



# HIGH WELL SCHOOL

Preparing for Positive Futures



## Parent of Year 8 pupil says...

“We were quite reluctant at first to send our son here, a new school where he didn't know anyone. After speaking to staff I can't express just how relieved we were. We felt totally reassured. Not just that, our son felt the same which was the most important. He was so excited to start his first school year and did so with confidence. High Well has totally changed the way our son sees his education. He now enjoys school, which is fantastic and a relief all round. We believe that High Well was the definitely the right choice for our son.”

## Our Ethos

At High Well our core purpose is to develop our pupils' academic, social and emotional skills so that each pupil leaves us ready and equipped for further education, employment or training, knows how to keep themselves safe and is able to contribute to society.



# Welcome to High Well School

## Adrian Coates (Acting Head Teacher) says...

On behalf of the staff and Governing Body, I would like to welcome you to High Well School.

### A special place

High Well is a special school for one hundred pupils aged between 9 and 16 years with an Education, Health and Care Plan for Profound/Severe Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH). At High Well, we aim to prepare every pupil for a positive future.

### Stability and consistency

Many of our pupils come to us having experienced disruption to their school life, often from an early age. At High Well, we aim to provide stability and consistency for both pupils and parents/carers in order to overcome barriers to learning through supporting and teaching our pupils how to manage and regulate their emotions and feelings.

### Meeting individual needs

Thorough and robust assessment ensures that we identify what each pupil already knows and where there are any gaps in their learning/development. This allows us to plan to meet individual pupils' needs and ensure that every pupil makes good or better progress.

### Fantastic staff team

We have a fantastic staff team with a range of expertise who are committed to our ethos of Preparing for Positive Futures. They work hard to ensure the best possible quality of education for each pupil.



## Parent of Year 11 and Year 8 pupils says...

"Two of my children have attended High Well School. The oldest is leaving this year and I am truly grateful for all that the school has done for him. He came to this setting hating school with low self-esteem and would have meltdowns on a regular basis. The staff have given him so much help and encouragement and he has left a completely different person, with great coping strategies, having done GCSEs which he didn't believe was possible. He is looking forward to going to college.

"My other son has been attending for two years and has already made massive progress in self-regulation and looks forward to school. He still has some way to go but I am sure that, by the time he comes to leave, that he will be looking forward to his future and will have the coping strategies that he needs to do whatever it is that he chooses to do in life."



## Settling in

### Transition days

To settle students in, they will have attended a number of transition days before starting. On transition days, new students will visit the school, meet some of the teachers and take part in some lessons. For those students starting at the beginning of the academic year, there is a staggered start, ensuring that the first day is a quiet and calm experience.

All of the equipment the students need, including stationery, is provided by the school so they do not have to worry about remembering to bring things in.

### Arriving at school

When students arrive, between 8.40am-9am, they go straight to their classroom where they will have breakfast and do some reading before the school day starts. If they have already eaten, there is a range of activities to take part in. Students are looked after and cared for the entire time they are at High Well.

### Tutor Time

After breakfast, the day starts with tutor time and there are then six lessons (all 45 minutes long), a break and lunch time. Most lessons are in one classroom, but they will go to different rooms for more specialist subjects such as science, music and food technology. Each class has support staff who stay with them during lessons and help students find their way to anywhere else they need to go.

### Lunch

At lunch time, pupils eat together with their class in the dining hall and a range of activities, including sport, are available after their lunch.

### Uniform

Pupils receive one t-shirt and sweatshirt free of charge. Additional items are available to purchase at a price of £5 (T-shirt) and £8 (jumper).

### Getting to school

Upon confirmation of a place at High Well, transport request forms are completed (with support from our Family Support Worker) and sent to the transport panel. Once approved, transport is usually in place within 10 working days.

## Curriculum

Although pupils arrive with significant challenges, we do not allow these factors to be a barrier to our high aspirations for pupils' academic progress. Within Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3, the curriculum has been constructed to ensure that social and emotional development is prioritised and pupils acquire and embed the appropriate behaviours for learning and knowledge to access the curriculum as they progress through school. The curriculum is designed to meet the wide range of needs of our pupils. Subjects that students will study include:

Maths, English, Reading, Science, ICT, Food, Technology, Humanities, Music, Art, R.E., Preparing for positive futures, PE, Gaming.

## Qualifications

We aspire for our pupils to leave with a range of qualifications in line with their potential - including GCSEs in Maths, English, Science and Humanities. We also offer a range of vocational qualifications such as BTECs in sport, engineering, ICT and food technology alongside entry levels and functional skills.



# Mental Health and Wellbeing

At High Well, the mental health and wellbeing of our school community is a key priority. We have been developing our support and provision in this area for the past number of years and it plays a large role in our ethos of Preparing for Positive Futures. In order to be successful in life, all pupils need to leave school with the appropriate social and emotional skills to:

- Access and remain in further education, employment or training.
- Keep themselves safe.
- Be able to contribute to society.

It is important that we equip our pupils with not only the necessary qualifications but also support our pupils to:

- Manage and regulate their own feelings and emotions.
- Develop their resilience.



## Parent of Year 9 pupil says...

“I have been going to the parent groups at High Well for a while now and I find them beneficial. I just love the support and there is no judgement there at all. Everyone has been through similar, or the same, situations as each other, and are there to offer help and support. The parenting groups are just relaxed and enjoyable and you can have a good old laugh too, that’s why I enjoy going. I also did the mental health training that the school provided. I found this interesting as it helps you to recognise what could be the causes of mental health issues, and, if you were to come across somebody who may be struggling, how you might be best to approach them to try and provide help and support.”



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# Admissions criteria

Admissions to the school are co-ordinated by Wakefield Local Authority through the Special Needs Assessment and Review Team (SENART) based at Normanton Town Hall.

Decisions on pupil eligibility for a place at High Well School are taken on a case by case basis by Wakefield’s Education, Health and Care Plan Panel, who then consult with High Well on whether the school can meet an individual pupil’s needs.

Visits to the school are welcomed and can be arranged by contacting the school for an appointment.

