



Quality Protects Children Ltd
Acting as a good parent should!



Lawrence House School

Focusing on the Individual



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DfE Number: 340/6001



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2016/2017

Mission Statement

Combining quality education and care in a safe, calm, supportive and therapeutic environment in which every young person is encouraged to achieve their full potential and celebrate all achievements. We promote respect, responsibility and resilience.

Education with Lawrence House School

Situated in the Knowsley area of Merseyside, Lawrence House School (LHS) is a registered independent school offering education to young people living within care homes operated by Quality Protects Children.

LHS caters for young people aged between 11 and 18 years of age. We teach aspects of the national curriculum and provide opportunities to complete GCSEs in Maths and English, Functional Skills, AQA Unit Awards and ASDAN qualifications. Subjects we deliver include English, Mathematics, Science, ICT, PSHCE, History, Geography, Music, Religious Education, Child Development, Travel & Tourism, Physical Education, Art, Drama, Basic Spanish, Food and Design Technology, Psychology and Sociology.

Education takes place in the young person's home or at nearby local facilities (libraries, sport centres, colleges and cultural facilities.). We have a good working relationship with relevant community agencies and local schools and colleges. We can also offer a range of vocational courses and work experience which gives students the opportunities and experiences needed.

Aims and Ethos

Our over-riding objective is to maximise young people's academic achievement and personal development. We seek to instil the competencies of self-awareness, responsible decision making, social awareness and relationship management.

LHS proactively addresses the specific needs of young people in care by tailoring Personal Education Plans (PEPs) which meet the needs of the whole person by incorporating education, care and therapeutic services with support from external agencies.

LHS believes that every young person has a right to access education of the highest quality. By utilising relevant contexts and high quality resources we encourage students to use higher-order thinking and foster intellectual enquiry.

To ensure students have the knowledge and skills they need to succeed in school life and beyond, our curriculum has a strong focus on literacy, numeracy and life skills. The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development (SMSC) of our students is of the utmost importance and opportunities for SMSC development are embedded in all curriculum areas. We offer a broad range of cultural experiences to ensure students have an awareness and respect for diverse cultures, religions and genders.

At LHS we aim to make education an enjoyable experience by providing a welcoming school environment in which everybody is supported to achieve. We create an inclusive and nurturing atmosphere in the classroom that encourages positive social and academic development. Our students have a sense of belonging and ownership of their education.

LHS proactively addresses the specific needs of young people in care by tailoring Individual Education Plans (IEPs) to meet the needs of the whole person by incorporating education, care and therapeutic services with support from external agencies.

We strive to create a fun and stimulating timetable for each student whilst at the same time providing the therapeutic and nurturing environment. This approach is welcomed by the students who clearly enjoy the variety and the different styles of delivery.

LHS is a certified to deliver the following qualifications: OCR Functional Skills, AQA Unit Award Scheme Subjects and ASDAN Preparatory courses and Short courses. We also provide opportunities for our students to sit their GCSEs via internal tuition and external exam providers.

LHS staff members work within a framework where young people are supported to develop resilience and self-esteem and to improve their behaviours and attitudes so they overcome barriers to education and become independent learners.

Through our links and engagement with the Therapeutic Community we are committed to ensuring that the young people in our care, especially those with special educational needs and mental health needs receive behavioural support according to their needs.

Lawrence House School aims to assist and encourage each young person to return to mainstream schooling and/or to support their transition to independence.

Community of Communities

Lawrence House and Bluebell Cottage are Therapeutic Communities registered with the Royal College of Psychiatrist's Community of Communities (COC). This network brings together member Therapeutic Communities (TCs) in a systematic, standard-based, quality improvement process that incorporates self- and peer-review.

The following definition outlines the key principles of TCs and this underpins the LHS approach to all aspects of the Lawrence House and Bluebell TCs. A TC is "...a planned

environment which exploits the therapeutic value of social and group processes. It promotes equitable and democratic group-living in a varied, permissive but safe environment. Interpersonal and emotional issues are openly discussed and members can form trusting relationships. Mutual feedback helps members confront their problems and develop an awareness of interpersonal actions".¹

The LHS team work in partnership with Young People, Residential Care Staff, QPC's attached therapist and a broad range of relevant organisations to deliver and review policies and procedures in line with COC standards.

Working towards the COC standards ensures high staff engagement, comprehensive and quality based training and support with consistent management and maintenance. All of which are applied in a deliberate, planned and structured way.

Learning at LHS is not limited to the classroom but is a continuous process. Teachers and care staff encourage and promote numerous opportunities for young people to learn outside the classroom.

Multi-Agency Support

LHS has a strong commitment to the Child Centred Approach involving professionals from a diverse range of agencies and partner organisations.

Effective multi-agency work requires strong collaboration between partners. LHS maintains frequent communication with all of the professionals and schools relevant to our students.

We make extensive use of a wide range of partners and agencies for early intervention and to effectively motivate our pupils and improve their personal and educational outcomes. The collaboration between educational and residential professionals which occurs at LHS enables the effective tracking and monitoring of Young Peoples educational plans.

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Lawrence House School also has links with the Confederation of British Industry for support with careers and The Arch Sexual Health Clinic for outreach sex education.

Staff

LHS is staffed by an experienced, qualified education team and has access to QPC's Clinical Psychologist Dr Marshall. Dr Yehuda Marshall has working in mental health for over ten years, with extensive experience in treatment of children and adolescents with

mental health problems, ADHA and ASD, attachment and anxiety, PTSD, depression OCD and behavioural problems.

Our Education Coordinator, Fay Donnelly, is a qualified teacher (QTLS) with experience teaching in a range of educational settings. She attained a BSc in Forensic Science from the University of Bradford and her Post Graduate Certificate in Education from the University of Huddersfield. She has experience teaching students from diverse backgrounds and with a range of specific educational needs, SEBD and learning difficulties and one-to-one Mentoring to support young people with mental health issues. Fay also has training in CBT and a Certificate in Counselling Skills from the University of Huddersfield.

Fay's focus is on developing Education Resilience and students' intrinsic motivation for learning to assist in overcoming any barriers to educational achievement. She continually seeks to impart her passion and enthusiasm for learning to students by delivering engaging, challenging and inclusive teaching programs.

With a team of experienced and qualified teachers and teaching assistants all students have access to 1:1 tuition. Our staff deliver bespoke courses, including a varied and relevant curriculum designed to meet the individual needs of the young person. The tutors are multi-disciplinary, enabling them to bring differing strengths the classroom, creating a stimulating learning environment.

Links with parents and those acting in the role of parents

Regular reports are provided for the funding authority, the host authority and parents or those acting in the role of parents.

Parents, carers, social workers and other professionals are encouraged to visit and see the work we do. LHS provides regular feedback on student progress via meetings and student progress reports. School inspection reports are also provided to parents and those acting in the role of parents.

Admissions

School admission is based on the needs of the young person. Within the school we start by considering each individuals academic progress across the curriculum.

Within the first week of school tutors will determine the appropriate curriculum level for each student by analysing previous educational attainment, school reports and by providing initial literacy and numeracy assessments. This enables us to create an individual and differentiated curriculum and timetable tailored to the young person's needs.

Within 8 weeks of starting each young person will have a Cognitive Abilities Profile produced and undertake a Dynamic Assessment used to assess thinking and problem solving skills used to underpin access to education, daily life activities and social communication. We tailor each Personal Education Plan to students' specific strengths and weaknesses.

LHS operates on the Knowsley academic year calendar and our school day operates in line with the 'mainstream' academic model. We also deliver 52 week, summer and activity programs for individual students.

Our full admission policy is available on request.

Safeguarding

LHS takes its statutory responsibility to protect our pupils very seriously. LHS has its own safeguarding policy, a copy of which is available on request.

Equality and Diversity

QPC has been awarded the Navajo Merseyside Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (LGBT) Friendly Charter Mark. This reflects the positive steps QPC takes to welcome and encompass LGBT issues within our organisation. QPC proactively promotes equality throughout our organisation and the wider community.

QPC and LHS have links to local religious organisations and provide prayer facilities for members of our organisation.

The QPC and LHS staff team reflects our diversity commitments.

'Education is the best provision for the journey into adult life' Aristotle

Contact Details

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References

¹Haigh R. and Worrall A. (2002), In: Community of Communities: Service Standards for Therapeutic Communities, 7th Edition, 2013, Royal College of Psychiatrists