

Silver Birch at Hunslet Moor Primary School



Intent

Silver Birch is a classroom specifically set up to support and educate children with complex communication needs. These children may either have a confirmed diagnosis or on the pathway to diagnosis. It is the school's vision that pupils attending Silver Birch are still part of a thriving school community whilst receiving specialist support. We aim to enable each child to reach their full potential through the learning opportunities provided. We want our children to develop an 'I can do' attitude, to feel safe, secure, feel supported and experience success.

The set up of Silver Birch was to enable our learners to be successful within a low arousal space. It has been designed with the needs of children with Autism in mind. The children are supported by a Teacher and also SEND TAs. The provision allows children to explore areas of provision independently whilst being delivered high quality, teacher led teaching to ensure they are making progress in their learning.

Each child's day is different and there is a bespoke timetable in place to support the children at an individual level. There are ample opportunities for the children to access the mainstream classroom throughout the week.

Implementation

The curriculum in Silver Birch has been designed to meet the needs of primary aged children who will require a significantly differentiated curriculum. We allow the child's interest to lead the planning whilst focussing on a skills based curriculum, enabling children of different ages and abilities to be successful.

The environment has been developed using muted and neutral colour. The doors leading to and from the classroom are secure and there is a small outside area secured by a fence which the children can access throughout the day. Within the classroom, there is a SafeSpace set up to offer a quiet sensory area, this can be closed off from the rest of the room allowing time and space from the rest of the children with the padded mattress within to offer comfort for the children.

The children are assessed using BSquared. This assessment is used to inform the planning and activities for the children. They are assessed using the Progression Steps to focus on their core learning and also using the Autism strands to support their development. These objectives are used to inform the targets on their individual SEND plans.

Impact

The impact of Silver Birch can be seen through the progress of the children in many areas of their learning. For some children this may be used to aid their journey into specialist provision and for others it is used to support their ability to manage their needs throughout the school day.