

# St Luke's School Prospectus



**2020-2021**

# Our School

St Luke's School is a special education needs school for pupils aged 7-16 with Learning Difficulties (LD); this includes pupils with complex Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD), Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC).

We are located in the village of Redbourn, near St Albans, and the school benefits from a wealth of excellent facilities. These include a dedicated gymnasium, hall with stage, dining room, library, animal care room, food tech room, medical room, dedicated therapy room, focus room and sensory base. St Luke's School is set within extensive grounds, which provide ample opportunities for learning outside the classroom. This strength has been recognised with the award of Silver Accreditation for our site includes a meadow, wildlife pond, small copse, allotment, life skills bungalow, outdoor classroom, sensory garden, sports fields, playground, outdoor play equipment and an outdoor gym.

Our school has close links to Forest House Education Centre in Radlett, and The Collett School in Hemel Hempstead and together we form the Blue Tangerine Federation. This collaboration between our schools provides opportunities to share good practice and expertise as we strive to offer the best possible education for our children.

## **Our Vision**

Our vision is to ensure that each child has the most successful start to adulthood, as a result of relevant and inspiring schooling. We undertake to provide a safe learning environment to enable all pupils to grow and develop, with a commitment to providing opportunities to increase independence for every individual.

## **Our Ethos**

In order to thrive in life and achieve the high expectations we hold of everyone, we work hard, together and with happiness as part of a community that proudly shines.

# **Teaching and Learning**

## **Learning Groups**

Children work in Learning Groups; for the majority of the week they work with the same group, with similar abilities but which span different year groups. Groups are typically formed of 10 to 12 pupils, with a teacher and teaching assistant who support children with their learning. We are not funded for, and therefore cannot offer, one to one TA support.

Most subjects are taught within the home room, reducing transitions, though teachers use the outside environment effectively for learning and regularly take children out on excursions, to make abstract learning more concrete, experiential and engaging.

## **What We Teach**

The National Curriculum entitlement is offered to all pupils at St Luke's School. In doing so, the school's curriculum is broad and has the capacity for depth in areas of learning that are most needed by our pupils as a result of their cognitive disabilities. In addition to developing functional skills in literacy and numeracy, at St Luke's PSD, Communication and Kinaesthesia form an integral part of our curriculum, in line with our vision for preparing our pupils for adulthood.

We believe in developing strengths and interests in order to build self-esteem and independence. Much of what our children are taught seeks to secure functional and practical skills. Over-learning in key areas supports the retention of knowledge and understanding at a level the child can access. A wide range of subjects are covered through carefully differentiated and age-appropriate teaching, making links across the curriculum.

Our curriculum includes work-related learning, experience of extra-curricular activities, a variety of trips and groups visiting school, as well as residential activity-focused opportunities, for each child.

## **Assessment**

At St Luke's we use StAPPS (St Luke's Assessing Pupil Progress System); a bespoke system that allows us to monitor the progress of our pupils relative to targets that are calculated based on national data of mainstream and special school pupils. We assess the acquisition of new skills and knowledge across the curriculum, focusing on PSD, Communication and Kinaesthesia and underpinned by literacy and numeracy.

StAPPS uses 'I Can' statements, which build up as points over the course of the year, identifying small increments as well as leaps in progress, and as such, it is able to capture pupil's spiky learning profiles. Assessments are updated regularly and analysed as part of a wider team, which allows both for the setting of challenging targets and for strategies to be put in place to maximise progress across the curriculum.

## **Qualifications**

We enable our pupils to gain appropriate, nationally recognised qualifications (including Entry level, BTECs, GCSEs and City and Guilds) that support our young people in developing pride, achieving results and to springboard from when at college and in adulthood.

## **Inclusion**

Inclusion is at the heart of everything that we do; we endeavour to include every child in all aspects of the curriculum. The curriculum is adapted to take into consideration the needs of each child within the school, and access to learning is further enhanced where needed through access to our sensory base and animal therapy. Additionally, there is access for all children to Pastoral Support Co-coordinator when needed, sometimes as a key worker. Where there is an identified need, children have access to a school counsellor or music therapist, alongside a range of other visiting professionals. All areas of the school are fully accessible to our pupils.

The school has achieved accreditation for the excellent provisions put in place for children with autism (awarded in 2015) and dyslexia (awarded in 2017), which reflect the effectiveness of our teaching practice.

# School Organisation

The school is currently arranged as follows:

- Lower School: Learning groups typically composed of children in years 3-6
- Middle School: Learning groups typically composed of children in years 7-9
- Upper School: Learning groups typically composed of children in years 10-11

For the most up-to-date information on the classes within each department, and the associated staff members, please visit our website:

[www.stlukes.herts.sch.uk](http://www.stlukes.herts.sch.uk)

## The School Day

The school day begins at 8:45, with children arriving either on local authority funded transport, or having been dropped off by parents or carers. The school day is divided up into three blocks, each of 1 hour and 45 minutes. Within these blocks, teachers are able to develop their own timetable, covering the curriculum in the way that best suits their class. At 3:00 children begin to get ready for transport home or collection, and leave school at around 3:15.

## Timetable

09.00 – 10.45	Block 1
10.45 – 11.00	Break time
11.00 – 12.30	Block 2
12.30 – 13.15	Lunch time
13.15 – 15.00	Block 3
15.00	Registration and Transport

# Admissions

All pupils who attend St Luke's need to have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). If you feel that your child's needs are not being met or require a change of provision at transition, you will need to speak with your child's SENCO or your child's SEN caseworker, who will be able to talk you through the process.

Entry to the school is acquired via Hertfordshire's SN Teams; St Luke's is not its own admissions authority. Other counties and London boroughs may apply to Hertfordshire's St Albans and Dacorum SN Team in seeking to place a child at St Luke's School

If your child is provisionally allocated a place at St Luke's, we will receive a letter detailing your child's proposed placement along with a copy of their EHCP. We then have to respond, stating whether we believe we can meet your child's needs and consequently if we are the right placement for your child. To allow us to make this decision we will endeavour to visit your child in their current setting to gather more information and to liaise with the SENCO/class teacher there.

Transitions to St Luke's are managed on an individual basis with the parents and both schools, with a personalised transition plan established to respond to the specific needs of the pupil, to ensure the best possible start for each child to life at St Luke's.

# Come and Look Around!

Please feel welcome to visit St Luke's to see if we are right for your child:

- Book on one of our monthly Open Mornings and tour the school
- Come to one of our whole school Friday assemblies at 2.15pm.
- And/or book a meeting to talk through your individual needs

## Monthly School Tour

With members of staff, parents and families are invited in small groups to tour the school to see a normal morning in class. These run each month, on the second Tuesday of the month. Please book at the school office.

## Friday Assemblies

Attending a Friday assembly will give you a real sense of the ethos of the school. This is a celebratory assembly with singing, awards and pupils' full participation. Great fun and you don't need to book - just turn up on a Friday afternoon for a 2.15pm start.

## Contact details



St Luke's School

Crouch Hall Lane

Redbourn

AL3 7ET

[www.bluetangerine.herts.sch.uk](http://www.bluetangerine.herts.sch.uk)

Tel: 01582 626727

Email: [admin@stlukes.herts.sch.uk](mailto:admin@stlukes.herts.sch.uk)