

St Marks C of E VA Primary School

Additional Resource Base (ARB)

Information for parents/carers.

Welcome,

We believe successful education is a partnership between home and school. This booklet has been designed to outline how we can work together to achieve this.

It is acknowledged that every child is entitled to access the National Curriculum but that pupils within our ARB may well require highly individualised planning to meet their needs.

Our aim is to provide a social as well as an academic learning experience. The children should have contact with their typically developing peers as well as being encouraged to forge friendships within the provision wherever possible. Support will be provided to ensure that a wide variety of activities and learning experiences are accessible.

Aims of Additional Resource Base

The aims of the Additional Resource Base are:

- To help each pupil to cope with the difficulties posed by the triad of impairments
- To help each pupil to develop the thinking skills to enable him/her to learn as independently as possible and be an active participant in his/her own learning
- To create a positive, safe, secure and caring environment
- To encourage each child to develop effective communication, social and independence skills ^[1]_[SEP] and to achieve his/her full



- potential
- To develop pupil's strengths and attributes
 - To enable each pupil to be and feel part of the 'school community'

Classroom/Facilities

The Additional Resource Provision currently accommodates 12 pupils and is located within St Mark's Church of England Primary School, Stockton-On-Tees. The aim of the provision is to provide a caring atmosphere in which the pupils are supported and encouraged to develop communication, social and independence skills. The provision's location within a mainstream Primary School allows for the integration of pupils into mainstream lessons as appropriate. The main classroom in the provision provides a structured and stimulating learning environment for pupils where a flexible, balanced and individualised curriculum is delivered to suit the needs of the pupils. There is also access to a small sensory/quiet room, along with all main stream facilities.

The School Day

The school day begins at 8.40 am and ends at 2.30 pm. These times vary slightly depending upon transport to and from school.

All pupils have a fifteen minute break from 10.15-10.30 am and a lunch break from 12.00 to 1.00 pm. The playground is a large tarmac covered area shared with mainstream pupils where play equipment is available. This is supervised at all times by members of staff.

Staff in the Additional Resource Provision:

Mrs Mallam and Miss Ashford (Teachers)

Miss Moody and Miss Salisbury (Teaching Assistants)

Transition

Once your child has been offered a place at the ARB we will contact you to arrange a suitable time for you and your child to visit the provision. Following this we will then arrange to visit your child in their current school setting and, time permitting, also a home visit which allows us to observe your child in a setting he/she feels comfortable in.

The Curriculum

The National Curriculum forms the basis for the provision's planning and teaching. Where it is appropriate, taking into account the needs of the pupils, the provision ensures that pupils receive their full entitlement to the National Curriculum.

The Additional Resource Provision has established an environment in which all teaching and support staff work together with external agencies to promote the interests and meet the needs of each, individual pupil. Referral to the Speech and Language Therapist, Educational Psychologist and other outside agencies will take place when appropriate.

The teaching of Social and Communication Skills takes place in group sessions focusing on areas such as conversation and interaction using a variety of methods to help pupils better understand the intricacies of social language and interaction. Relationship development training is also provided to support the pupils in the provision, if necessary, on an individual basis to work on specific difficulties. Higher functioning pupils often want desperately to fit in with their peers, to develop relationships in the same way but may not fully understand how to go about this or what the purpose of such relationships may be.

Worship

Children attend worship in school every day within their own class group. This is to further enhance and develop children's understanding of Christianity and Christian values.

Approaches

It is our belief that every individual within our ARB has a unique personality and so requires individualised planning and support. As a result, it is not possible to say that one approach will suit all pupils. Having considered the pupil's level of functioning, ability and unique personality and meeting with parents, a suitable, individual curriculum will be put in place and suitable approaches used.

Positive Handling / Restraint

In line with St Mark's Physical Restraint Policy (Available on the school's website) staff may need to use physical restraint in emergency situations where; your child is in danger of personal injury; at risk of harming other children or staff; are causing excessive damage to property.

Staff are trained in positive handling techniques in line with Team Teach recommendations, using restraint with care and control for as short a period of time as possible. To allow this to happen in the most effective way it may be necessary for your child to spend time in the quiet room. This is a safe space, monitored by staff, where they are able to reflect on events, either alone or with adult support, until they are calm enough to re-join their class.

Integration

The individual needs of each pupil are considered before an integration programme is considered. Where appropriate, the pupils may attend mainstream lessons with support when needed.

SAT's

Sat's will be sat by pupils as appropriate depending on their needs.

Attendance

Pupil's absences are recorded as authorised or unauthorised. Parents should notify school on the first day of absence by letter or telephone.

Transport

Most pupils are transported to school by taxi or minibus. Some parents choose to drive/walk their children to and from school. The responsibility for organising transport, if needed, lies with the local education authority.

Contact with Parents

Staff in the ARB keep in regular contact with all of the parents of children in their care. Phone calls or face-to-face meetings are held regularly to discuss the children and their progress both academically and socially. Parents are invited to contact the school with any queries or concerns or to make an appointment to see staff in the provision. Parent's evenings will be held termly. Further meetings will be arranged on request or as necessary.

