



**North Ridge High Specialist Support School**  
**SEN Support Information - April 2015**

**What is our school ethos?**

Each member of our school community is recognised for their individual personality strengths and areas for development. We have developed a very strong identity to the name North Ridge and its association with mountains and mountain climbing. Our school logo is "Do your best". We believe that each one of us can contribute to our school community by always doing our best yet not necessarily having to be the best! We are very proud that staff and pupils always work hard and strive to achieve. Our classes are named after famous explorers and mountaineers. There is a very strong approach to team work by staff and pupils. All hard work and achievements however small or great are recognised through awards, certificates or postcards home. This is done on a weekly basis to maintain the motivation of all our staff and pupils.

We value the opinions of all members of our community. Our pupils are encouraged to express their thoughts and views and challenge ideas. Parents are welcome in school and their views are also requested on a regular basis. Our parents group meets on a weekly basis.

**North Ridge is a mixed, day special school providing education for 124 secondary aged (11- 19 years) pupils with a range of learning disabilities. We aim to:**

- Provide opportunities for all pupils to learn and achieve
- Encourage pupils to enjoy the social interaction of coming to school

Headteacher: **Mrs. B. Kostick**

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- Promote an atmosphere and ethos that encourages pupils' spiritual, moral, social, physical and cultural development and prepare all pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of life
- Provide opportunities for pupils to access the local community and facilities
- Encourage the pupils to be responsible and caring members of the wider community
- Promote self-esteem by recognising and celebrating the achievement of individual pupils
- Promote the ability to respect other peoples' points of view regardless of race, gender, religion, sexuality or ability
- Promote, where appropriate, the inclusion of pupils within and outside school, ensuring that such inclusion is in accord with parental wishes and is of benefit to the pupil
- Promote and encourage the involvement of parents and carers in all aspects of school life by welcoming them into school and helping them add to the positive and friendly atmosphere of the school
- Provide the community with opportunities to value our pupils as individuals and recognise their contribution to society
- Work with a multidisciplinary team to meet the individual needs of each pupil

We recognise that you know your son/daughter best and you may feel that they need some additional help or support for some or all of their time at school.

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**This information is to inform you of the types of support available for your child at North Ridge. It will help you to understand who can help and how this support can be accessed.**

All students in school receive quality first teaching. This means that a range of teaching and learning styles are used and that appropriate learning objectives are set for all students with a curriculum matched to their needs. All classes are supported by teaching assistants and pupils are also frequently offered additional small group work or one to one programmes where needed. These programmes cover both core areas of the curriculum together with social and emotional development work.

All students attending North Ridge have Education Health and Care Plans which are reviewed routinely annually and as and when required. We operate a person centred approach to the review meetings. When pupils or students begin to attend North Ridge, a baseline assessment will be carried out to determine an appropriate starting point for that individual. Individual learning targets (IEP) are determined based upon this assessment. Targets are set and then updated twice a year. Pupils are encouraged to be involved in their learning and are supported in setting personal targets which are reviewed at the start of each term.

### **Resources to support pupils**

We have carefully planned and developed the school to meet the needs of our population. It includes the following facilities:

- Specialist subject areas- Design Technology, Food Technology, Art, Science, Careers, ICT suite, Dance, drama music studio and sports hall.
- Hydrotherapy room, therapy and medical areas
- Multisensory rooms
- Calm spaces
- Outdoor play areas designated solely for North Ridge pupils.
- Gym
- Community room

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- **The Nightingale project**- For sixth form students ready to extend their independence and vocational skills we provide education on the site of North Manchester General hospital. Students spend the majority of their time learning through practical work activities. In addition to this small groups of sixth form students visit the hospital each week to operate a trolley selling snacks and newspapers to the patients.

### Future plans

The school was awarded funding from the Department for Education in 2014 to extend provision. This will extend the school places to 230. The building development includes:

- Independence development area
- Soft playroom
- Community Café based on the site of the Abraham Moss Centre

This work will provide students with further high quality opportunities to develop their vocational skills.

### Staffing support

We find that our pupils learn effectively if they are supported by staff who know them well. With this in mind pupils are allocated to a class group and are taught by the same teacher for 60% of the timetable and the same teaching assistants support them for 100% of the time. Classrooms have been designed to suit the individual learning styles and special needs of the pupils. For those pupils who require a very quiet distraction free environment we have designated quiet learning areas and calm spaces.

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## THE MULTI DISCIPLINARY TEAM APPROACH

We are very proud of the fact that we work very well with all the professionals supporting the school. This strong team approach ensures that we make effective use of all disciplines in planning the pupils' time in school. The following professionals work at North Ridge:

**Careers adviser/ Job Coach-** supports pupils and their families from year 9 upwards in considering options once pupils leave North Ridge.

**School nurse-** support all pupils' health needs, liaising with other health professionals, pupils, staff and families.

**Anita Ashworth- Physiotherapist-** supports and treats any pupils requiring physiotherapy or hydrotherapy, liaising with families and other professionals for equipment and adaptations in school and at home.

**Caroline Davies- Speech and Language Therapist-** supports pupils requiring speech and language assessment, input and advice both in school and at home.

**Dr Jane Hardy- Community paediatrician-** supports pupils and their families with health needs. Dr Hardy reviews the pupils' medical needs annually.

**Breanne Black - Occupational therapist-** supports pupils requiring assessment and advice around sensory integration programmes.

We work closely with other agencies to support the pupils of North Ridge including - Community nurse team, Social Care team, Child psychiatry team, Educational Psychology team and where required YOT.

### Teaching strategies used

- Small group teaching

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- 1:1 sessions
- Teacch (For pupils with ASD)
- Use of Pecs (Picture exchange system)
- Signing
- Experiential curriculum (for pupils working with profound and multiple learning disabilities)
- TSI - Training in systematic instruction
- Development of practical life skills
- Use of ICT - Particularly low tech and high tech communication aids
- Opportunities for pupils to experience residential activities away from school (e.g. camping).

We regularly monitor pupils' progress and report to parents through the annual pupil review meeting and biannual parents evening. Achievement in Key Stage 4 and 6<sup>th</sup> form is recognised through the National Framework of Qualifications, by the award of Entry level qualifications. We currently offer entry levels in core and foundation subjects. Some pupils achieve Functional Skills level 1 and 2. Some pupils complete the Arts Council Arts Award. We offer two ASDAN programmes- ASDAN Bronze and ASDAN Transition Challenge. Pupils also complete Duke of Edinburgh bronze and silver. By offering this range of accreditation we are able to ensure that each pupil achieves at the level that best suits their learning needs.

The National Qualification framework is designed to enable pupils and students to have a smooth transition into further and higher education. Sixth form student's achievement is awarded through the ASDAN Personal Social Development (Entry1-3), Personal Progress (Entry1), Employability (Entry 2 and above) and the Young Sport Leaders' award.

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## Family support

We aim to support pupils and their families to improve the quality of their experiences both in school and at home. With this in mind we offer regular workshops for parents/ carers and coffee mornings. Pupils can benefit from holiday schemes several times a year and we offer our Tuesday after school club. Places are very popular so need to be requested promptly. For parents who work or pupils travelling independently, school is open from 8.30a.m. for a breakfast club. There is no charge for this service. Any family requiring help/ advice around many issues can be helped by our Family support worker or a member of the leadership team. No issue is too small for us to help with and if you have a concern there are probably other families with a similar concern. We offer an information day to families annually where you can access advice about the many local services including, housing, health, social care, college, leisure and future employment.

The **SENCO -head teacher** coordinates the provision of SEND in school.

A few pupils may need advice or input from our **Educational Psychologist (EP)- this service is provided and commissioned by Manchester City Council**

One of the **School Governor** works with us in leading SEND in school.

You are also very welcome to discuss your concerns or your child's needs with the **Head teacher (Mrs Kostick), Deputy Head teacher (Mrs Foord) or your child's class teacher** Please contact the school office or communicate through the home school planner if you wish to speak to any of these people.

If you want advice from professionals outside school you may find the following contacts helpful:

**Parent Partnership: 0161 209 8356**

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**Statutory Assessment Team: 0161 245 7446**

**Manchester Families Service Directory: <http://manchester.fsd.org.uk>**

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