



Woodlands  
School

Candidate Information

*'Together Everyone Achieves'*

## General Information



Woodlands is an outstanding special school for students aged 2—19. Our curriculum encompasses all Key Stages from EYFS to KS5. Our pupils have severe learning difficulties, autistic spectrum disorders and profound and multiple learning difficulties. We are an ethos and values driven school that places the utmost importance on personalising the curriculum to ensure that when our students leave us they are fully prepared to take their next steps as independently and successfully as possible. We are a school that uses a total communication approach with a strong culture of communication for all.

We have just installed a new early years playground and have plans to further extend our provision with a new sensory building project.

The Headteacher is supported by an experienced, proactive and capable governing body. Parents, staff and therapists work closely together in the best interests of the children to ensure that every child can be the best that they can be. Pupils are happy to come to school and achieve up to and beyond expectation. It is an exciting and rewarding place to be!

If you have the talents and desire to work in a school with this philosophy, then please do consider applying for a post.



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# School Vision Statement

At Woodlands we:

- Recognise and meet the **individual** needs and **potential** of every pupil, in all aspects of life and learning, through a **professional and caring approach**.
- Allow pupils to **develop confidence** through a range of activities in a **safe environment**, where everyone is treated with **respect**.
- Build strong supportive teams, by **working together** with parents and health professionals, and so provide a **holistic approach** to learning.

All of which ensures that **Woodlands** is a **happy, motivating, welcoming and challenging** learning environment for all.

Underpinning the school's aims is a fundamental goal to be an effective and sustained school which encourages every child to achieve and be the best they can be. This is reflected in the school's strap line and logo, '**Together Everyone Achieves**'

The school is characterised by the promotion of learning through a personalised curriculum.



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## Leadership Team Vision

For Woodlands School to be recognised as an innovative Centre of Excellence for communication, providing outstanding, personalised opportunities for all pupils to engage with and participate in the world around them.

To create a learning community where high aspirations and expectations for both pupils and staff are advocated and supported.

To establish and foster strong, respectful, trusting relationships with pupils, their families and their carers.

To offer outstanding SEN training, support and partnership for professionals, colleagues and parents.

To remain at the forefront of SEN developments locally, regionally, nationally and internationally.



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# The Wider School Community



## General Information:

Woodlands School is located in a quiet area of Leatherhead, next to a small recreation ground and wooded area enhancing the feeling of space and of being in the countryside.

Both departments have outside areas designed to challenge pupils with the added benefit of our newly opened EYFS sensory area.

We have a small swimming / hydrotherapy pool which is timetabled for use by all classes. Older and more competent swimmers have their lessons at a local leisure centre.

Woodlands draws pupils widely from across Surrey.

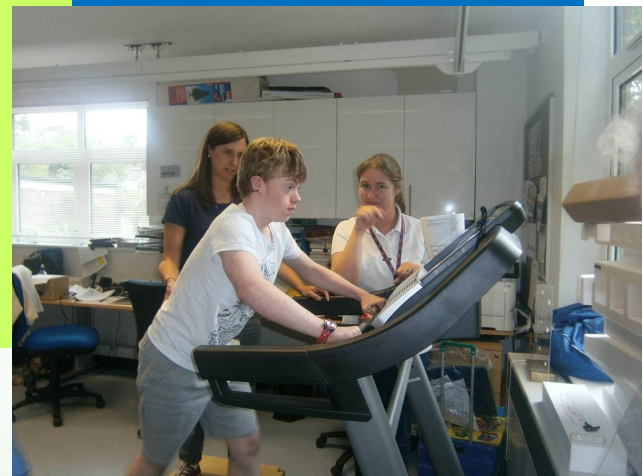
## Multi Disciplinary Working:

We have a strong multi professional team approach in partnership with Central Surrey Health who provide our nursing and therapy support. Clinics such as orthotics, wheelchair and paediatricians appointments are held at the school.

The outstanding work of our nursing and therapy team was recognised by their achievement of the CSH Team of the Year Award in July 2015 together with 2 individual awards for excellence.

They have also set up a lunchtime running club for pupils to promote fitness.

Multi professional team meetings are held with parents prior to any child joining the school.



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# The Wider School Community

## Accessing the local community:

We have strong links with the local community and currently our 3 minibuses and caddy are well used in transporting groups to a range of activities in the local area.

Leatherhead town centre is about 20 minutes walk from school and the route provides good opportunities for practicing road safety skills.

## Friends of Woodlands:

An active Friends of Woodlands group organises events and raises money to support the school.

We hold the Leading Partnership with Parents Award (LPPA) and run coffee mornings each half term to promote this. Our parent support advisor is proactive in her work with parents and families.

## SPAN:

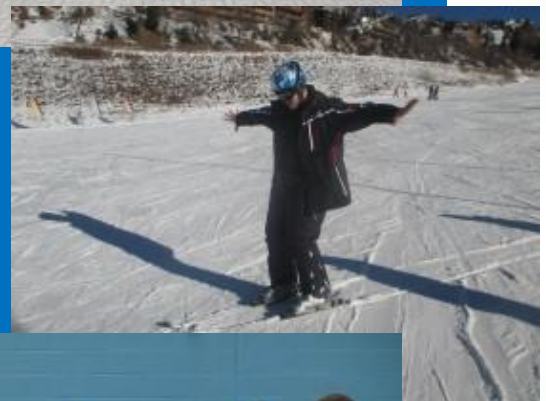
We are active members of SPAN, (Surrey's SLD, PMLD, ASD, Network) which facilitates training, professional debate and opportunities for cross school moderation and support.

## Enhancing our offer:

Our pupils participate in the Surrey Special Schools' Ski Trip, Special Schools' Prom and Sports Events to broaden their experiences.

## After School Offer:

After school clubs provide extra-curricular opportunities and informal time with friends.



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## Music Therapy:

Music Therapy is provided to identified individuals and small groups through Key Changes.

## Vocational Learning:

Long standing links with Dorking and Leatherhead Gymnastics Club, RDA, Freewheelers Theatre Company, Local Leisure Centres and NESCOL college provide stimulating and realistic opportunities for vocational learning.

## Our Signing Choir:

Our signing choir is growing in confidence and perform at school assemblies and fairs.

## Creative Arts:

We have strong links with theatre and music groups who visit the school and encourage all of our pupils and staff to participate in the performance.

These give staff and pupils the confidence to produce Christmas performances which are increasingly ambitious and professional as well as being great fun.

## Spotlight on Woodlands!:

We produce a newsletter each half term—"Spotlight". Do please read some issues on the school website as they give a real flavour of life at Woodlands.



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# The Wider School Community



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At Woodlands we truly believe that “Together Everyone Achieves” and all new members of staff follow a comprehensive induction programme including safeguarding and manual handling to welcome and support them into their new role. As appropriate, training is also provided in more specific areas such as Makaton, MAPA, MSI, pool safety, TEACHH and PODD. In addition, we have a proven track record of supporting and developing staff at all stages in their career:

- Apprentices
- Support to undertake NVQ L3 qualifications to aid promotion to a more senior role.
- Senior classroom assistants supported to achieve teaching qualifications.
- NQTs and new teachers successfully achieving QTS
- Middle leaders supported to undertake roles of responsibility—TLR holders and Assistant Head
- Administration staff supported to undertake qualifications which enhance their ability to undertake their roles and move up the career ladder.
- The Premises team are beginning to build a network of support and training opportunities amongst other special schools.

All staff participate in the appraisal process and have an opportunity to set goals and identify their specific training requirements.

In addition to formal training and support there is an incredibly strong network of schools within Surrey, SPAN, (SLD, PMLD, ASD Network) where staff from 10 schools similar to Woodlands work in groups at different levels including Heads, Deputies, Subject Leads, and Business Managers to tackle common issues, undertake moderation exercises and participate in joint training. As a member of staff you would have the opportunity to work together with and be part of this very supportive network.

## What makes Woodlands so special?

### Parent :

*“The whole school community is dynamic and positive about every child”*

*“Always encouraging a multi layered approach to achieving goals realising that barriers can be overcome together”*

*“As a parent I can see that everybody is important from receptionists to support assistants to family members and bus drivers—everyone is valued”*

### Staff :

*“Great team spirit amongst the staff that can be rare to find in other schools”*

*“Encouraging every milestone with high expectations of learning and high aspirations for students”*

*“Everybody is important—we all have an opportunity to contribute to the whole school development plan”*

### Governors :

*“Woodlands is a school which strives for excellence in all that it does and constantly looks to find more and better opportunities for all the members of the school community, students, parents, staff and governors. This makes it a happy, achieving and inclusive place”*

*“Woodlands is an Outstanding school; happily Ofsted agrees. We see our current state not as an end in itself but as a springboard to greater things. Because of the high aspirations we have for each child, we have seen our children achieve higher things than had been thought possible. We are constantly striving to move onwards and upwards, and seek a leader who can share, and deliver against that vision.”*

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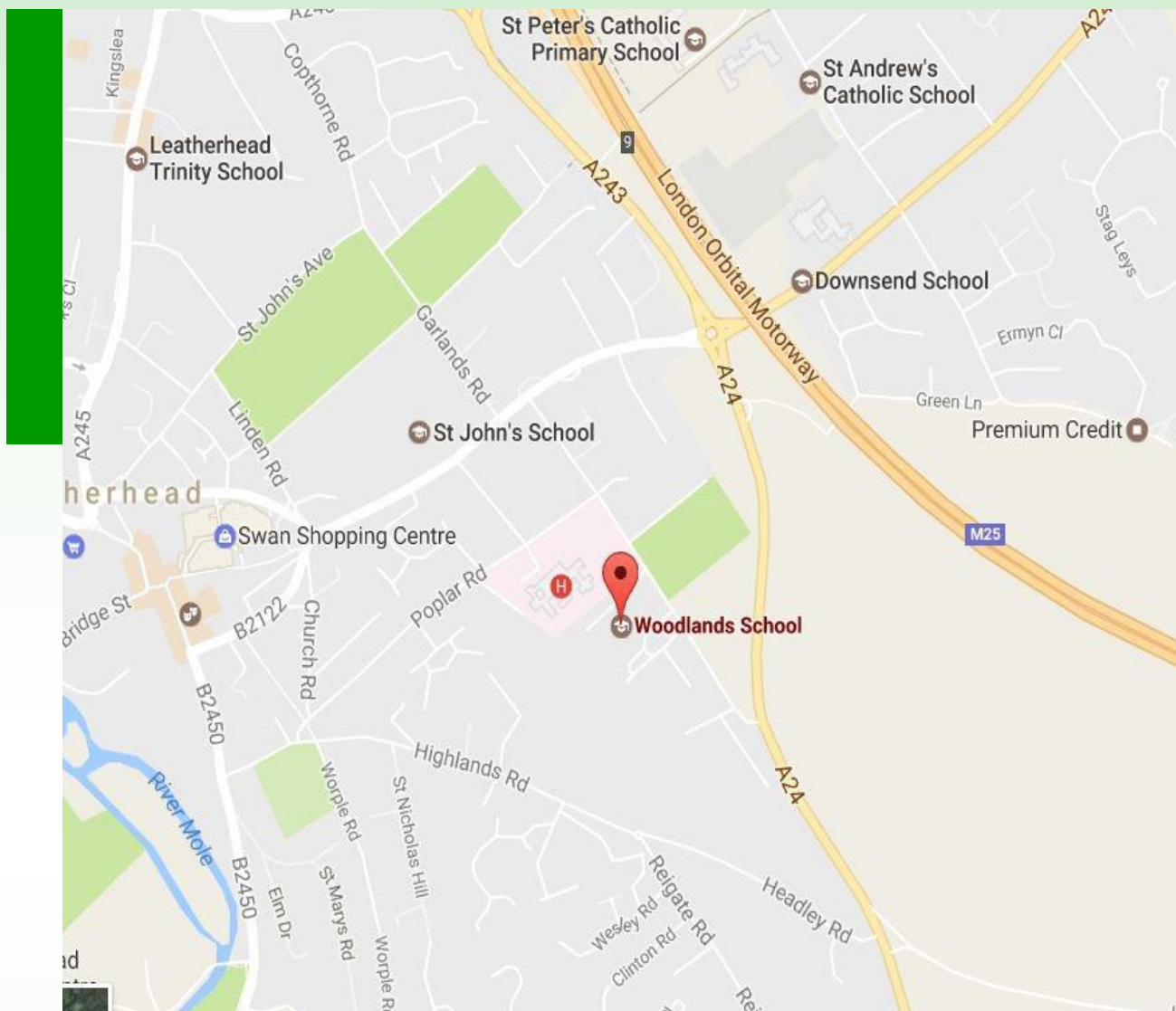




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## Location & Key Information



Woodlands School  
Fortyfoot Road  
Leatherhead  
Surrey  
KT22 8RY

01372 377922

Further information about the school including school policies and the most recent Ofsted inspection report can be found on the school website.

**School Website :** [www.woodlands.surrey.sch.uk](http://www.woodlands.surrey.sch.uk)

If you think you might be interested in joining our team then please do not hesitate to arrange an informal visit and we can share with you our very special school by contacting Nicola Sutehall on 01372 377922 or [admin@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk](mailto:admin@woodlands.surrey.sch.uk).

**The school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. All posts are subject to satisfactory references and an enhanced Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check.**

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