



Frequently Asked Questions

Will my child have to navigate around the school by themselves to get to their different classes?

No. Your child will be guided around the school by a familiar member of staff; usually by their teaching assistant. A member of staff will always be with your child throughout the school day.

Your child will access the vast majority of their lessons in their main tutor classroom. For specialist subjects such as music, ICT and P.E, they will walk to the classroom needed with their familiar member of staff.

How many children are in each class?

This depends on what type of class your child is in. In main SLD classes, there are 12-13 pupils in each class. For experiential/PMLD classes, there are 10 pupils and in ASD classes, numbers range from 6 – 8 pupils in each class depending on level of need.

These numbers are a guide, pupil numbers may change each year depending on the new cohort.

Will my child have 1:1 support like they do in their current primary school?

This depends on the level of need your child has. In most cases, your child will work in a small group of around 4 pupils led by a member of staff; particularly if they are in a SLD class. This encourages them to become more independent and develop social skills with their peers.

For pupils with complex or very high level of need, the ratio of staff to pupil may increase.

Some pupils will have 1:1 support where needed as outlined in their EHCP.

How many members of staff are in each class?

This depends on what class your child is in. We have a minimum of one teacher and two teaching assistants in each class; as seen in our SLD classes. However, for classes with pupils that need a higher level of support, there could be one teacher with up to four teaching assistants.

Will my child be with other 'year 7' children in their new class?

At North Ridge, we allocate pupils into classes based on their key stage, ability, level of need and personality. As your child will be entering KS3 at North Ridge, there will be a mix of year 7, 8 and 9 pupils in their new class.

My child has home to school transport. Will they still get this when they start at North Ridge?

Every child will need to reapply for transport for their new school; see the transport section on the school website.

Allocation of home to school transport is decided based on your location (if you live within or outside of 3 miles from North Ridge) and if you have other children that attend other schools. It is the Manchester transition team who makes the decision if your child qualifies. However, we are very happy to help you fill in the necessary documents to apply.

It is important to apply for transport as soon as possible as it takes a number of weeks to process and have a decision made.

What school uniform will my child need to wear when they start at North Ridge? Do they need to wear a blazer?

Our school uniform consists of:

- Blue school jumper
- Black polo t-shirt
- Black / dark grey trousers or knee length skirt
- Black shoes. These can be formal school shoes or plain black trainers.

For pupils who struggle with their fine motor skills when getting dressed or those who need support with personal care, your child could wear elasticated trousers such as jogging bottoms or thick leggings.

For P.E, pupils will need another set of clothes which consists of:

- White t-shirt
- Black shorts
- Trainers or black school pumps.

Please refer to the 'school uniform' document in the transition folder on the school website for further information including images, prices and where to buy them from.

My child needs daily medication at school. Who would give them this?

We have an onsite nurse who will have access to all of your child's medical information. She will administer the medicine your child needs. If your child is in a PMLD class, it is likely that a trained familiar member of staff will administer their medicine.

You will need to hand in any medication to the school office that includes the full name of your child. We will then sign it and it will be locked away in the nurse's room.

If your child has any rescue medication e.g. for allergies, asthma or epilepsy, same procedures apply. Any staff working with your child that has rescue medication will be fully aware of this and know how to support them should they need it.

My child accesses specialist support at their primary school (SALT, Physio, occupational therapist, optician). Will they still receive this at North Ridge?

We have specialists based at North Ridge once a week on different days. Any support from SALT, physio, OT or opticians that your child receives at their primary will continue here at North Ridge.

Do North Ridge pupils and Our Lady's pupil mix? Do they share the same outside area?

No. Although North Ridge and Our Lady's High School share a building, we are two separate schools. We have separate outdoor areas that our pupils access for break and lunch. Look at our 'key school areas' document with images of our play area.

North Ridge and Our Lady's use the same canteen but we use it at different times. North Ridge pupils use the canteen first (supported by their familiar members of staff), followed by Our Lady's later.

What time does North Ridge start and end at?

School starts at 9:00am. Pupils enter school via the main 'pupil entrance' doors; look at the 'key school areas' documents for an image of this.

This is also where pupils will leave school at 3:15pm.

Any pupil arriving after 9:10am will be marked as late which will affect their attendance percentage score.

What would a typical school day look like for my child?

The school day is broken down into key times including registration, break, lessons, and lunch. Take a look at the 'sample timetable' document on the school website.

Will my child be supported over lunch time?

Yes. There will be a member of staff with your child throughout the school day. Staff support pupils in choosing their meal and will support in any feeding needs they may have. We are a 'healthy school' and therefore encourage pupils to make healthy food choices. Pupils drink water with their meals unless they have specific dietary requirements as stated in their EHCP. We also expect pupils to have a healthy pudding 4 days of the week e.g. low fat yogurt or fruit. See a sample of the canteen menu on the school website.

If your child has any dietary requirements, it is important you notify the school. There is a section on this in the pupil documents you fill out when enrolling your child. It is very important we are made aware of any food allergies your child may have.

If your child has a packed lunch, we expect healthy food choices to be included. We discourage chocolate, crisps and sugary drinks.

Once pupils have finished their lunch, they will access lunch clubs which are run by familiar staff. We allow our pupils to choose their own lunch clubs on a termly basis which enable them to socialise with other pupils outside of their tutor group. Examples of lunch clubs on offer include: gym club, football club, dance club, film club, library club, outside play, Karaoke and 'hair and beauty' club along with many more.

Will my child be able to have a snack at break time?

Yes. We provide water and a piece of fruit or low fat yogurt at break time for every pupil.

Do you offer breakfast club or after school club?

Yes. We offer breakfast club every day 8:30-9:00am. You will need to apply for this. This is available for pupils whose parents have to go to work or other children to drop off at different schools. Drinks and toast are available.

Afterschool club each Tuesday after school 3:15-5:00pm. You would need to apply for this as we have limited spaces. If your child is unsuccessful in their first application, we will try to accommodate them for the next term. Snacks and drinks are available during after school club.

We also offer Easter and summer play scheme. Again, you would need to apply for this. This can be used as part of any short breaks your child has.