

# Information for Parents & Carers



Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to be able to welcome you to the **Link School Assessment Hub** and introduce myself as the Head Teacher. **The Link School** is an alternative learning provider working with young learners and their families across the City of Sunderland. There are two sites; **The Link School, Springwell Dene** which works with learners across **Key Stage 1, 2 and 3** and **The Link School, Pallion**, which provides education for learners at **Key Stage 4**.

September 2020 sees the opening of our assessment hubs. Children often display inappropriate behavioural difficulties for a variety of reasons. Behavioural difficulties do not necessarily mean that a child or young person has a possible mental health problem or a special educational need (SEND). Negative experiences or distressing life events can affect mental health in a way that brings about temporary change in a person's behaviour. A pupil that experiences frequent and persistent difficulties with behaviour, emotional and social difficulties can significantly affect their learning experience and that of their peers.

Consistent disruptive or withdrawn behaviour can also be an indication of an underlying problem. Where there are concerns about behaviour there should be an assessment to determine whether there are any factors such as undiagnosed learning difficulties, difficulties with speech and language or mental health issues.

To support children and schools in Sunderland, Together for Children (TFC) have introduced assessment hubs and The Link School is proud to be part of this provision.

**Donna Walker**  
Head Teacher

## Vision and Values:

### Here at the Link School Hub we aim:

- To provide a nurturing and creative environment in which our children and young people can flourish and grow to their full potential so they can aspire and achieve.
- Develop a culture where our children and young people are recognised as unique individuals and experience a sense of belonging.
- Create an environment that effectively breaks down the barriers to learning enabling our children/young people to achieve individual excellence.
- To promote emotional wellbeing and resilience in our children and young people who are then able to regulate emotions, live safe, healthy and fulfilling lives.
- Raise aspirations so our young people and their families have the confidence and skills in preparation for their next life stage.

**“Pupils’ spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is supported well across the curriculum. Values such as respect and tolerance are at the heart of the school. Pupils and staff demonstrate such values in their everyday work.”**

Ofsted Report, July 2018

# What we offer:

## our values

### We offer a curriculum which:

- Engages our children and young people in learning
- Creates a partnership with our parents/carers and all stakeholders
- Takes into account individual learning needs, experiences and backgrounds.
- Assesses individual needs to allow everyone to experience success and determine their next steps in education.
- Raises aspirations and standards of attainment.

Lessons are fifty minutes in duration and will cover a broad and balanced curriculum of subjects including: English, Maths, Science, ICT, Humanities, Art, PE and PSHEE/RE.

In addition to this, additional interventions, SEND assessments and therapeutic work will be carried through work with the Behaviour Support Officer, an educational psychologist and work with a trained school Counsellor. Each pupil will have weekly sessions with the behaviour support officer and the counsellor as part of this assessment process.

**“Relationships between staff at all levels and the pupils are a strength of the school. The respect and care shown to pupils are evident in staff practice. Pupils mirror this respect towards their teachers and peers.”**

Ofsted Report, July 2018

### Respect

Respect is the foundation on which our schools values are based. We promote care, trust and honesty with our learners, their families/carers, schools, academies and all other partners and stakeholders.

### Effort

We recognise that our work has a positive impact on our learners and their families/carers, improving outcomes for all. We work tirelessly to improve the lives of our learners.

### Achieve

We have the highest of expectations of both ourselves and our learners. We believe that all of our learners can make progress and achieve academically, socially and emotionally.

### Communication

In order to realise shared goals and achieve the very best for learners we work collaboratively with parents/carers, schools, academies and other stakeholders. We will communicate the highest standards and expectations at all times.

### Happy and Healthy

We have created a safe, secure and happy learning environment in which all learners can thrive. We equip learners with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve well in life. We acknowledge and celebrate their success widely.

### Contact details

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