

Dorset's Disability Charity

**Diverse Abilities**

Langside School

# Langside School Prospectus

**A specialist school for pupils with multiple learning disabilities and complex medical needs**







# CONTENTS

**4 - Welcome to Langside**

**5 - Our vision and mission**

**6 - We are unique**

**7 - The curriculum**

**8 - Therapy and nursing**

**10 - Ofsted**

**11 - What our families say**

**12 - Further information**

**13 - A lifetime partner**





# WELCOME TO LANGSIDE SCHOOL

As principal of Langside School I would like to thank you for taking the time to find out about our school and how we educate and care for children.

Langside is a charity run specialist school, part of Diverse Abilities, located centrally between Poole and Bournemouth, with very good access to wider Dorset.

The school currently caters for up to 28 pupils with profound and multiple learning difficulties between the ages of 30 months and 19. We provide the facilities and staff to support children that have a diverse educational need.

Langside School implements a personalised curriculum to meet the needs of all learners. The key learning areas are communication; cognitive skills; physical development; environmental control technology (ECT) and personal, social and emotional wellbeing (self-help and self-advocacy).

We are very lucky to employ forward thinking and dedicated staff, who develop their practise for the needs of the children. With access to specialist technology and onsite health professionals, we aim to maximise the potential of all children.

I hope you find this prospectus useful and that you will want to find out more regarding Langside School. Choosing the right school for your child can be a daunting task and like you, we want the best for your child.

If you wish to find out more or discuss your child's needs in more detail, you are more than welcome to come in for a tour and see how Langside can make a such a difference to your child and your family's life.

We hope to hear from you soon.



**Jonathan Seaward**  
Principal



# OUR VISION

**To be a centre of excellence for children and young people with complex educational needs.**

# OUR AIM

**Support students to develop their personalities in a warm and stimulating environment.**

**Provide students with access to a range of experiences in which to fully develop their educational potential.**

**Provide a holistic approach to learning by integrating a range of therapies with sensory educational strategies and working closely with other agencies.**

## WE ARE UNIQUE

**Everyone at Diverse Abilities knows that Langside is special but we also have proof!**

Commissioned research conducted for the charity into Langside's positioning has found that it is utterly unique. There is no other school exactly like Langside in the whole of the UK, so what we offer is truly special.

Langside is the only charity school that provides education for children with both profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) plus physical and medical conditions.

We provide a full sensory and therapeutic approach to meeting the needs of the pupils which helps them to achieve their full potential.

Langside believes in a multidisciplinary approach to providing education and therapy support. Investment in therapy is costly, but the ethos of the school is that our children deserve the best and therefore we provide the top offer possible. No other special school locally provides this level of support.

The nursing provision that the school provides is second to none. Providing health and medical care, paediatric and dietician clinics on-site, ensures that pupils do not have to miss a morning or afternoon at school by attending appointments, ensuring their education is not compromised.



## THE CURRICULUM

### ImPACTS

The school adopts the ImPACTS assessment and curriculum model. ImPACTS offers a specialised curriculum in five key skill areas: communication, cognition, environmental control technology, personal social and emotional wellbeing and physical skills (gross and fine motor).

The curriculum also recognises and values learning via daily routines. The development of each key skill includes multi-disciplinary working and the school uses the expertise of relevant professionals to enhance the content and accuracy of the assessments and curriculum delivery.

The detailed approach enables us to collate meaningful data that highlights progress and alerts the multi-disciplinary team to early signs of regression. It also offers exciting approaches to learning through ensuring breadth and balance and inclusion is at its heart.

### Aims of the curriculum

- ✓ To provide an effective learning environment where, through assessment, a detailed and shared understanding of a learner's needs is known by all the professionals from education and therapy
- ✓ To provide a consistently responsive environment within which every learner's ability to communicate is respected, responded to and developed
- ✓ To provide throughout the day a range of consistent routines and meaningful opportunities that allow learners to develop intentionality and exercise control of their learning environment
- ✓ To provide learning opportunities through broad range of varied experiences.



# THERAPY AND NURSING

All the therapy and nursing provision is based at school so we can arrange the therapy sessions as a fundamental part of the school day. Each student has an assessment which form the basis of their individual plans for therapy.

## Physiotherapy

Langside has a team of highly experienced qualified physiotherapists plus trained assistants. The physiotherapists are available throughout the school day to assess pupils and co-ordinate personalised programmes which will enable them to maximise their learning potential.

Assessments are made for postural care, physiotherapy activity/exercise programmes and equipment such as standing frames and walking aids. The physiotherapists devise and supervise the management of pupil's individual programmes including hydrotherapy, ensuring therapeutic activities are integrated into daily classroom activities.

The physiotherapists maintain close liaison with health, social care and educational colleagues to ensure continuity of quality care. The physiotherapists also organise and attend with pupils' and their parents, school-based clinics including orthopaedics and orthotics.

## Speech and Language Therapy

The Langside speech and language therapy team support children in class and individually as required. They are involved in the assessment of a child from the earliest stage of admission to school, so there is no need to make a referral for speech and language therapy. The team contributes regularly into the child's individual education plan.

The therapists have access to a range of equipment designed to stimulate the child with physical and profound learning needs and delivers programs to enable the child to work towards even the smallest level of communicative independence.

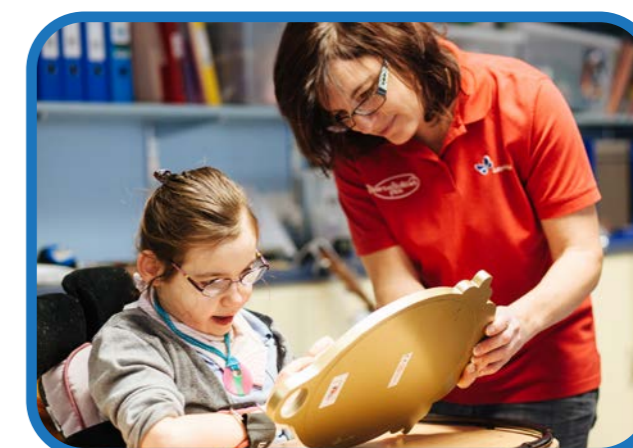
The Langside speech and language therapy team works to develop feeding wherever appropriate; for children who are unable to progress with oral feeding, the team will assist with desensitisation programmes and oral hygiene programmes. Developing eating and drinking skills and maintaining oral health are seen as integral parts of the school curriculum at the school.

## Nursing

Langside nurses are very aware that every child is part of a family, and to support the individual child we must support the wider family. To that end a lot of their work is aimed at reducing the stress and workload for families and providing the right support and advice when and where it's needed.

All care, including the administration of medicines is provided under the direct supervision of registered nurses. Experienced registered nurses are always on site during school hours and nursing support is provided for all visits outside the school, thus ensuring that expertise is brought to the child, rather than the child missing out on activities and experiences due to health needs. Because the same team of nurse's work with the pupils every day, they get to know children.

To contribute to the further development of knowledge and care for children with complex needs our team also participate in local clinical practice development groups.





## Occupational Therapy

Highly experienced, qualified occupational therapists and trained therapy assistants work closely to ensure seamless delivery of occupational therapy support.

Occupational therapists recognise that physical and sensory difficulties can be barriers to learning and work alongside teachers using the IMPACTS assessments to enable pupils to function to their optimum ability.

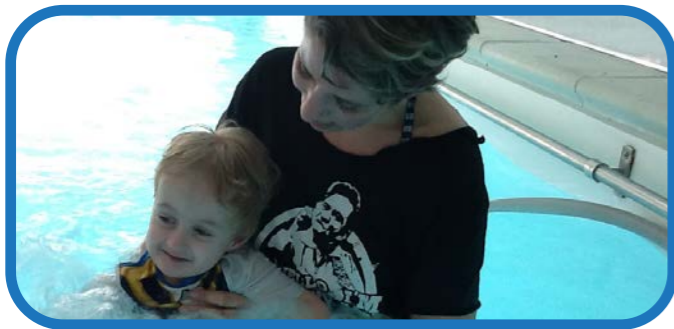
Occupational therapists are involved in:

- ✓ postural seating in class, ensuring pupils have seating to meet their postural and functional needs
- ✓ ensuring moving and handling of children is risk assessed, safe and appropriate to the child and the activity
- ✓ assessing a child's sensory integration needs and working with class staff to adapt environments and programmes to meet those needs
- ✓ assessing and promoting hand function, providing hand programmes to develop skills where appropriate or hand stretches and splints where required
- ✓ providing advice and support in daily living activities as appropriate
- ✓ liaison with outside agencies, including joint assessments to ensure continuity of care.

## Music

In addition, Langside offers timetabled whole class and individual music therapy sessions to all pupils.

Music has proven to be one of the top motivators for children with a disability, whether using instruments or recorded music. Music is also a rich way to connect with a child and deepen the bond, but possibly more importantly for our children - it's non-verbal.



## OFSTED

Ofsted is the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. They inspect and regulate services that care for children and young people, and services providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

We get regular visits from Ofsted and you can view our latest report on our website.

### Testimonials from Ofsted

"Together with your leadership team, you work with complete focus and a determination that all will be done to secure the very best outcomes for pupils. You are ambitious for the school and for pupils and have very high expectations."

"Staff respond with enthusiasm by looking for creative solutions to help pupils move forward."

"Health, therapeutic and education staff work closely together and they patiently look for and encourage the smallest improvements. As a result, the school is a very positive place to be, full of celebration of what pupils can do and their achievements."

"Staff are united in their belief that all pupils who attend the school deserve a voice and to have some control over their lives. Whenever possible throughout the day, staff give pupils choices, showing them that they are valued and listened to. As a result, pupils are happy and secure in school and they make good progress."

"Parents and carers are delighted with the care and support given not only to pupils but also to families. Staff are particularly sensitive in their communications with parents, ensuring that there is a constant dialogue between school and home."

## WHAT OUR FAMILIES SAY

A poem written by a parent whose son graduated from Langside...

### A Parent's Thanks

*Bringing up a child for anyone is not an easy task*

*But add to that a disability and that's quite a different ask*

*Not knowing what the future holds or the challenges that lie ahead*

*Can leave you feeling daunted with a foreboding sense of dread*

*But then you discover Langside this bastion of hope*

*And suddenly you're not alone they are there to help you cope*

*For 17 years this place has been a haven for our son*

*It's amazing it's been that long where have the years all gone*

*All a parent ever wants is the best for their little one*

*Langside has achieved this in everything they've done*

*No Ofsted report or inspection will ever begin to show*

*The investment in the children and how you help them grow*

*So from parents who have come through and want to say a big thank you*

*Please for future generations keep doing exactly what you do.*

**Langside is a centre of excellence for children. I couldn't ask for a better place for my child to be. Every single member of staff shows remarkable empathy, cares for my child and totally dedicates themselves to my child and the whole family.**

**The progress has been remarkable, above and beyond anything I could have ever wished and hoped for.**

**Langside has felt like family since day one of my daughter starting 15 years ago. I wouldn't know where we would be without them.**

**As soon as we went to Langside it was like a big family, we felt right at home. Our son is so happy when he is at the school, full of smiles.**

## FURTHER INFORMATION

### Admission arrangements

Parents can express their preference for a place at Langside by contacting the school and their respective local authority. Children are currently placed by Poole, Bournemouth and Dorset local authorities. All 'new' parents are invited to visit us with their children and spend time together in school with their new class and the school staff.

### Safeguarding Statement

Langside School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

We have policies and procedures in place that contribute to our safeguarding commitment, including our Safeguarding Policy which can be viewed in the policies section of our website.

Sometimes we may need to share information and work in partnership with other agencies when there are concerns about a child's welfare. We will ensure that our concerns about our pupils are discussed with his/her parents/carers first unless we have reason to believe that such a move would be contrary to the child's welfare.

We actively support the Government's Prevent Agenda to counter radicalism and extremism.





# LIFETIME PARTNER FOR YOUR CHILD

Diverse Abilities also offer further services for your child as they grow and develop. Here are other services that may be available to you:

**SHORT BREAKS DURING THE DAY, OVERNIGHT AND DURING THE WEEKENDS AT OUR RESPITE HOME**

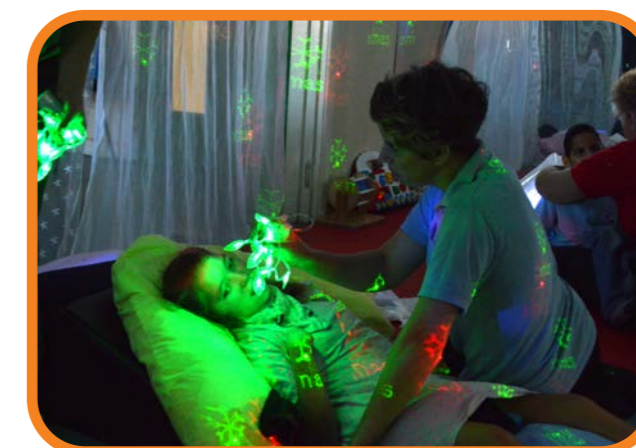
**HOLIDAY, WEEKEND AND AFTERSCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

**PRACTICAL SUPPORT IN THE HOME AND OUT IN THE LOCAL COMMUNITY**

**SUPPORTED LIVING PROVIDING 24/7 CARE IN THE HOME AND IN THE COMMUNITY**

**A CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE FOR ADULTS, PROVIDING A PLACE TO UNDERTAKE A RANGE OF ACTIVITIES**

**AN ADVICE TEAM PROVIDING INFORMATION ON BENEFITS, WILLS, LASTING POWER OF ATTORNEYS AND MORE**





Dorset's Disability Charity  
**DiverseAbilities**  
Langside School



**Langside School**

Langside Avenue  
Wallisdown  
Poole  
BH12 5BN

**01202 518635**  
**info@langsideschool.org.uk**  
**www.diverseabilities.org.uk**

Follow Diverse Abilities



Registered Charity No. 282197