



Crookhey Hall
School





Thank you so much for your interest in our school.
I'm Lauren and I have the privilege of leading the team here at Crookhey Hall.

The first thing that visitors to the school remark upon is the impressive school building and beautiful grounds. It certainly doesn't feel like your average school. You might even find one of our hawks flying around the main hall!

Within our awe inspiring 17 acres of land, we are able to offer our children the widest possible range of activities and opportunities to help them flourish and achieve their potential. From motor mechanics and plumbing to animal husbandry, horticulture and hair and beauty, the range of options is vast and varied.

My team are determined to help every child who comes through the door achieve success. The staff build a great rapport with children both within the classroom, and through the variety of other activities offered by the school. With small class sizes and additional nurture groups we can tailor personalised support to help each child make progress at their own pace.

We are delighted that 100 per cent of students who stay with us go on to further education, apprenticeships or university - with many exceeding their own expectations. It always gives me great pride to see former students returning to the school to share their own stories of success to inspire our younger pupils.

I hope this brochure will give you an overview of what life is like here at Crookhey Hall. If you'd like to come and visit us and see our students in action, then we'd be delighted to welcome you.

Lauren Wright
Head Teacher
Crookhey Hall School

Welcome to Crookhey Hall



Personalised Support

Children come to us with a range of complex needs and challenging personal experiences. We take time to understand their unique situations so that we can identify gaps in their learning and development and provide tailored support to address them. Our staff work very much as a team to develop detailed pen profiles of each child, so that we can tailor classes that take into account the individual needs, interests and circumstances of each child. We set ambitious yet realistic targets, which actively support the academic and personal progress of each child.

Relevant Education

For many of our children, experiences within mainstream school will have adversely affected their self-confidence within the classroom. We work hard to rebuild this by developing a timetable that includes plenty of outdoor learning and offsite activities. During morning sessions, pupils take part in classroom-based learning and in the afternoon you'll find them exploring opportunities outside. We are fortunate to have extensive grounds that includes space for animals, a horticultural area, workshops and woodland. We often find that as children gain skills and confidence in some of the more vocational activities, their academic performance also improves.

Collaborative Support

Through daily communication with parents and carers, we involve families in every detail of their children's education. Having constant contact ensures a greater continuity of care at home and at school, and means we can support families immediately if specific issues arise. Extending help outside the classroom is vital for our children, because we know that when life at home is stable, children do much better in school. To help us, we have a family liaison/pastoral coordinator who often visits families and children and can help to address underlying issues that are holding children back. Our family liaison/pastoral coordinator often goes to extraordinary lengths to engage a child in their education and even arranges home tutoring to help children transition back into school life after a period of absence.

Teacher and Students

The great relationship between students and teachers is the foundation of everything we do. As a teaching staff, we take time to get to know every child and share information so we know how to positively interact with each individual. During breakfast and lunchtime, students and teachers eat together and have time to chat about much broader issues than just school. You'll also find teachers playing games with children during their breaks and having fun together on our weekly reward trips. Through these activities, the children know we are interested in them as individuals and not just in their educational performance.



Class Sizes

Each class has no more than eight children supported by a teacher and teaching assistant, so children benefit from very personalised support. We encourage individual learning, group work and plenty of outdoor education to help children gain a whole variety of skills as they progress academically. Some of our students really struggle to focus within a classroom and benefit from the focused support provided by our Nurture Groups. We also have a number of students who are high achievers and we provide targeted interventions to ensure they reach their full potential.

Nurture Groups

Many of our children are particularly vulnerable and have not developed at the same social or emotional pace as their peers. These children benefit from the more focused curriculum provided by a dedicated member of staff in one of our lower school Nurture Groups. The majority of our younger children participate in a Nurture Group when they start at Crookhey Hall as it allows us to support the transition from any previous setting or a return to education after a period of absence in a way that is supportive and personalised. All children benefit from the same varied curriculum and vocational opportunities and we make sure to help children progress at a pace that is right for them.

Integrated Support

Our children generally follow the main curriculum during the morning and then choose from a wide variety of outdoor learning options in the afternoon. We also have a school counsellor, educational psychologist and speech and language therapist who provide one-to-one support for individual children. Our therapists work closely with classroom teachers and run regular training sessions for the staff team to ensure there is continuity of care across the board.

Outdoor Learning

The outdoor learning opportunities at Crookhey Hall are vast. With 17 acres, we have plenty of room for animals, including: dogs, chickens, pheasants, a rabbit, a lizard and a hawk! Children love the sense of responsibility that comes with looking after the animals and gain qualifications in animal husbandry at the same time. We also benefit from an extensive horticulture area and the children love to see the vegetables they have grown on their dinner plates. At Christmas, the children put their handicraft skills to good use in making items, such as hanging baskets, that can be sold to raise funds for the school. The children gain a real sense of achievement from seeing their hard work appreciated by the local community.



Primary Education

Crookhey Hall is registered to enrol children from the age of ten, so for Key Stage 2 pupils, we develop individual educational plans for each child, using the National Curriculum for English, maths, science, computer science, history, geography, personal, social and health education (PSHE), religious education, PE, art and design and technology. Every child's plan will be unique and we set targets and review progress on a regular basis. Alongside the National Curriculum subjects, we also schedule opportunities to develop life skills, outdoor learning and get children involved in vocational activities such as animal care and horticulture.

Secondary School Education

As children progress, they'll continue to work through the core curriculum whilst pursuing their individual talents and interests. Alongside their academic studies, our students will still take part in PE, life skills, outdoor learning, PSHE and a range of vocational options. When children reach Year 10, our dedicated 14-19 coordinator will encourage them to consider which study options will help them progress toward their chosen career.

Qualifications

We are fortunate enough to have outstanding facilities on site where we can offer children the widest possible range of qualification options including: AQA Unit Awards, Entry Level Certificates, Functional Skills, BTEC, City and Guilds and GCSEs. Our onsite facilities are second to none and the children can get hands on experience and qualifications in a whole range of subjects including hair and beauty, plumbing, joinery, catering, motor mechanics, animal welfare and horticulture.

Further Education

We are delighted that 100 per cent of the children who study with us to the age of 16 go on to further education, be it to pursue a college course, an apprenticeship or to university. As they approach the end of their time at Crookhey Hall, we prepare our children well for the next stage of their life, by accompanying them to careers fairs, taking them for taster days at local colleges and conducting mock interviews. Transitioning from Crookhey Hall is a big step, so we help children to make the adjustment by accompanying them on college visits, and even arranging for a staggered transition on to their chosen college course. We have exceptionally good links with a variety of local colleges and work closely with college staff to ensure that any additional needs our students may have are taken into consideration.



School Participation

All our children have a voice within the school and through regular school council meetings, they have the opportunity to shape the way the school is run. Democratically selected students from every class join the council, which is chaired by one of the more senior students. Through the council, all pupils can raise concerns and questions. The School Council has been instrumental in helping to develop a new school uniform, revising the menu and deciding on what activities to do on a Friday afternoon. This is a great opportunity not only for the children to take responsibility for their school, but to help them participate in debates, discussions and compromise. We also have a buddy system whereby our older students support younger students as they settle in.

Behaviour

Our clear and consistent approach to managing behaviour means that children understand what is expected of them and are encouraged to take responsibility for their actions. Each child has a positive handling plan which helps staff to anticipate when a child is feeling anxious or stressed, providing ways to intervene to resolve the situation. If children are feeling stressed, then the grounds provide an expanse of peace and solitude where they can unwind. Our visiting dogs are also very popular and students often take them for a walk with staff when they need to relax. One of the dogs (Archie) is a trained therapy dog and the pupils really benefit from their interactions with him.

Celebrate Achievement

We love to celebrate the progress our children make. Each week we take time during assembly to recognise the student of the week and the child who has made the most progress. Children who meet their behaviour targets each week also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of curriculum enrichment activities on a Friday afternoon, which include anything from going swimming and rock climbing to mountain biking or cooking. Children who have made significant progress can also enjoy a special breakfast of their choice, further supporting the school's reward and incentive system that is linked to effort and positive behaviour.

Community Participation

We strive to help our children to understand the important role they have within the school community and further afield. We regularly take the children on trips out of school to support their learning and to help develop their social skills. We show the children how to use public transport and encourage them to buy tickets and read the timetables for themselves. Within the school itself, we have invited parents to come and use our hair and beauty salon facilities and will soon be extending the opportunity to the wider community.

Life Skills

We firmly believe that success is not just measured by academic performance. Our aim is to help our young people to develop into rounded individuals who can make good decisions about their future. We build the teaching of life skills into everything we do. As they explore a variety of opportunities and discover their individual gifts and talents, we find our children's self-esteem and self-confidence blossoms which, in turn, benefits other aspects of their learning too. We help to bolster this by giving children the opportunity to participate in a whole range of activities that will stretch their skills. We are also planning to take the children on some outward bound activity holidays in the near future.

James Garnett is a confident young man embarking on a football career at the Bolton Wanderers Academy. As he leads a small group in a training session at Crookhey Hall, he is calm and in control.

The maturity and professionalism James displays couldn't be further from the attitude he arrived at Crookhey Hall with. Before becoming part of the Crookhey Hall family in Year 9, James had been to five different high schools. He'd not settled at any and had become an angry young man who frequently displayed outbursts of violence.

Focused Support

"Initially I thought I needed to be naughty to try and get the attention to get the help I needed," remembers James. Over time, James saw that the team at Crookhey Hall were on his side and had a desire not just to see him do well in his studies, but to succeed in life.

"If something was going on at home or at school then I knew if I came to school then there'd be a teacher there who I could talk to who would understand," remembers James. "They're patient with you, so if you don't get things at first they'll try and work round things. They have time for you and they have faith in you."

Fresh Opportunity

James's self-esteem was at rock bottom when he began at Crookhey Hall. He was wary of trying anything new and was full of frustration. Through the kind persistence of his teachers, James began to believe in himself and develop techniques to cope when things didn't go his way.

Armed with these skills, James has been able to secure GCSEs in maths, English and science. He also displayed determination and commitment to secure a place at the Bolton Wanderers Academy. Whatever the future holds, James is well prepared to cope.

"It's a big turnaround for me. Crookhey Hall really helped me. We've did one to one interviews for jobs and learnt how to get on with other people you don't like," says James. "If I didn't go to Crookhey Hall I'd be going down the wrong path like some of my mates."



“When we first came to look around Crookhey Hall, Dale looked and went ‘wow- it’s big!’” remembers Dale’s mum, Colleen Whalley. “A few weeks later I could see the difference. He was doing more and he was happy.”

Dale struggled to cope within mainstream school. He was bullied and frequently got into fights, which all led to a vicious circle of stress and anxiety. As he fell further and further behind both academically and socially, the knock on impact was felt by his concerned family too.

Complete Support

The team of teachers and support staff at Crookhey Hall focus not just on developing the academic skills of students, but enabling them to become rounded individuals who can cope with all that life throws at them. Staff worked hard to devise a very focused and personalised timetable of support that would help Dale to express himself and integrate into a range of activities at the school. Their work has work certainly paid off.

“Before he went to Crookhey Hall, he used to shut himself out and isolate himself in his bedroom,” says Dale’s sister, Rebecca. “He wouldn’t go out with his friends, but now he wants to do things as a family. He’s grown into a young man.”

“We’ve seen a big change in Dale since starting at Crookhey Hall,” confirms Colleen. “He’s more happy, he doesn’t stress as much and get angry. He talks to us more. Before I was on edge all the time, but now I’m made up with what the school have done for my son.”

Dale is considering the full range of options and opportunities available to him for the future. Dale and his family are able to think positively about their lives and all that lies in store for them.



Lauren Wright

Lauren is an experienced teacher who has worked with children who have social, emotional and mental health needs throughout her career. During her time with the Acorn Group, Lauren has supported and driven outstanding OFSTED outcomes and has helped other schools within the Acorn Group to achieve similar status.

With an English degree background, a National SENCo Award and an MA in Education, Lauren strives to promote literacy across the school as the key to success in both the academic and vocational curriculum Crookhey Hall has to offer.



Lauren firmly believes that every child has the ability to achieve their potential, regardless of their starting point. This relentless determination is a key component of the ethos at Crookhey Hall and it is one that Lauren shares with the rest of her staff.

Crookhey Hall at a Glance

How old are the children at Crookhey Hall?

We support up to 74 boys and girls between the ages of 10-18.

How long are the school terms?

We follow the regular 38-week school calendar.

What special needs do children at Crookhey Hall have?

The school supports children who have a wide range of complex social, emotional and mental health issues.

How far do children travel to attend?

Our catchment stretches to surrounding region, including local authorities within an hour from the school.

What extra support is provided?

The work of our highly-skilled classroom teachers is supplemented by a wider team including a family liaison/pastoral coordinator, speech and language therapist, educational psychologist and counsellors who work on an individual basis to support the children.

What facilities are available onsite?

Crookhey Hall is set in an impressive Victorian mansion set within 17 acres of grounds in the heart of the Lancashire's countryside. As well as well-equipped classrooms, the school boasts extensive facilities for vocational learning including horticulture, motor mechanics, construction and hair and beauty.

How to get in touch

If you are interested in visiting Crookhey Hall, or finding out more about the support we provide, please call 01524 792618 or email reception@crookheyhallschool.co.uk



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