



## About City of Birmingham School

We are proud of our school, Birmingham City Council's Pupil Referral Unit. At COBS pupils matter, every minute of every day. We aim to make each day a good day for our pupils and we guarantee that everyone who needs help will get it. We offer a great education full of exciting learning and experiences so that pupils can go on to lead healthy, happy and successful lives. We have high expectations of our pupils because we believe that anything is possible with the right help, guidance and support. Clearly staff are key to this but we value parents and carers as vital partners and help them to support their child to stay safe and make good progress in school.

### **The Local Authority commissions places for 464 pupils age 5-16 who may be:**

- permanently excluded, or at risk of this
- supported by an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) for behaviour, emotional and/or social difficulties
- anxious, depressed, school phobic
- 'Looked After' with no school place
- remanded by the courts to the care of the Local Authority

Pupils come from all parts of the City but are generally from the poorer areas of Birmingham and reflect the make-up of a large multi-cultural city. When they join COBS, pupils soon start to enjoy school again and re-engage with learning. They have a very wide range of abilities so we offer personalised educational programmes that improve language, literacy, numeracy and especially social and emotional well-being. We have 9 teaching settings and pupils spend varying amounts of time with us ranging from a couple of weeks to over 2 years before moving on with their education. We also work in partnership with a selected group



of Alternative Providers to teach those KS4 pupils staying with us till the end of year 11.

We aim to make things better for pupils experiencing difficulties in other schools and offer high quality outreach support on a traded basis to the Birmingham Family of Schools as well as schools and settings beyond Birmingham.

We have a strong and supportive Management Committee (the equivalent of a school governing body), chaired by Barry Bowles. On a

day to day basis the school is led by the Head Teacher supported by the Deputy Head. The rest of the leadership team currently comprises 2 Assistant Heads, each leading a phase of the school and the Strategic Business Manager. Each of the 8 teaching centres has a Head of Centre. We have a dedicated school office team for finance and HR across the sites and a Strategic ICT Manager for our complex computer network.



Like all other schools and pupil referral units, City of Birmingham School is inspected by Ofsted. Our latest Ofsted inspection was May 2014. We were graded as good overall. Achievement of pupils and quality of teaching were good, with outstanding leadership & management and behaviour & safety. We have a number of documents available via the 'Our Performance' button on our website that will help you understand how we evaluate our performance and what we are doing to improve still further. These are:



- **School Self Evaluation.** This is a working document using iAbacus software that we use to record our analysis of our progress.
- **School Improvement Plan.** This is a summary of the main work we plan for the next year or so.
- **Pupil Premium and Sports Pupil Premium Reports.** We have a significant allocation of Pupil Premium Funding, which we use to support the youngsters to whom it attaches.
- **Curriculum Offer.** All our pupils have a personalised programme to address their individual special needs following the National Curriculum.
- **Whole School Data 2015-2016** As a PRU we do not have RAISE Online but publish a range of data to show the progress our pupils make. .
- **Parent and Pupil Views 2015-2016.** This is an summary of our ongoing collation of views.



The ethos and atmosphere of our Centres underpins the whole-school strategic aims and priorities. Teachers provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which develops the skills, concepts and knowledge necessary for future learning. All staff work to remove barriers to learning and support the pastoral needs of learners. In the course of their work, staff will contribute to the development of this ethos by;

- providing a calm, quiet and effective working environment, in which each learner can achieve his or her maximum potential
- providing a welcoming environment, in which respect is key
- providing positive role models
- providing a fair and disciplined environment, in line with the behaviour policy
- maintaining purposeful and informative planning, record-keeping and assessment documents, in line with assessment policy
- effectively managing their professional time
- developing links with the wider community
- providing learners with meaningful, purposeful tasks, related to the National Curriculum, examination programmes of study and learning outcomes.
- valuing and celebrating learners' success and achievements

Our most recent Ofsted inspection in May 2014 judged teaching at City of Birmingham School to be good. Pupils' needs are accurately assessed and the right support is given. We have high expectations of all our pupils and this is reflected in the targets we set. All pupils know what they have to do to make good progress and are supported to do so. We use Pupil Premium Funding to improve outcomes for our most vulnerable pupils and improve standards of literacy across the curriculum.



The curriculum is personalised to reflect pupils' aptitudes and interests. This is important for all of our pupils but particularly for those with the most complex needs. Our pupils have lots of opportunities to get involved in activities such as Outdoor Education, Music, Drama and Sport.

Pupils enjoy our annual sports day, enterprise event, Arts Festival and Curriculum Carnival.

We ensure that pupils' Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural needs are met so

that they develop tolerance and a wider understanding of the world around them. Staff are skilled and experienced at helping pupils to improve on their standards of behaviour and to develop emotional resilience and good social skills.

Ofsted graded the achievement of pupils and the quality of teaching as good. The inspection team recognised that many aspects of the curriculum were outstanding and this reflects the hard work all staff put into ensuring that learning is fun and purposeful.

### **Safeguarding**

Pupils tell us they feel safe at our school. However, we know they are at greater risk of coming to harm through their own behaviour or that of others because of their particular needs. Everyone, staff and governors, take safeguarding very seriously. Our responsible governor is Councillor Barry Bowles. The head of each teaching centre is the Designated Senior Lead for Child Protection for pupils in that Centre. Where necessary Leadership Team members will become involved.



At COBS we recognise the importance of good attendance and behaviour in keeping children and young people safe and strive to improve engagement in learning and achievement in education. We offer a broad curriculum that includes a focus on social and emotional well-being as well as teaching about risks online and out and about. We value parents and carers as vital partners and help them to support their child in staying safe.

It is the school's duty to provide a safe environment and all staff have responsibility for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. We follow a rigorous recruitment process to ensure we only appoint staff who understand how to keep children and young people safe. All adults in contact with pupils have an enhanced criminal records check and are recorded on the school's single central register. All staff are trained in Team Teach, safeguarding and child protection and follow our comprehensive policies. We record all safeguarding concerns using My Concern, an online recording system for recording, updating, reviewing and analysing concerns.





The 1100 Project is a charitable trust linked to City of Birmingham School. We work independently and with partner organisations to provide activities that enhance our pupils' social and emotional skills and wellbeing and aimed at strengthening their progress and engagement with learning. For example, we have a great Multi Use Games Area at Link Centre. Charity money was used to create this area which provides our pupils with the opportunity to engage in various sports. The charity also funds camping trips and our annual sports day which is greatly enjoyed by pupils, staff and governors!



# Outreach

Working in close partnership with schools and settings, City of Birmingham School has a key role to play in reducing exclusion and ensuring schools are supported to meet the needs of a widening range of pupils with emotional, social, and behavioural difficulties. We offer a wide menu of support to the Birmingham family of schools and settings, and beyond.

Over the last year COBS has invested in staff who focus their time on delivering a great service to schools, led by our newly appointed Outreach Leader. We continue to receive high praise for the outreach work we do from school staff, parents and pupils. Outreach support can be purchased by groups of schools or individual schools and settings, giving a wide range of ways to work together to make budgets go further. All our work with schools is agreed in partnership with school staff and support is targeted and recorded to show outcomes for pupils and staff. Our work is monitored throughout the year, with feedback being an important component.

The 2017-2018 brochures for our traded services are available to download from the school website [www.cityofbirminghamschool.com](http://www.cityofbirminghamschool.com).



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## City of Birmingham School sites

