



Meet the Staff

We have a diverse, creative and nurturing staff team. They are qualified teachers with special educational needs (SEN) experience and specialist autism spectrum condition (ASC) support staff who can deliver a wide range of subjects and who will have continuous professional development plans in place. We all welcome you to Arc Oakbridge School.

Phil Petch – Head Teacher

Phil is the Head Teacher of Arc Oakbridge School. He qualified as a teacher in 2000 and went on to complete extensive post graduate training in Special Education, Educational Psychology, and Child and Adolescent Psychotherapy. He moved to the UK from South Africa upon completing his training and subsequently converted his teacher training to be awarded Qualified Teacher Status and later the nationally recognised Special Educational Needs Coordinator qualification.

Since 2004 Phil has worked in a range of schools in the UK, but predominantly in special educational needs settings (SEN). He steadily worked his way from being a class teacher to being the head teacher of an independent SEN school. This progression included teaching

and supporting young people with an Autistic Spectrum Condition and eventually heading a school for young people who had experienced significant abuse.

In June of 2018, Phil had been recruited by the Kedleston Group to develop a stand-alone provision for young people with autism and additional and complex needs in Birmingham.

Phil is married with two young children. He is an avid follower of cricket, rugby and football, but by his own admission is not quite as active a participant as he once was! He enjoys long bike rides on Cannock Chase with his family and likes to travel locally and abroad with the family in tow. Phil also has a particular interest in the mental health and wellbeing of young people, their families and the school staff.



David Davies – Teacher

David is a qualified teacher with a specialism in English and has thirteen years' experience of working in SEN schools. David has recently worked in an SEN school in Redditch teaching young people with autism and specific complex needs. David enjoys the challenge of working with young people with autism and always tries to make learning interesting and relevant to the young people.

David is married with three children; the eldest of which has autism. David has used this experience in his teaching and fully understands the pressures and issues that come with being a parent of a young person with autism. David enjoys spending time with his family on days out and holidays. David also likes to keep fit and has recently raised money for charity by completing the Birmingham Half Marathon.



Susan Nuttall – HLTA

Susan is a qualified teacher who has been a class teacher in mainstream primary schools for thirteen years. Within that time, she has co-ordinated P.E. and PSHE throughout the school, along with mentoring newly qualified teachers. Susan spent a number of years integrating young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties from a resource base into her mainstream classroom.

Susan has a son with autism, who was diagnosed in 2009. Since that time she has been actively involved in helping young people with autism and their families, and studied extensively to further her knowledge and understanding of the condition. Susan has achieved a M.Ed. Special Education: Autism (Children) from The University of Birmingham, where she has subsequently spent time assisting Master's students with their studies.

Susan is a sport enthusiast, playing and being involved in many different sports and outdoor activities. Susan plays tennis competitively and runs and swims regularly. She has co-ordinated and attended a number of outdoor and adventurous activity residentials for young people and families, including those for young people with autism.

Susan is extremely passionate about working with young people with autism in order to help them reach their full potential.



Janine Zablocki – Senior Teacher

Janine qualified as a secondary school science teacher in 2002 and has since taught in schools across the West Midlands, after starting out as an environmental scientist.

Janine has held a range of roles including Gifted and Talented Coordinator, ITT professional Mentor, Community Curriculum Coordinator, Director of Transition and Key Stage 3 with Senior Leadership responsibility for parental engagement, praise and rewards.

Inspired by her experiences, Janine completed a master's degree in Educational Psychology in 2016 and subsequently decided to move into special education. Having two older sisters with Down's Syndrome, Janine has life experience of SEN including assisting her parents in running a youth club and travelling with a theatre company for people with learning difficulties across the UK.

Janine is passionate that all young people and their families should be supported positively and creatively to develop independence and long term emotional and physical wellbeing with high aspirations.

Janine enjoys the great outdoors, particularly trail running, she is also a musician, playing the piano and saxophone in local bands and an orchestra.



Sabrina Whyte – Teaching Assistant

Sabrina is a qualified teaching assistant with a level 3 NVQ in Child Care and Education qualification. Sabrina has a passion to work with young people and has done community projects, nurseries and play-schemes for over 15 years.

Sabrina has been in special schools for over 4 years and has previously worked in our fellow Arc School in Old Arley for two years. Sabrina is excited to join the new school in Birmingham, Arc Oakbridge.

Sabrina is a bubbly character who has expertise in working with young people of all ages and has a pastoral background. Sabrina loves to be creative, she loves to teach cooking and is always there to listen to each young person and give support.



Allyson Williams – Office Manager

Allyson has worked with Phil for the last 2 years at a Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) school as the administrator. Previous to joining the school, Allyson worked as an Office Manager in a psychiatric hospital where no two days were the same, just like school!

Allyson has three children of varying ages and understands how trying they can be at various stages. Allyson thoroughly enjoys working with young people, especially those with extra needs as she loves to see the successes the young people have no matter how small they may seem to someone on the outside.

Allyson is always on hand for young people and parents and will always listen and help where possible.



Justin Byrne – Site Maintenance

Justin is the cleaner and maintenance manager at Arc Oakbridge School.

He has previously worked on the railway as a train cleaner and at Birmingham Airport also cleaning aircrafts. He is an ex member of the Army Cadet Force, the Territorial Army and the Officers Training Corps.

He has two children, aged 14 and 16, he also has two corn snakes. His hobbies are PS4 gaming, painting and collecting military models.



Vikki McCabe – Cook

Vikki is the school cook at Arc Oakbridge School. She is a mum to a wonderful son, who is 19 and has Asperger's.

She has worked in school kitchens for nearly eight years. She is a home cook and believes every young person should have a home cooked lunch, to help them learn throughout the day.

She has five cats, enjoys listening to music and going to the movies with her son. She enjoys travelling and likes to try new foods, to discover menu ideas for the kitchen. She is looking forward to getting to know you all.

