

Class groups

Classes are divided into Key Stage groups, and typically comprise one teacher and a team of teaching assistants working with 8-12 pupils. The number of support staff depends on the age and cognitive ability of the pupils.



Community learning

All of our pupils take part in learning within the community. This may be via a visit to a local park or shopping in a supermarket, or taking part in organised events with local schools, colleges and sports facilities. Older pupils take part in learning via Furness College and in work experience sessions.

George Hastwell is part of the Queen Katherine School Multi-Academy Trust, which comprises The Queen Katherine School in Kendal, Walney School, and George Hastwell.

If you would like to know more about the school, please contact Karen Baxter, headteacher, on the number below.



George Hastwell School

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George Hastwell School



Information leaflet



George Hastwell is located on Walney Island, and is a 90-place special school for pupils aged 2 to 19 with severe and profound learning difficulties. Many have associated needs, such as autism, communication difficulties and complex health needs. Some also have mobility challenges.

All of our pupils have Education, Health and Care Plans or statements of special educational needs and are placed at the school by the Local Authority.

Pupils join the school at any point in their school career, many having transferred from local mainstream placements. A small number of pupils have dual placements with local primary or secondary schools.



Curriculum

Pupils from EYFS to KS4 follow a thematic curriculum which is adapted for their needs. We have a large Post 16 department in which students take part in a range of activities designed to prepare them for adult life, including work experience and courses at local colleges.

Assessment

We use BSquared Connecting Steps to measure progress in core subjects and PSHE. This is broken down into small steps and enables us to track progress against P-levels and the National Curriculum.



Accreditations and qualifications

Sixth Form students follow courses of study towards the following awards and accreditations:

- ASDAN Towards Independence.
- ASDAN Personal Development Programmes (bronze, silver, gold).
- Employability qualification via ASDAN at Entry Levels 2 and 3.
- ASDAN Workright Programme.
- Entry Levels 1-3 in English, Maths and ICT.

From September 2016, KS4 pupils have begun to work towards the ASDAN Transition Challenge accreditation.

Communication

We use a range of methods to facilitate the communication of pupils:

- Simplified verbal language
- PECS (picture exchange communication system)
- Symbol support
- Makaton signing
- Assistive technology
- Objects of reference



Behaviour

Staff are trained to support pupils with a range of behavioural needs. Sometimes this requires positive physical intervention. We use Team Teach for de-escalation strategies and where physical intervention is required.

Moving and Handling

Some of our pupils require moving and handling, and we have a team of staff who lead training to ensure this is carried out safely.