachers.

Annual School Events

The pupils and staff of Park School love to meet and celebrate together. Annual school events acknowledge success and allow creativity and talents to be displayed.

Annual events include:

October

- > Halloween Fancy Dress

November

- > Prize Day
- > Careers Fair

December



- > Christmas Fair
- > Christmas Carol Service
- > Christmas Cinema Trip

March

- > World Book Day

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

May

- > Fun Day

June

- > Sports & Fun Day
- > Junior School Outing
- > Senior School Formal
- > Leavers' Assembly

Eco-Schools

Eco-Schools is an international programme of the Foundation for Environmental Education that aim to empower students to be the change that our sustainable world needs by engaging in fun, action-orientated and socially responsible learning. The Eco-Schools Programme is pupil-led, involving hands-on learning that gets the whole school and wider community involved in innovative environmental projects.



Through a D of E programme young people have fun, make friends, improve their self-esteem and build confidence. They gain essential skills and attributes for work and life such as resilience, problem-solving, team-working, communication and drive, enhancing CV's and job applications. Top employers recognise the work-ready skills award holders bring to their business.

14-24 year olds can do a D of E programme at one of three progressive levels which, when successfully completed, leads to Bronze, Silver or Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award.

There are four sections to complete at Bronze Level. They involve helping the community/environment, becoming fitter, developing new skills, planning, training for and completing an expedition.

Any young person can do their D of E – regardless of ability, gender, background or location. Achieving an award isn't a completion or about being first. It's all about setting personal challenges and pushing personal boundaries. At Park School we focus on the Bronze level award, allowing students to complete sections through various school and community based placements (Skills through Springvale & Volunteering through work experience) as well as providing structured sporting opportunities through the Extended Schools Programme (Climbing, Tennis, Cycling & Archery).

The school incorporates curriculum time for participants to learn the skills and abilities required for expedition including regular Duke of Edinburgh lessons, day walks, and the final expedition itself completed in the Mourne Mountains and Tollymore Forest Park, Newcastle.



School Uniform

Girls

Boys

P.E.

Navy Park School blazer

Navy skirt

Navy V-neck jumper

White shirt

School tie

Navy socks or tights

Black shoes (not trainers)

Navy Park School blazer

Charcoal grey trousers

Navy V-neck jumper

White shirt

School tie

Black shoes (not trainers)

School logo white t-shirt

Shorts/track bottoms

Trainers

*Jackets, hoodies, caps or hats are not to be worn inside school

All uniform now sold at Signature Schools Belfast or Bangor

School hoodies are also now available



Equipment Information

Stationery

Pupils should bring the following to school:

- > Pencil
- > Pen
- > Rubber
- > Ruler



Open Morning

The school will hold an open morning in term one of the academic calendar which enables pupils and parents to tour the school and view the facilities available.

Transition meetings take place with the primary or secondary school staff in June to gather information on each pupil for their individual profiles.

Pupils will be invited to Park School in June after their place has been confirmed. This will enable them to become familiar with the school environment, staff and other pupils.

Post 16 Induction Programme

Post 16s, from Park School and other educational settings, are invited to the school for a familiarization day at the end of August. This gives the students a chance to become familiar with the school and its routines. During this visit, they will spend time with their base teachers, classroom assistants and class mates. They will make their subjects choices, course for Springvale Learning and discuss their work experience placement.

All students study English, Mathematics, Life Skills, Prince's Trust and Health and Fitness.

Students choose two of the following: Art, Health and Fitness, Horticulture, ICT, or Technology and Design.

At Springvale the course choices are Catering, Construction, Digital Media or Hair and Beauty

Diagnostic Testing

Diagnostic tests in English and Mathematics are carried out early in the first term to assist with individual target setting for IEP's and planning appropriate learning activities for each pupil.

Life After School

We prepare you for life after school

Park School provides a programme of Careers Education, Information and Guidance which provides pupils with the skills required for the world of work.

Careers Education Information And Guidance

Careers Education in Park School prepares students for life in modern society by providing the knowledge, understanding, confidence and skills that they need to make informed choices and plans for their future learning and career. As part of the programme we offer the following activities.

Work Experience

Work experience placements are organised for Year 12 pupils who attend for one week in the summer term and our Post 16 pupils who attend placement one a day a week throughout the school year. This offers the opportunity to experience the real working environment.

Individual Careers Interviews

Our school Careers Officer conducts individual interviews with our Year 12 and Post 16 pupils who are leaving school, giving expert advice on training courses available and career pathways.

Careers Fair

Each year in November we host a careers fair in school which is very well attended by local training agencies, for example Belfast Metropolitan College, Springvale Training and Impact Training. We also invite organisations that offer our students a full range of life enriching opportunities such as Special Olympics Ireland, The Prince's Trust and Volunteer Now.

Careers Conventions

In conjunction with other schools, we attend careers events organised and attended by advisors from local businesses and industries. Pupils gain an insight into the roles and responsibilities in the workplace, and the skills and qualities required for life after school.

Park School & Outreach Service

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