

Parent and Carer Guide



Welcome...

Wings School Cumbria is a residential school where children come to learn. Some of the children and young people live at the school and go home at weekends and some holidays. We also have day pupils who attend the school during the day and go home at the end of the day because they live locally.

Wings also has its own school which is in the same grounds as the home, some young people attend the school as day pupils. The school is vibrant and welcoming and provides effective educational solutions for young people affected by social emotional and mental health difficulties.

There are lots of different living areas which are split up in to smaller more homely environments. There are two houses where the younger children live, these are Swan and Swift houses. There are a further six bungalows for the older young people, these are Kingfisher, Dove, Heron, Raven, Nightingale and Kestrel, as well as further house called Osprey.

At Wings there is lots of space around the home for playing, activities and sport. We also have a small "farm" where young people can enjoy growing vegetables and looking after animals.

The provision offers continuity of care, education and clinical support for young people who may have an emerging mental health problem and in previous times, needed to access CAMHS and other mental health support services.



Our staff team

Our staff team are trained with the skills, knowledge and experienced to work successfully and effectively with young people who may have found a lack of access to suitable education.

The school provides first rate education and wraparound support to ensure every student realises their full potential. We celebrate success, support young people in their life choices and help them find stability and purpose by exploring and enabling them to do the things they enjoy while learning.

The school has a science laboratory, art and design room, computing and technology suite, therapeutic intervention room and a literacy and numeracy nurture base. There is plenty of space to learn and discover new things and some quiet space too should your child need some time to think or work independently. To maximise opportunities for pupils education and support are provided in very small class sizes.

The school follows the national curriculum where appropriate and each pupil has their own tailored timetable designed to take into account individual educational and learning needs. Pupils enjoy studying for a wide range of qualifications including functional skills, GCSE's and BTEC, there are both on and offsite learning opportunities.

The following questions have been developed by and may be of interest to Wings School Cumbria parents and carers.

How does the school know if my child needs extra help?

Before your child starts at Wings School Cumbria we receive lots of information which is put together by those who have identified your child as needing more support. This information is called an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and every pupil at the school has one.

We will look at this plan before we meet you and begin working on how we can best educate and support your child. We will then meet with you, your child, your child's social worker, if they have one and together we will find out what works best for your child and how they like to learn. From this meeting we will create a learning and development package which is right for your child.

How will the school staff support my child?

When your child arrives, school will look at where they are up to in their education and by completing some baseline assessments, we will plan realistic targets together with your child. The education team will work with your child to set targets to develop their learning and development targets. They will keep you well informed of your child's progress throughout the year.

If your child needs extra specialist support we can call upon clinical and educational psychologists as well as the school nurse. All input from these people is monitored and assessed regularly to ensure that it is the most effective support we can give.

Wings School Cumbria is part of the Kedleston Group. The Kedleston Governing Body visit the school regularly and make sure that standards in education, safeguarding and health, safety and welfare are compliant at all times.



How will I know how my child is progressing?

Your child will have an individual plan for their education and behaviour, with their targets clearly shown. We measure your child's progress against their targets and make sure that they are kept up to date in each lesson through personal learning outcomes and annual reviews of their overall progress.

We will ask your child to tell us what they think about their progress.

Each term we send a report home with updated information about how your child is doing.

What support does the school offer for my child's overall wellbeing?

There is a team of psychologists (Educational and Clinical) each working at Wings Cumbria. They have training in a mixture of areas and have worked for a number of years with children and young people in different settings. They use their knowledge of psychology (theory and research) and their experience of working in schools and with families, to enhance the learning and well-being of children and young people.

At weekends and during the evenings there is lots of time for the young people to enjoy the activities they like to do. Every young person is assigned a key worker who makes sure that the care and support they receive is good.

What training do the staff supporting pupils at the school have?

All teaching staff are trained with the skills and experienced to work successfully with young people who have been out of school for some time and disengaged from education. Every member of staff is trained in safeguarding and child protection and the school has designated members of staff trained as safeguarding leads.



How will the school support my child to start college or training?

Your child will be given the opportunity to begin college and vocational courses while they are with us. This makes the change from schooling to college or training less of a leap. Some of our older pupils already do this. Our school advisor works with you and your child from year nine onwards to make sure they gain the qualifications needed for the type of college or training course they want. They will also support you and begin some work with your child from year seven.

We will make sure that as much help and planning is in place before your child moves on to college, training or the workplace.

Who decides what type and how much support my child will receive?

The support your child will receive at school will be based on the recommendations from their statement or EHCP, your input as parents or carers and baseline assessments when your child first arrives at school. The type and level of support is planned by members of the senior management team, the support professionals, psychology, speech and language therapy and key workers.

The decision is not just made by the school alone but with input from you as parents or carers and also in consultation with your child. If your child's needs change and are different from the recommendations on their original plan then we will consult with your education authority to see how we can access more help.

You will be involved all the way through the process and will receive updates about your child's progress. There will be regular reviews of support plans for your child to assess the impact of the support. From these reviews we can plan whether to reduce support, increase it or make a new plan. There will be targets in every plan that are measurable and this is how we can track the progress being made.



Ofsted said this about the school in it's last report:

Wings School Cumbria is rated “Good” with the regulator Ofsted for both the education and social care provisions. The behaviour and safety of the pupils at Wings School Cumbria was rated as “Outstanding”.

Ofsted said this about the school in the latest report:

Students make good progress from their starting points in English, mathematics, science and information and communication technology (ICT). Students achieve extremely well in developing their reading skills and develop a very keen interest in different subjects including art, photography and physical education. Students can gain a wide range of qualifications and nearly all leavers gain at least a few external accreditations to support their future economic well-being.

The quality of teaching is good because individual learning plans are implemented and many real-life-based experiences are offered to students.

Excellent day-to-day care and support ensure that students develop ways to manage their emotions and channel their energies positively towards learning. Consequently, behaviour is outstanding. Students say that they feel safe in school because of the school's outstanding arrangements to ensure their well-being.

The new Principal has ‘added value’ to the very positive atmosphere established by other leaders since the previous inspection. This has maintained the good quality of teaching and ensured that students continue to achieve well.

If you have any questions or concerns you can speak to us at any time.

For further information:
Wings School Cumbria

Tel: 01539 562006

Email: wingscumbria@kedlestongroup.com