



# **Statement of Purpose**

**The Oaks Therapeutic School**

**June 2022**

## About Us and Our Purpose:

At The Oaks, Amberleigh Therapeutic School; we are committed to ensuring that the whole needs of the student are met. Meaning a whole team approach to the student is taken; with the education, therapy and care teams working together as a multi-disciplinary team (MDT). We pay close attention to the 'whole student' and their academic, vocational and emotional needs, which are addressed through a holistic therapeutic approach to teaching and learning. Our purpose is not only to increase their current and future academic and vocational chances and opportunities but also to develop and support their independence, life chances and their potential of a future enriched and rewarding.

## Vision: Who We Are;

The Oaks, Amberleigh Therapeutic School; is a modern and functional provision attached to a children's residential home in an old hotel setting, surrounded by greenery and freshness in Telford, Shropshire. We are a member of 'The Consortium for Therapeutic Communities' accredited by the Royal College of Psychiatrists. The school is managed, run and staffed by a highly experienced, qualified and dedicated staff team; experienced in both Therapeutic Communities Practice and Education. Our aim is to plan and apply an extremely individual, and tailored learning experience for all students. This is done through a highly differentiated academic and vocational curriculum setting which is based on the principle of a 'Stage not Age' approach to teaching, learning and curriculum planning. The intention for all students; is to be guided and supported to manage their barriers around their own learning so that they can engage and flourish in order to meet their full potential in an educational environment of unconditional, mutual and positive regard.

## What We Do;

Our mission, aim and purpose is to ensure that all students overcome their often deep rooted fears and negative experiences of school and re-frame them to one which is positive in nature so they are able to engage with their learning fully to make progress, enjoy learning and achieve relevant qualifications academically and vocationally. We link this closely to identifying choices for future careers and employment routes that they can take with them when it becomes time for them to transition and prepare for adulthood. This holistic person centred approach to education is informed by the therapeutic community approach and its adapted Good Lives Model. This is achieved through the highly important relationships that we grow and build, along with the dialogue and communication, which is nurtured between staff and students. Our Curriculum Aims are underpinned by the Good Lives Model (GLM) which is a strengths based model of intervention based on the principles of positive psychology. The GLM conceptualises that individuals are predisposed to seek a number of 'primary goods' (needs) which if achieved will increase their wellbeing. Primary goods are obtained by various means that are referred to as secondary 'goods' (means). For example, a primary good could be the sense of belonging and the secondary good is harmful sexual behaviour. The GLM identifies a range of primary needs to be met, with the assumption that young people are more likely to function well if they have access to these types of goods. However, when people lack the means or external support to achieve these types of goods they can use inappropriate means to ensure their needs are met. Our aim within the curriculum is to assist young people in gaining the skills, ability and support to meet their needs in a healthy and pro social way. In line with the Good Lives Model, the eight primary needs which are facilitated throughout our curriculum are:

- Having Fun
- Achieving
- Being My Own Person

- Having People in My Life
- Having a Purpose & Making a Difference
- Emotional Health
- Sexual Health
- Physical Health

This is supported through a therapeutic community culture which involves the school, the care and therapy teams working closely together for the growth of the individual student and the community itself by developing the social and independent skills that each student will need and use to cope in society once they reach adulthood. It is developed through its short twice daily meetings and further twice weekly extended community meetings which permeate school and home life. The Oaks aims to have a positive ethos based on the principles of a therapeutic community where respect and trust is based on open and shared values; staff act as positive role models and encourage supportive relationships where students feel safe and secure, listened to and involved in decision making. A natural extension of this becomes a sense of purpose surrounding teaching and learning and a student's subsequent engagement and the gradual valuing of their own learning.

Why we do it;

Many of the students who attend The Oaks, Amberleigh Therapeutic School have experienced chaotic and adverse childhood experiences (ACES) and the associated trauma and further disassociation, many if not all, are therefore hyper vigilant and struggle to regulate emotionally. Due to our current intake, students can join The Oaks at any key stage or year group throughout their Secondary and Post-16 education with varying experiences of being in and out of education and their length of placement is varying depending on a number of factors. It is our priority for them to be immersed in the most broad and balanced curriculum possible during their time with us and obtain skills, knowledge and meaningful accreditation that will enable them to progress onto the next stage of their lives – whether further education, employment or living fulfilling lives as citizens in their local community. Each subject of our Curriculum will have its own scheme of work for what we are going to teach and when we are going to teach it. However, it is important to note, that our curriculum is constantly changing and responding to new needs, current cultural capital and experiences over time.

Our Curriculum;

Through the transition process, we establish the correct class group for each young person and the pathway of learning they will embark on which will be based on previous information and qualifications, AIM3 and impact risk assessments, educational baselining and professional judgement encompassing a 'stage' not age approach.

Our Curriculum is a framework for setting out the aims of a programme of education, including the knowledge and skills to be gained at each stage (intent); for translating that framework over time into a structure and narrative, within an institutional context (implementation) and for evaluating what knowledge and skills students have gained against expectations (impact/achievement). The Oaks offers a personalised curriculum so that all students benefit from individualised learning underpinned by specialist approaches and collaborative multi professional working. The Pathways develop through Pathway 1, 2, 3 and 4 which students will study based on their individual learning needs, differentiated for each subject and consisting of early learning, non-accredited, accredited and/or vocational routes. Where appropriate, pathways incorporate accreditation routes from pre-entry, through entry level 1, 2 and 3, to Level 1 and 2 right up to GCSE grades 1-9.

The Oaks places a high value on academic achievement and inclusion and the curriculum is all-encompassing and encourages students to develop skills and interests in lifelong learning. We believe in helping students develop and achieve their potential by broadening their experiences and development of capabilities and skills. All students are encouraged to:

- Enjoy learning.
- Become confident and happy individuals who are proud of their identity and able to make healthy life choices.
- Become responsible citizens who get on well with others and engage with their community.
- Independent and capable individuals prepared for adulthood and with the skills for their personal and professional life.

Our curriculum is based on:

- Accredited Therapeutic Community Practice
- The individual stage and not the chronological age of each student
- Creativity, imagination and curiosity
- Engendering a love of reading for pleasure
- Vocational routes
- Qualifications based from entry level through to functional skills level 2 and GCSEs where it is deemed appropriate.

Special Educational Needs;

For students with an 'Education, Health and Care Plan', curriculum and targets will reflect the specified objectives within their plan. The Head Teacher is also the SENCo, and will regularly monitor EHCPs and chair the annual review. For those who arrive without an EHCP but have identified needs in the areas of Cognition & Learning; Social, Emotional and Mental Health; Communication & Interaction or Sensory & Physical Needs, we will explore this and use a range of assessments in house and access external advice as necessary to support an EHCP application if appropriate. Each teacher is supported in the individualised management of SEN amongst students.

School Staffing Arrangements;

The school has a dedicated Head Teacher with significant experience as a Teacher in SEN provision and personal background working with Looked after Children from diverse backgrounds and this role leads and drives the education provided by Amberleigh Care. It is important to note that the Head Teacher is also part of a Therapeutic Community management team, which comprises the Registered Manager for the care home and a Therapy Manager. This triad provides integrated oversight of practice and culture in all elements of the service.

A Deputy Head supports the Head Teacher with the responsibility for the day-to-day operational management and leadership of the school. The Deputy also retains a part time teaching role to allow role modelling with staff, that embeds collegiate working to the same task and to help strengthen relationships with the students.

Teaching staff are all qualified to varying degrees, all of whom have a proactive, enthusiastic, and creative approach to teaching and learning within this specialist environment. The Deputy Head takes full responsibility for the 'designated teacher role' and attends relevant meetings arranged for Looked after Children.

The Oaks, Amberleigh Therapeutic School, is an inclusive provision, highly successful at working with students of all academic ability and diverse backgrounds due to its unique approach. If you would like to learn more or just speak to us about what we offer - please get in contact. We would be pleased to talk to you.

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Manager/Teacher/Tutor	Current Role	Additional Skills	Additional Duties	Qualification Held
Natalie Dixon	Head Teacher	Pets As Therapy Coaching & Mentoring Educational Visits Coordinator Duke of Edinburgh Manager	DSL Prevent Lead SENCo ECT Tutor Fire Marshall JCQ - Head of Centre BTEC Quality Nominee BTEC Lead Invigilator	BSc (Hons) Psychology & Criminal Justice Studies (2:1) Graduate Training Programme in Primary Education (QTS) National Professional Qualification for Middle Leaders (NPQML) National Professional Qualification Senior Leadership (NPQSL) SWALLS: Leadership & Management
Fiona Conde	Deputy Head Teacher English Teacher	Forest School Leader Duke of Edinburgh Manager	DSL Deputy First Aider Designated LAC Teacher ECT Mentor Fire Marshall BTEC Lead Invigilator	BA (Hons) Primary Education with QTS (2:1) National Professional Qualification for Middle Leaders (NPQML)
Jodie Bond	Maths Teacher PE Teacher			Post Graduate Certificate in Teaching Physical Education (QTS) BA (Hons) Sport, Physical Education and Community Studies 2:1
Katrina Jones	Technology Teacher			HND Building Surveying BEd (Hons) Education Design & Technology NPQSL
Peta Vardy	PSHE & Creative Arts Teacher		SWEET lead. Bronze Art Award.	Bachelor of Arts Honours. Diploma in Higher Education. PGCE.

Manager/Teacher/Tutor	Current Role	Additional Skills	Additional Duties	Qualification Held
Molly Boulton	ICT & Humanities Teacher			BA Primary Education (QTS)
Juliana Vhondo	Science & Outdoor Learning Teacher			B.Sc Hons in Dental Technology Post Graduate Diploma (Post Compulsory Education in Science and Technology).
Emma Phillips	Careers Lead/Advisor  (Teacher at Golfa site)	Forest School Leader First Aider DofE Expedition Supervisor		BA in social inclusion (inclusive education) Level 5 Diploma in Education Qualified Teacher Learning and skills (QTLS) Level 3 in Forest School Leadership Level 6 Diploma in Career Guidance and Development Level 7 in Careers Leadership
Kate Dolan	School Administrator & Exams Officer		Fire Marshall	BA (Hons) Business Studies (2:2) Post Graduate Certificate Quantity Surveying and Commercial Management (Pass)

# AMBERLEIGH CARE



BALANCE



INTERDEPENDANCE



RESPONSIBILITY

CONTAINMENT



COMMUNICATION



RESPECT



ATTACHMENT



PARTICIPATION



PROCESS



RELATIONSHIPS