



Selworthy School



Parent Carer Handbook

Taking you step-by-step through starting school

Inspiring lifelong learning



Ofsted say:

“Selworthy School is a very happy place where staff work well together as a team to provide pupils with rich experiences that meet their needs.”

‘Behaviour is outstanding and the school sets very high standards for keeping the pupils safe. The strong focus on creative development helps make the pupils self-confident.’”

A Special School in the centre of the community

Selworthy School is a co-educational special school for children and young people with learning disabilities aged 4-19. Being part of Selworthy School is like belonging to a family. Children and young people, parents and carers, staff, local residents and visitors are welcomed into a happy and purposeful community where everyone is challenged to go on a learning journey and maximise achievement. All pupils participate fully in all aspects of school life.

Mark Ruffett, says...

It's great news that your son or daughter are starting at our wonderful school.

We need some information from you

We need some information from you, so could you please follow the steps in this Parent Carer Handbook, and hand in your completed forms to the school.

Answering your questions

On page 11 is Key Information and pages 12-13 are answers to Frequently Asked Questions. If you have any questions that are not answered here, please contact the school office on 01823 284970 and we will be happy to help!

Policies and term dates

On pages 12-14 are details of some important policies you need to know about and page 15 has term dates.

Welcome

Welcome to Selworthy School and I look forward to getting to know you and your child.

Step 1

STEP 1: PUPIL ADMISSION FORM

Selworthy School

All information will be treated as confidential to the school - **PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY**

Child's Legal Surname:	Legal Forename(s): Boy <input type="checkbox"/> Girl <input type="checkbox"/>
Preferred Surname:	Preferred Forename(s):
Middle Name:	Date of Birth: <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>
Address:	Position in Family: 1 <input type="checkbox"/> 2 <input type="checkbox"/> 3 <input type="checkbox"/> 4 <input type="checkbox"/> 5 <input type="checkbox"/>
	Home Telephone No:
Post Code:	Email:

We are required to record the names and addresses of every person who has parental responsibility for the child under the Children Act

Parent(s) Carer(s) / Legal Guardian(s) with whom the child/young person lives

Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms	Name: <input type="checkbox"/> Mr <input type="checkbox"/> Mrs <input type="checkbox"/> Ms
Relationship: <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian	Relationship: <input type="checkbox"/> Mother <input type="checkbox"/> Father <input type="checkbox"/> Guardian
Address:	Address:
Telephone Numbers:	Telephone Numbers:
Mobile:	Mobile:
Work:	Work:

In case of illness or accident, please provide additional emergency contact numbers.

Other Contacts in Case Of Emergency

Contact 1 Name:	Contact 2 Name:
Relationship:	Relationship:
Telephone Numbers:	Telephone Numbers:
Work / Mobile:	Work / Mobile:

Is the child legally 'In Care'? If YES please provide the following information:

Other Contacts in Case Of Emergency

Carer's name:	Social Worker's name:
Address:	Address:
Telephone Number:	Telephone Number:

Please write any further information you may wish to give about your child or family circumstances: (including court orders, access and contact)

Signature: (parent/carers):	Date: <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/>
-----------------------------	--

Please tear here

Child/young person's Doctor	Medical Conditions: Please give details of any conditions your child suffers from ie: anaphylaxis, asthma, hayfever etc:		
Surgery Address:			
Telephone Number:			
Child's previous school or playgroup:		Telephone Number:	
Does your child have a brother or sister in the school? If so please state			
Name:	Class:	Year:	
School Meals			
Are you entitled to claim free school meals for your child? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
If you would like to claim for free school meals, an application will have to be submitted. Please contact School Office or visit the Free School Meal web-site: www.myfreeschoolmeals.com			
Not applicable to Nursery children (refer to Page 9 for information).			
Dietary Needs			
Please state below any special dietary needs your child may have eg:Allergies, vegetarian, no pork etc.			
Travel to School			
Please advise us of the main way your child will regularly travel to school: Bus <input type="checkbox"/> Walk <input type="checkbox"/> Car <input type="checkbox"/> Train <input type="checkbox"/> (please tick as appropriate)			
Services Children in Education			
Are you a Services Family? YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
Ethnicity	Home Language Spoken	First Language Spoken	Religion
Is English an additional language?			
YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/>			
If English is an additional language what level do you consider your child to be at			
Fluent <input type="checkbox"/> Average <input type="checkbox"/> Poor <input type="checkbox"/> No English Spoken <input type="checkbox"/> Non-verbal <input type="checkbox"/> (please tick as appropriate)			
Names of other siblings and school they attend			
Name:		School Name:	
Name:		School Name:	
Name:		School Name:	
Name:		School Name:	
Please sign the form in the spaces indicated using your usual signature.Where Father and Mother both have Parental Responsibility, the form must be signed by both parents.			
Signature of Mother/Guardian:		Date: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
Signature of Father/Guardian		Date: <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>	
FOR SCHOOL USE ONLY			
Birth certificate/passport copied <input type="checkbox"/> CTF/Records requested <input type="checkbox"/>			
Start Date <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> / <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/> <input type="text"/>			

Step 1

Step 2

STEP 2: CONSENT FORMS
Selworthy School

We are proud of our school and like to share what the learners have been doing.We regularly use photographs, videos and pictures of their work to celebrate their achievements and promote the school through our social media channels, website and local press.We also love to share our special events and educational visits.

When we use images we only ever use learners’ first names but are aware that some families would prefer their child/young person wasn’t included.

Please fill in the box below to provide your consent. (Please note: we operate an OPT OUT policy so we presume permission is given unless otherwise indicated.)

I do / do not (please delete as appropriate) give permission for my child/young person image to be used for the duration of their time at Selworthy School. I understand that this permission will remain valid unless I make contact to indicate a change.

Child/young person name:

Parental signature:

Date:

A key constituent of our curriculum is educational visits.We are committed to supporting all learners to live a life as independent as is possible and utilising the environment outside of school plays a large part in this process.

To achieve this we have a number of school vehicles that transport classes around the local area.We will always give you advance notice (at least one week) of educational visits and they are carefully planned and risk assessed taking into account the needs of every learner who is participating.

If we plan any more adventurous activities or residential visits we will seek permission additional to this form.

Please fill in the box below to provide your consent for educational visits.

I do / do not (please delete as appropriate) give permission for my child/young person to go on educational visits for the duration of their time at Selworthy School. I understand that this permission will remain valid unless I make contact to indicate a change.

Child/young person name:

Parental signature:

Date:

Please tear here



Step 3

Please tear here

STEP 3 SUPPORTING AGENCIES

Selworthy School

Please provide us with details of all of the agencies that currently support your child.

Agency
Contact name
Phone number
Email
Permission to contact <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

Please provide us with details of all of the agencies that currently support your child.

Agency
Contact name
Phone number
Email
Permission to contact <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

Please provide us with details of all of the agencies that currently support your child.

Agency
Contact name
Phone number
Email
Permission to contact <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

Please provide us with details of all of the agencies that currently support your child.

Agency
Contact name
Phone number
Email
Permission to contact <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no

Please provide us with details of all of the agencies that currently support your child.

Agency

Contact name

Phone number

Email

Permission to contact ☐ yes ☐ no

Please provide us with details of all of the agencies that currently support your child.

Agency

Contact name

Phone number

Email

Permission to contact ☐ yes ☐ no

Please provide us with details of all of the agencies that currently support your child.

Agency

Contact name

Phone number

Email

Permission to contact ☐ yes ☐ no

Please provide us with details of all of the agencies that currently support your child.

Agency

Contact name

Phone number

Email

Permission to contact ☐ yes ☐ no

Step 3

Step 4

What is Free School Meals?

Free school meals are available to children whose parents qualify by meeting the criteria listed. Children must be in school all day and they will be provided with a meal at lunchtime that is paid for by the school.

Children in pre-school/nursery do not qualify for a free meal until they start school. Applications received for children that have not yet started school will be processed so that when your child starts school, you will already be notified if they qualify for a free school meal or not.

How do I qualify?

Parents/carers who receive any of the following are entitled to free school meals:

- Income Support
- Employment & Support Allowance (Income Related) - not Contribution related
- Income-based Job Seekers Allowance -not Contribution based
- Guaranteed Element of State Pension Credit.
- Support under PartVI of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999
- Child Tax Credit, providing you do not also receive Working Tax Credit, with an annual taxable income (as assessed by HMRC) of less than £16,190
- Universal Credit.

If you have recently become unemployed, but are still receiving Working Tax Credits, you may be entitled to free school meals.

How do I apply?

Please complete the form overleaf.

Take the completed form to your child's school or send it to: Entitlements Team. County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY

Or apply online at www.somerset.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals

You do not need to send evidence with this application. If we need evidence at a later date we will contact you. Applications will be processed within 5-10 working days of receipt and if the application is successful, free school meals will be awarded from the date the application is processed. Free school meals will not be backdated. When completing an application, please ensure all the details are filled in correctly, otherwise this will delay the time it takes to process your application.

While the majority of schools in Somerset use this service, a small number do not. Therefore, a small number of parents will need to follow a different process to apply for free school meals. Please check www.somerset.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals for further information.

Pupil Premium

If you are awarded free school meals, the school that your child attends will also be allocated money called Pupil Premium. This money is then used to support the pupils at the school. For further details on this, please speak to your school.

IMPORTANT

You no longer need to reapply for the same children} as long as you remain eligible; once we have your details on record we will do regular checks to see whether you are still entitled. In order to perform these checks we need up to date details. Therefore, you must let us know of any changes of benefit, name or address of the person in your household receiving the qualifying benefit. Incorrect details may lead us to believe that you are no longer entitled to free school meals. You will need to submit a new application for any children you haven't previously applied for.

Universal Infant Free School Meals

From September 2014, all children in reception, year 1 and year 2 in schools in England will be entitled to receive universal infant free school meals. If you meet the criteria to qualify for free school meals it is important for you to complete this application form so your school will receive pupil premium. To receive the universal infant free school meals, please speak to your school in the first instance.

Please tear here

Application Form for Free School Meals at School

WWW.SOMERSET.GOV.UK



Important: All sections must be filled in clearly in BLOCK CAPITALS and must be completed by the person claiming the qualifying benefit. If you have any questions, phone the helpline on 0300 123 2224.

1. Details about you												
Legal Surname	Legal Forename	Title	Date of Birth	National Insurance Number or National Asylum Support Number								

2. Your address:

Address: _____

Post Code _____ Relationship to child(ren): _____

Telephone Number(s): Daytime _____ Mobile _____

Child(ren)'s Address: _____ Post Code _____
(if different)

3. Details of each dependant child that you wish to claim for in Somerset (include all children):					
Legal Surname	Legal Forename	M/F	Date of Birth	Name of School Attending (if School Age)	Office Use only

Please note: Any award of Working Tax Credit (other than the 4 week 'run on') automatically disqualifies entitlement to free school meals. The Government does not allow us to recognise any benefit other than those listed on the Somerset County Council website/application form.

Where did you find out about Free School Meals?

4. Declaration: I confirm that the information I have given above is correct. I will tell you immediately if my details (for example address) or my circumstances change.

I wish for Somerset County Council to be able to assess my claim now and in the future via a secure computer link with the Department for Education. I agree that Somerset County Council can use the information I have provided to process my claim for free meals and can contact other sources as allowed by law to verify my initial and continuing entitlement. The information requested will be held securely and will only be disclosed to staff in the Local Authority or partner agencies who have a right of access, as well as, where appropriate, to the Department of Education, Ofsted and Capita Children's Services. If a disclosure elsewhere becomes necessary, we will contact you before doing this. When no longer required, it will be disposed of in a manner appropriate to its sensitivity.

Your signature: _____ Date: _____

Please return this form to: Entitlements Team, County Hall, Taunton, TA1 4DY

Office Use Only			
ECS	Core Data	EMS	Letter sent
Y/N			

Key information

What are our school times?

- Start of the day: 9.00am.
- Morning Break: 10.30am-11.00am.
- Lunch break: 12.00-1.00pm.
- End of Day: 3.15pm.

Arrivals and departures

Children who come to school on County transport are met on arrival and they will walk into school with members of staff. Children who come to school with their parent carers are met at the school reception by staff. We are always considering independence and will work with children and their families to support a more independent transition into school where appropriate.

Uniform

We have a school uniform that many of our students like to wear, but we are relaxed about slight alterations to this if it supports a child coming into school with minimal challenge. Our everyday uniform consists of the following items embroidered with the school name:

- Sky Blue polo shirt.
- Sky Blue T shirt (for PE).
- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan (Primary years).
- Navy fleece (Primary years).
- Grey trousers, skirt or pinafore dress.
- School Book bags can be purchased from school.

Where to buy

You can order the school uniform via Tesco online ordering, web address [tesco.com/ues](https://www.tesco.com/ues).

Lost property

Please help us to help the children to look after their own property by ensuring that all PE kit and uniform is clearly marked with each child's name.

Food in school

School Meals

School meals are prepared off site and served at school. Our supplier is very flexible and works with the school to develop a menu that meets the specific needs of every child where possible. Children can also bring in a packed lunch.

Free school meals

All children in Reception and Years 1 and 2 can have free school meals. To continue receiving free school meals from Year 3 upwards, families need to receive the following:

- income support.
- job seekers allowance.
- child tax credit.
- or be asylum seekers or refugees.

For more information, please contact the school office. All applications are treated confidentially.

Dinner money

The cost of a school dinner is currently £2.60 per day. Payment for school meals is by either cash or a cheque made payable to Somerset County Council. Please insert the payment in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name and class.

Packed lunch

As part of our healthy eating policy, we encourage pupils who eat a packed lunch to enjoy a balanced diet including, for example, a sandwich, cereal bar and a piece of fruit. We do recognise, however, that individual health and dietary needs vary with each child. If your child brings a packed lunch to school, it must be in a container, clearly labelled with the child's name and class.

Fruit and drinks

All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are provided with free fruit every day. If your child has any allergies, please ensure your child's class teacher is made aware so that an alternative fruit may be provided that day.

Snacks

Children may bring in a healthy snack from home suitable to their dietary requirements.

Water bottles

Hydration is important and aids learning and we encourage children to drink water regularly. Water is available throughout the day. If your child brings in a water bottle, please make sure it is clearly labelled.



Ofsted say:

"Selworthy School is a very happy place where staff work well together as a team to provide pupils with rich experiences that meet their needs."

'Behaviour during lessons and around the school is outstanding, and pupils have very good relationships with staff. Pupils throw themselves wholeheartedly into the activities, spurred on by the enthusiasm of the staff. Lessons are hardly ever disrupted by difficult behaviour.'

'Behaviour is outstanding and the school sets very high standards for keeping the pupils safe. The strong focus on creative development helps make the pupils self-confident.'

Frequently Asked Questions

Here are our answers, to what we find, are the most frequently asked questions. If you have any questions that are not answered here, please contact the school office and we will be happy to help!

Attendance and absence

We work in partnership with parent carers to secure regular and sensible patterns of attendance, thereby enabling learners to ensure they maximise opportunities for continuity and progress. Irregular attendance undermines the educational process and leads to educational disadvantage. It is equally vital that learners attending the school are fit to attend in order that they can fully benefit from all learning opportunities on offer.

Request for absence

If your child is ill, parents carers are asked to inform the school by leaving a message on the answerphone, calling the office direct or emailing office@selworthy.somerset.sch.uk by 8.15am on each day of illness of their child, so that the school can make suitable staffing decisions in reasonable time. Authorised absences can also be requested for respite or family holiday by completing our 'Request for term-time leave' form available from the school office.

Holidays

Time off for a family holiday is not a legal right, although schools have the discretion to allow up to 10 days leave of absence within a school year. The 'Request for term-time leave' form should be completed and returned at least two weeks before the expected absence. Permission is given at the discretion of the Headteacher.

How do we try to reduce the impact of absence on the quality of teaching?

- Clinics are organised and held in school. These may include Orthotics, Dietician, Paediatrician, Audiology, Physiotherapy and OT appointments. In addition, Mobility Clinics take place in school and wheel chair maintenance may be carried out here. The provision of these onsite services also leads to considerably improved communication by those involved with the child/young person.

- In addition, a range of follow up support is maintained when a child has continuing absences.

Medical appointment

Notice of an expected medical appointment should be provided as soon as possible so that the class can be organised appropriately.

Behaviour

At Selworthy we recognise that all behaviours are a form of communication. The primary intervention for positive behaviour support is an appropriately challenging and engaging curriculum. We seek to create an environment in the school that encourages and reinforces positive behaviour. At school we work towards standards of behaviour based on the basic principles of honesty, respect, consideration and responsibility.

Our Policy Aims include:

- For every learner to have total access to a full and varied curriculum and be able to participate in all aspects of school life.
- To maintain an ethos which values individual needs, dignity and achievement.
- For learners to develop knowledge of how to understand their own behaviours.

Our support strategies include:

- Personalising all teaching and learning activities.
- Sharing clear objectives in lessons that are tailored to meet every learner's needs.
- All staff are regularly trained in positive behaviour support.
- Ensuring learners know their efforts are valued.
- Highly individualised Positive Learning Plans.

Celebration and rewards

In order to promote learner's self-esteem, we identify a number of learners each week for celebration. These learners are displayed to staff and they make an additional effort to compliment them and take additional time to interact with them during that week. On a Friday the whole school attends Celebration Assembly where these learners are invited to the stage and their Teacher shares what they value and respect about them.

'WOW' stickers

These celebrations are supplemented by 'WOW' stickers as well as visits to the Senior Leadership Team for further positive reinforcement.

Vulnerable Learner Meetings

Every week we hold a meeting for all staff to discuss vulnerable learners. At this meeting, every member of staff is updated about learners who are presenting as vulnerable and their current situation. The core aim of the meeting is to enable all staff to understand the challenges placed upon our learners and to use that information to help to understand the behaviours that they present. Where possible staff will be advised of changes to positive learning plans and will be given direction as to how they can best support individual learner's needs.

Special Educational Needs

One of the school's main aims is to identify and remove barriers for children with disabilities in every area of school life. We try to achieve this in the following ways:

- We set suitable learning challenges.
- We respond to learner's diverse needs.
- We overcome potential barriers to learning and assessment.
- We promote a culture and environment of positive behaviour support

- We offer a personalised curriculum that challenges our learners to achieve beyond expectation.
- We promote a culture where learning occurs beyond the classroom boundaries.
- We encourage our learners to take controlled risks, and have the courage to face the changes that lie ahead for each of them.
- We actively promote a community in which we help each other to achieve more, and to challenge the wider community about their perceptions.
- We help our learners to find their voice, develop learners' communication skills and offer a communication rich learning environment.
- We focus on developing creative thought in individuals so that they can look to the future with confidence, and live fulfilling and fun filled lives.

We acknowledge the vital role that parent carers play and the key information that they can provide in making judgements about the most suitable provision for their child. Parent carers are consulted and kept informed at all times. Where appropriate, we consult with them about any provision, including their views of their difficulties, what support they are receiving and how they believe this can be improved. To this end, we encourage discussion with them about their targets, progress and choices for future action, in our whole school atmosphere of care and consideration.

Involvement of outside agencies

The following outside agencies are consulted when necessary or appropriate:

- Education Psychology service.
- Learning Support service.
- Health Authority, for example, for support with speech and language, sight or hearing impairment.
- Social services.
- Educational Welfare services.

Accessibility

Selworthy School is fully accessible to all learners by way of stairs or ramps and the school has wheelchair access to all areas. We have specialised equipment and resources including ICT.

Emergency arrangements

We will always endeavour to open the school, but in cases of severe bad weather that may affect access to our essential services, closure may be unavoidable. We use a text messaging service for school closures. We will also call parent carers who we are unable to contact by text and also notify the transport providers. The school website will also be updated. We also notify the L.A., who in the event of bad weather, will contact the local radio/press and list closures on the SCC website.

Collecting your child

If school closure is announced during the day due to severe weather conditions, every effort must be taken to collect your child as soon as possible. If you personally cannot get to school, or you work out of the local area, please have a contingency plan. We encourage you to have a range of emergency contact numbers for all eventualities. Please make sure that we have at least two current contact numbers, in case we need to contact you urgently.



Health and Welfare

Medicines

Should your child need medicine whilst attending school, this can be administered at your request. Parent carers will be expected to complete the necessary request forms and discuss their child's specific requirements with the school. Medicines should be clearly marked, in the original prescription packaging and handed in to the school office.

Sickness

Children who are absent from school because of vomiting and/or diarrhoea must be kept at home for 48 hours following the final incident of sickness.

Children with rashes should be considered infectious and assessed by their doctor. It is therefore important that children are not sent to school if they are unwell or are recovering from an infection. This is vital, both to ensure that the learners themselves are sufficiently fit to be in school and that their infection is not passed on to others within the school.

Ill at school

If your child is ill whilst at school, or involved in an accident, we will attempt to contact you immediately and we will appreciate your support on these occasions. Please make sure that contact numbers are kept up to date.

Working with parent carers

Parental involvement

We recognise the importance of working closely with parent carers. They are the experts on their children. To enhance this we employ a number of parent carers to support you as part of our Families And School Together (FAST) team. Teachers are in daily contact with parent carers through home/school books as well as phone calls when appropriate.

Support for Selworthy Parent Carers

As a parent carer of a learner who attends Selworthy School you are entitled to free membership of the Learning Support Centre (LSC). We have a variety of equipment and publications that you may borrow for free.

You can:

- Borrow equipment – switch activated toys, iPads, sensory toys and much more.
- Borrow books – we have a range of reference books covering a variety of disabilities.
- Have a chat and a drink.
- Be signposted towards an even wider range of advice and support from our specialist staff and outside agencies.

We have a teaching team who all have a wealth of knowledge. Selworthy staff are always happy to share their skills and experience.

We can:

- Make visual aids to help you at home eg symbolised timetables.
- Provide information about support groups in the Taunton area.
- Provide contact details about organisations and charities that may be able to help secure resources and equipment for you and your family.

We can also provide some visual aids such as a symbol keying or a symbol book to assist with exploring emotions. Please contact us for further information or pop in for a chat and a coffee and discuss your requirements with us. If you would like an LSC Membership pack to be emailed or posted to you please let us know.

Selworthy Learning Support Centre contact details
Selworthy LSC
Selworthy School
Selworthy Road
Taunton
TA2 8HD
Telephone: 01823 335935
Email: SelworthyLSC@educ.somerset.gov.uk

FAST Team

We are a team of Selworthy parent carers employed by school, to support you as a family, to make the most of your child's time at Selworthy. We provide

- Empathy and understanding.
- Drop in anytime during opening hours.
- Information on short breaks and clubs and societies.
- Information on benefits and entitlement.
- If we can't answer a question we can find out for you or help you to find out.
- Signposting to other services, if we can't help.
- Training Opportunities for Parent Carers.
- Assistance with form filling DLA, family fund etc.

Assessment

Evaluation

Evaluation is ongoing in all areas of the curriculum and at individual, class and whole school levels. Continuous teacher assessment, reinforced with available evidence, form the basis of assessment throughout the school. The P Scales in the National Curriculum subjects and cross curricular components lead to an effective whole school approach to assessment planning and evaluation.

Annual Review

Parent carers are invited to take part in their child's Annual Review when we discuss their progress and set targets for the following year. Your child always contributes to this meeting and where possible is invited to take part. The annual report to parent carers informs the review of the EHCP/Statement of Special Educational Needs.

Parent Carers' evenings

We hold regular parent carers' evenings to discuss your child's progress. You will be able to browse their work folders and also discuss any changes that have been made to their positive learning plans. This is the very tip of our offer as we always make ourselves available whenever a conversation is needed.

Communication

Communication is at the core of everything we do. You can communicate with school in person, by phone and by email. We do all we can to inform parent carers about what and how their children are learning by:

- Having an open door policy whereby parent carers are always free to contact or visit school.
- Having school and class newsletters.
- Weekly or daily home/school diaries.
- Timetables and appropriate planning.
- Annual Review meetings.
- Parent carers' evening where their child's work can be reviewed, their progress discussed and their positive learning plans reviewed.
- Reports to parent carers in which we explain the progress made by their child and, with clear targets, for improvement.
- Explaining to parent carers how they can support their children with areas of the school curriculum.

News

We provide our latest news updates on our website and we produce regular newsletters. You can sign up for our newsletters to be emailed directly to you. You will find the link on the 'News' section of our website. In addition our school newsletters are distributed monthly in hard copy and sent home with the children via their school bags.



Policies

Why do we need policies?

For a school to offer high quality education and care, it needs policies. Policies help develop and define a set of consistent rules, regulations, procedures and protocols.

Parent carers need policies

Policies are also useful to parent carers. For example, a prospective parent carer might wish to view a school's behaviour policy or special educational needs policy, before deciding whether to apply for their child to attend the school.

High standards

Policies are vitally important, and help us to create standards of quality for learning and safety, as well as expectations and accountability. If you want to know what policies we have you can visit the school website www.selworthy.somerset.sch.uk and click on 'Public Information' and then scroll down to 'Policies'.

Key policies

Some of our key policies are:

- Special Education Needs..
- Safeguarding.
- Positive Behaviour Support including Positive Handling Procedures.
- Curriculum Policy.
- Complaints.

Step 1



Step 2



Step 3



Testimonials

"Even though Travis's condition is extremely rare, they assured me that they would treat him according to his own needs and capabilities and this has been the case since day one." **Ria Borrett**

"The patience and skill of the staff is second to none and their behaviour management techniques are fantastic. Charlie and James are big, strong lads and at one point they were constantly hitting us and each other, as well as hurting themselves but these episodes have decreased greatly since they have been at Selworthy. They like and trust their teachers and respond to them, so life has calmed down a lot!" **Sophie and Andy Horsman**

"We obviously know Jack very well but the school has been wonderful in giving us strategies to support him and it is very much a two-way thing. They have also taught us how to be patient with him; not always easy with Jack!" **Emma and John Gibbs**

"I love it for Georgia; I love that it liberates her from her wheelchair; allows her the chance to kick her limbs without fear of hurting herself, and to feel weightless. She can play with her friends in a completely safe environment and for Georgia, that is something priceless." **Gemma and Garryn Basson**

"What immediately strikes you about Selworthy is the caring, nurturing ethos and the fact that all the staff are genuinely committed to the children, not just doing a job of work. They recognise and cater for the individuality of each child, providing a bespoke learning and care plan for every pupil, based on their particular needs." **Michelle and Phil Bristow**

"Last year Nathan had the lead role in the school's production of The Snowman. To see my scared, withdrawn and sad little boy up on the stage, singing his heart out and full of confidence was truly astonishing. For me, that transformation sums up Selworthy School." **Nicolette and Chris Venning**

OFSTED SAY:

"The school is particularly strong on promoting the pupils' creative development which in turn promotes their self-esteem and well-being. The inspectors observed some lusty singing by all the pupils and staff in a joyous assembly at the end of the day."

"Behaviour during lessons and around the school is outstanding, and pupils have very good relationships with staff. Pupils throw themselves wholeheartedly into the activities, spurred on by the enthusiasm of the staff. Lessons are hardly ever disrupted by difficult behaviour."

At Selworthy School
we put the young
person at the centre
of all we do. We
strongly believe that
the school must fit
the learner and not
the other way around.



Selworthy School

Selworthy School
Selworthy Road
Taunton
Somerset
TA2 8HD

Telephone: 01823 284970

Fax: 01823 336519

Email: office@selworthy.somerset.sch.uk

Web: www.selworthy.somerset.sch.uk

