



“Since he’s been at Wenlock, he’s an incredibly happy boy. It’s been life changing.”



Welcome to The Wenlock School

— Thank you so much for your interest in our school. I'm Gemma Mann, the Headteacher at The Wenlock School and when you are welcomed through our school reception, you will quickly see a warmth and kindness which shows what an extraordinary school Wenlock is.

Built on trust and partnerships between pupils, parents and our wonderful team of teachers and support staff, you will see that our school has a lovely family atmosphere.

Our aim is simple, to provide outstanding care for children at Wenlock, helping them to be the best they can be. We deliver a broad, balanced rich learning environment through the National Curriculum, educational and life skills, vocational opportunities as well as any additional support they need to achieve this.

Gemma Mann

Head Teacher, The Wenlock School

We are driven by a passion and determination to help every child in our care to become a confident and independent member of society.

This brochure will give you an overview of the education and care offered by The Wenlock School. If you would like to know more about the opportunities we provide and the difference we make in the lives of young people, please get in touch.



“We want our children to have the opportunity to be the very best version of themselves.”

Our aim

At The Wenlock School we support boys and girls between the ages of 7 and 18 years of age who have a range of special educational needs that may include social, emotional and mental health needs and also pupils who have been diagnosed with autism or demonstrate behaviours associated with autism.

Many children come to us with complex needs, communication difficulties and associated challenging behaviour. Before pupils join us, we work closely with the family, carers and key workers to make sure that we understand the needs of each individual child. As part of our admissions process, all pupils receive a transition plan. This collates all information taken from the admissions process that may include: EHCP review, current/prior setting information, school tour and visit, meeting with parents/carers, taster day and where possible a home/school visit. This information is reviewed together with the EHCP and our Head of Autism Practice and Support and the wider therapeutic team. A transition plan is created and shared with the pupil and family to encourage a smooth transition into The Wenlock School and ensure we have the right support package in place.

Our vision is to create a community where education is highly valued, diversity is embraced and children are encouraged to take control of their learning.

Our aim for the young people coming to Wenlock is quite simple; we want every child to develop an understanding about themselves, to achieve a level of independence, and experience what success feels like. By doing this we can equip every child with the skills and knowledge they need to be the best version of themselves.



“The school’s work to promote pupils’ personal development and welfare is outstanding. Parents and carers are fully involved and informed throughout the transition period.”

Ofsted

Our approach



CHILD CENTRED EDUCATION

We strive to make our school a safe, friendly place where all our children love to learn. We believe that success in the classroom depends on positive relationships between staff and pupils. Our 'wrap around' holistic approach to supporting our pupils ensures that all needs are met.

With small class sizes, teachers can creatively tailor lessons to ensure that all individual learning needs are addressed and met. We also have the capacity to schedule one-to-one interventions and therapy sessions to meet the wider individual needs of each child.



INVOLVING PARENTS AND CARERS

We recognise the need to work closely with all stakeholders and we commit to actively engaging with families and carers in order to fully support their child's education.

Many parents and carers have had negative encounters with education in the past – we aim to give them a completely different experience by offering the support and advice required for pupils to enjoy their schooling and so that learning is supported beyond the school day. As part of our commitment to working closely with our stakeholders the school contacts parents and carers at the end of each day to update them on their child's progress. We also make home visits a priority and invite parents and carers to participate in activities at school.

CELEBRATING SUCCESS

Consistency is so important for our children and we work hard to create a positive learning environment where they know exactly what is expected of them.

Through a robust enrichment system pupils are able to experience achievement inside and outside the classroom and for positive behaviour displayed throughout the week. We set aside Curriculum Enrichment on each Friday afternoon and offer a range of activities, both on site and off site, that include forest schools, movie time, workshop fun, enterprise, rambling, rock climbing, ice-skating, bowling, cooking and many more.

We also build time into our assemblies each week to acknowledge children who have made particular progress and to celebrate success either in their academic studies, creative arts, sports, in their behaviour or for displaying positive attitudes towards their work or others.

“Good teaching helps to reignite pupils’ interest in education. Pupils say that learning is fun.”

Ofsted



Curriculum

CURRICULUM

Our curriculum is engaging, practical with a broad offer that includes the National Curriculum, Forest Schools, Options and Enrichment throughout each Key Stage. At Key Stage 4, we start to offer a range of accredited outcomes that include GCSE's, BTEC and Functional Skills qualifications. This curriculum pathway equips individuals for their future, securing outcomes and qualifications to enable future success and achievement.

At The Wenlock School, the curriculum offer is flexible, personalised and engaging providing both choice and challenge, focused on developing emotional literacy and core subject knowledge. There is a strong focus on the social and emotional aspects of learning and opportunities will be absorbing, rewarding, effectively differentiated and the teaching styles will be diverse.

“There is a personalised approach to teaching. Careful, gradual routes into learning are well planned and take into consideration previous history to re-engage pupils.”

Ofsted

The curriculum is delivered by a team of qualified, skilled, empathetic and experienced staff operating in a nurturing learning environment.

There are key values that have guided our curriculum that includes the school context and the clear intent to deliver a quality education to all. There is a whole school approach to our curriculum offer that, in essence, should be holistic and individualised for pupils' needs and interests. We establish prior knowledge and skills and build a pathway that ensures talents are nurtured, opportunities are experienced and that learning leads to positive outcomes that are right for each individual.

Beyond school

LIFE SKILLS

We pride ourselves on preparing all our pupils well for the next stage of their life – not just academically but socially and emotionally. We offer a multidisciplinary approach with our therapy team and each pupil has termly Individual Education Plan targets which are set in conjunction with the Education and Therapeutic team to create combined targets that support pupils in meeting their areas of needs on the Autism Education Trust framework and their EHCP objectives.

At the Wenlock School we incorporate a range of events and celebrations throughout our school year to provide pupils with opportunities to experience social interaction and develop a wider understanding of the world around them, including British Values. We also embed a range of life skills into our curriculum to ensure that pupils acquire essential knowledge regarding budgeting, planning, accessing shops and facilities, using public transport, cooking and construction skills. These are supported by a range of trips and visits that provided our pupils with opportunities to regularly practice and apply those skills across different places and contexts.

We provide a range of options for pupils to enable them to develop a range of social interaction and life skills through accessing the local community and taking part in shopping, cooking and construction based activities. Our multidisciplinary approach supports pupils to develop skills in a range of different contexts.

FURTHER EDUCATION

When pupils finally leave The Wenlock School, we are committed to secure appropriate placements in further education, apprenticeship or a work placement. Throughout their secondary career, we support each individual to develop goals, ambitions and a pathway for their future. This is complemented through external speakers, career advisors, local businesses and post-16 work place visits and exhibitions to give the children an insight into professions and talk about the employment opportunities that are available.



Our holistic approach

At The Wenlock School we recognise the importance of truly understanding each young person as an individual, fostering the development of positive relationships and delivering the most effective structure of support. We have a commitment to high standards and a relentless drive to remove barriers that may have prevented our children from engaging in education in the past. We recognise that success can take place in many forms and looks different for each individual, this will be regularly celebrated and we wish to develop a community with a shared sense of purpose.

With this in mind, we recognise that for many of our children the journey of education so far has been far from easy, which is why we think creatively about our approach to learning. We pride ourselves on preparing our pupils for the next stage of their lives – not just academically but socially and emotionally and all of our pupils are encouraged to reach high standards in every aspect. We will also embrace a raft of initiatives with personalised targets to ensure every child can make excellent progress, appropriate to their specific needs.

We have a large therapeutic and well-being offer which includes pastoral members of staff, Family Support Worker and an in-house therapy team which consists of Psychotherapy, Speech & Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and an Education Psychologist. Our therapy and well-being team support the integration of new pupils into the school through our admissions process. All new pupils will receive a therapeutic baseline to ensure they receive a level of support and intervention that is right for them. The therapeutic baseline may include sensory profiling, communication profiling and a review of their health and well-being. Our qualified staff team are experienced with a range of specialisms and we have a designated Head of Autism Practice and Support.



“Parents say the school is ‘life-changing’. They say the support provided by the school has not only helped their child, but also improved family life as their child is much happier.”

Ofsted

Meet our brilliant pupils

MEET FLETCHER

Fletcher is a lovely 15-year-old, his challenges are ADHD, SEMH and sensory issues. At his previous school, Fletcher's parents were contacted daily about negative behaviours, he was constantly in isolation and was looking at potentially being excluded.

In just a few weeks at The Wenlock School, he has accessed a wide curriculum of academic lessons, sports and vocational opportunities. His parents say that the change has been remarkable. Fletcher is now a happy and engaged pupil with a bright future to look forward to. This is what Fletcher's parents had to say about his time at The Wenlock School. What a transformation.

"In the short time Fletcher has been at Wenlock, the difference in him is that he's now starting to grow as a character. What's impressed me the most is that it is all about the individual. They understand the needs of the individual and then develop that and nurture it to help that individual grow. They focus not just on academic skills but on life skills and thinking about the child's future.

"He comes home from school happy, tells us what he's been doing all day. Since he's been at Wenlock, he's an incredibly happy boy. He's like a different child as he's more communicative and much calmer. We are overjoyed. We are immensely proud of Fletcher and the school."

MEET AMY

Amy is a wonderful 11-year-old who suffers from extreme anxiety and some other challenges. Previously at a mainstream school, Amy was often kept home from school as she was overwhelmed. Unable to communicate her feelings, Amy would demonstrate behaviour that challenged instead. But that's all changed since starting at The Wenlock School, as Amy's mum explains.

"Initially Amy struggled with lessons, but the team took the transition slowly and worked with her until she was ready. The therapists at Wenlock have taken the time to know Amy inside out. She's developed a new sense of independence and if she is starting to feel overwhelmed, she can now verbalise it, which is so important as she can tell us what is wrong. She's so much more confident and less anxious now, it's made it better for us as a family."

"They understand the needs of the individual and then develop that and nurture it to help them grow. We are overjoyed."

Parent

The Wenlock School at a glance

How old are the children at The Wenlock School?

We support boys and girls from 7-18 years of age.

How many children attend?

The school provides places for up to 90 children.

How long is the school year?

The school year follows the same 38-week timetable as mainstream schools within the area.

What special needs do children at The Wenlock School have?

Pupils may have a range of special education needs that may include a diagnosis of Autism or Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. Many also have associated conditions and additional learning or communication needs too.

How far do children travel to attend the school?

The majority of children at The Wenlock School live within an hour's drive from the school and come from Local Authorities across the West Midlands.

What extra support is provided?

Our multi-disciplinary team consists of teachers, support staff, pastoral and well-being staff and external therapists.. We also have a Family Liaison Officer who works directly with our children's families, carers and professionals.

What facilities are available onsite?

The Wenlock School is set in a spacious, purpose built site next to a 100 acre nature reserve. There is a separate Lower and Upper School, outdoor sports areas, purpose built vocational facilities, sensory and therapeutic spaces, a suite of specialised learning areas and spacious classrooms. Throughout the school, there are also a number of central community spaces designed to support our pupils and foster social time with others.



“The Wenlock School provides children with the highly rich education and support they deserve.”

If you are interested in visiting The Wenlock School, or finding out more about the support we provide, please contact:

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