



## Oakwood Academy Profile

Oakwood Academy, Visual Arts, Sports and Technology College is a provision for children and young people with moderate and/or complex learning difficulties aged between 9 to 18 years. The majority of pupils live in the Salford area and the percentage of pupils who are eligible for pupil premium is routinely around 50%.

We have 220 pupils and students on roll who are supported by 25 teachers and 27 teaching assistants. The school is on a shared site with another special school and we are housed in a PFI build which is maintained to exceptionally high standards.

All of our pupils have conditions that co-exist, overlap and interlock creating a complex profile of learning and emotional needs. All pupils are working at academic levels significantly behind their chronological age and nearly all have speech, language and communication needs which interferes with their ability to learn and cope with their environment.

Pupils at Oakwood Academy follow the National Curriculum and are grouped broadly in terms of their attainment. Class groups in Y5, Y6 and Y7 are taught in our Foundation Learning provision which follows a primary style curriculum and method of delivery. This is a nurturing, secure provision which helps pupils get ready for transition into a secondary school.

Years 8 to 11 are taught by subject specialist teachers in a conventional secondary school model of provision. Class sizes vary from 8 to 14 and will have access to a teacher and teaching assistant for support in all lessons.

We offer an Enhanced Learning provision for eight Y8 and Y9 pupils who have significant learning, speech, language and communication needs and who require additional time and support before moving into the main body of the school at KS4. All these pupils will transfer at Y10 onto accredited courses with additional support. They have access to a specialist teacher, one full time teaching assistant who has received Team Teach training, support each week from our Speech and Language Therapist, one session a week from our Inclusion Manager and an Elklan trained teaching assistant.



Years 12, 13 and beyond undertake further qualifications in English and mathematics and take part in a wide range of vocational courses, extensive work experience, apprenticeships and supported internships to ensure that they all leave with a clear path into paid, meaningful employment and make a valuable contribution to society.

Typically, pupils enter Oakwood Academy with attainment levels between P6 and N.C. level 2 across most subjects.

We measure pupil progress half termly and use the upper quartile of the National Progression Guidance document and B Squared to ensure all pupils make rapid and sustained progress over time and hit key milestones.

The majority of pupils continue at Oakwood Academy until they are 16 years of age, at which point their attainment levels range from N.C. level 1 up to GCSE qualifications. Pupils then choose either our 6<sup>th</sup> form or make the transition to college provision elsewhere.

Pupils of all ages receive careers advice and education. We have a strong exam culture and 100% of pupils leave Oakwood with a good range of qualifications.

We offer extensive work experience with quality providers such as the BBC at Media City, Barclays Bank and Marks and Spencer. All students leave our 6<sup>th</sup> form with a clear route into meaningful employment, apprenticeship or supported internship.

Attendance is routinely at 94 to 95%, which is excellent given the complex medical needs many of our pupils have. Punctuality is excellent, most pupils are transported to school by the Local Authority but we encourage independent travel to and from school wherever possible.

Exclusions are very rare and routinely at zero. We have exceptionally high expectations with regards to behaviour, uniform and the quality of the school environment.

Oakwood Academy accesses regular support from the Local Authority Hearing Impaired service, Educational Psychology service and we work closely with Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy and the SALT services. We provide confidential counselling/therapy for identified pupils by bringing into school trained providers. We also have our own Disability Team on site which offers extensive support to pupils with physical disabilities. We have access to a hydrotherapy pool that is on site and a PCT team. Oakwood Academy also works closely with children's social care teams to secure good outcomes for pupils. We have high numbers of LAC and two pupils on CP plans.



At Oakwood Academy we promote traditional British values and the fundamental rule of law. We do not accept religious, homophobic or extremist views and have made referrals to children's services when we have had concerns over extremist views, FGM and forced marriage.

All staff have had access to PREVENT training and all staff have received appropriate Safeguarding training with daily updates from senior staff at staff briefing and staff meetings/insets.

Oakwood Academy is a National Support School. The Executive Principal is a National Leader of Education and the school has five Specialist Leaders in Education. We have two teaching assistants who are Elklan trained, a full time Speech and Language Therapist on site, two staff have been trained as Team Teach trainers, one member of staff is AMBDA qualified, many staff have received training in signing to support hearing impairment and two staff have additional postgraduate qualifications in Autism.

Mrs A Nicholson

Executive Principal  
Oakwood Academy