



Mountfield Heath School



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Better days, Better lives

Welcome to Mountfield Heath School

Thank you so much for your interest in our school. Mountfield Heath is a brand new school dedicated to equipping children with the skills, knowledge and self-belief they need to lead healthy, productive lives. Conveniently located near the A21, Mountfield Heath is easily accessible from Kent and East Sussex.

When children are referred to us, we always look beyond their immediate situation and circumstances to see their innate potential within. Children who come to Mountfield Heath have a range of complex and challenging needs, which will be outlined in their Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) our team of dedicated and experienced staff are well equipped to respond to these. We are committed to providing a creative and engaging curriculum and seeking out the most appropriate interventions and therapies for our children.

As a team we work in very close collaboration with our sister school, Heath Farm, to provide extended support not just for our children, but their families too. Children are more likely to achieve their potential when there is consistency of care at home and at school, so we seek to involve parents and carers in their child's education and support them in caring for their children at home.

We hope this brochure will give you an overview of the educational, care and health support offered by Mountfield Heath. If you'd like to know more about the opportunities we provide and the difference we make in the lives of young people, please get in touch.



Our Approach

Child Centred

Everything we do at Mountfield Heath School is geared toward helping children to succeed – not just in school, but in life. Our admissions team take time to look in-depth at the individual needs and circumstances of each child to make sure we can provide the right level of support. We seek input from a child's parents or carers, their former school and any other agencies involved in their life so we can build a bespoke package of education and support. Every child in our school will have an individual education and wellbeing support plan, which we will use to inform their daily activities and monitor their progress, in relation to short term goals and the outcomes defined in their EHCP.

Flexible

We welcome children to Mountfield Heath School who have a range of needs, so it's vital we can provide flexible learning opportunities and additional therapies within our regular timetable. We always think creatively about what's best for each child and our team will go the extra mile to investigate opportunities and interventions that we believe could benefit the children. We're open and transparent about what we do and the cost implications this may have and we constantly review our provision to make sure we are giving our children the very best.

Collaborative

Our team at Mountfield Heath meet every day to support one another and share information. In addition, we work closely with our sister school at Heath Farm to share ideas, participate in training and to sharpen our skills and knowledge. Our collaborative approach stretches beyond the immediate school environment too. We believe it's vital to build bridges between school, home and the various other agencies that may be involved in our children's lives. We make sure to include a child's parents or carers in all the decisions and are in regular contact not only to update them on what's happening at school – but to offer additional support and advice.



The Educational Environment

Engaged Learning

We believe that learning can be fun and purposeful for every child, so our teachers and support staff carefully plan lessons and activities that are pitched at the right level to appropriately challenge their students and tap into their individual interests. We use a full range of auditory, visual, kinaesthetic and therapeutic learning techniques to engage our students and get them practically involved in learning. Our children are best prepared from having a regular routine and clear boundaries, so we follow a weekly timetable that includes a variety of activities, regular breaks and time for reflection.

Outdoor Learning

We are fortunate to have incredible outdoor facilities on site, including a sensory garden, a secure playground, covered play area, and plenty of green space. During the summer months, all our pupils love participating in outdoor lessons. Through our 'Awe and Wonder' classes we give them the freedom to use their full range of senses to explore the nature and simply enjoy being out and about in the natural environment.

Small Class Sizes

We offer a very high level of personalised support, with each class having no more than seven children supported by a teacher, a teaching assistant and if required additional learning support staff. We encourage individual learning, group work and plenty of outdoor education to help children gain a whole variety of skills as they progress academically, socially and emotionally. Many of our students need extra support with key areas of their learning, and we schedule interventions each week for those who require them.

Building Strong Relationships

It's important to us that every child feels they are known and valued, so our staff build a good rapport with children throughout the school, regardless of whether they have direct teaching contact with them or not. This is reinforced by the fact that class based staff eat breakfast and lunch with children every day – so there is plenty of opportunity for informal conversation. We also make sure that children are supported by a number of teachers and therapists, so they build positive affirming relationships with a broad range of adults.

Green and Clean

The school has been carefully refurbished to be environmentally friendly and sustainable. The existing oil fired heating system was replaced with a sustainable WiFi controlled air source heating and cooling system, resulting in there being no fossil fuel burning on site. New state of the art LED lighting, intruder and fire alarm systems were provided throughout the school and we plan to build new eco-friendly timber clad external classrooms. Within school we actively promote recycling and teach children about the importance of taking care of their environment.



Curriculum

Primary Education

For Key Stages 1 and 2, we develop individual educational plans for each child, using the broad National Curriculum framework for literacy, numeracy, physical education, and topic work incorporating humanities, design and technology and art. We get children involved in a variety of practical lessons, aimed at helping children develop a much broader interest in the world around them and the role they play within it.

Nurture Groups

Many of our children are particularly vulnerable and have not developed at the same social or emotional pace as their peers within mainstream school settings. These children benefit from the more focused support provided by our Nurture Groups, where they are placed with other children who are at a similar developmental stage. We have a clear structure and routine within our Nurture Groups which helps our children to feel safe, secure and settled. The curriculum is more flexible so we can focus on helping children to develop healthy relationships and core communication skills.



Secondary Education

We have high aspirations for our children and work closely to help them make a successful transition from Mountfield Heath when they complete Year 6. It is our aim that Children who leave Mountfield Heath will go on to either a local authority special school or a maintained school close to their home, if this is not possible we will look to work with the funding authority and or we will help secure a placement for them in the most appropriate provision. We work very closely with families and carers and take time to assess the full range of options available, so we can find the very best placement for each child.

School Life

Celebrating Success

We love nothing more than celebrating the success of our children - we believe it's vital in building their self-esteem and character. Each week children can earn the opportunity to take part in fun activities on a Friday afternoon, by achieving short term goals both academically and socially. We also organise celebration assemblies where parents and carers join us in recognising the progress our children have made.

Building Confidence

Ultimately we want to prepare our children not just to succeed academically, but to contribute to society. In addition to helping them develop the right practical skills, it's vital we help our children to develop self-confidence and self-esteem. We believe it's important to encourage children to try new skills and to really stretch themselves. Through regular offsite trips, and particularly through our 'Awe and Wonder' classes, we help our children broaden their horizons and develop new interests.

Empowering Children

We work hard to cultivate a family sense of community at Mountfield Heath School, where every student can contribute to school life. Through our school council, we want to create an environment where children are involved in decisions and can openly raise issues that they are concerned about or things they would like to change. We believe this provides a valuable way for children to feel a sense of ownership for the school and learn how to share their opinions, engage in discussion and make compromises.

Behaviour Management

We take a positive approach to managing behaviour at Mountfield Heath School and always aim to intervene before a situation escalates. Our team work with our children, their parents and carers, and with each other, so we can recognise when they are feeling frustrated or upset. With the support of our wider team of therapists, we can then help our children to develop individual techniques so they can manage their emotions appropriately. Of course we recognise everyone has good days and bad days and we always encourage our children to put any mistakes behind them so they can start afresh.



Therapeutic Support

Early Intervention

We thoroughly assess the individual needs of each child when they start with us, so we can provide the right support from the outset. We have trained Thrive practitioners who can assess the gaps in our children's social and emotional development and create action plans to help them build the resilience they need to be healthy and happy. Many of our children join us in our Nurture classes, so they receive the focussed interaction that will help them successfully move into our main classrooms.

Holistic Care

To help our children reach their potential, we make therapy an integral part of our support. We work closely with a number of external therapists including occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, music therapists, and psychotherapists who support our children in school. We are also fortunate to work closely with a child psychologist and psychiatrist, who can conduct assessments to diagnose conditions such as autism and ADHD and obtain the appropriate referrals for our children quickly. Through our two therapy rooms on site, we provide a dedicated space for our children to receive one-to-one support.

Integrated Support

For therapy to be successful it needs to be delivered consistently, so our therapists and staff work seamlessly together. Many aspects of our timetable, such as our sensory circuits, have been developed in collaboration with therapists to help address the sensory integration issues of our children. Therapists also play an active role in helping our families to support children and liaising with the wider network of individuals and organisations involved in the lives of our children. In some cases, therapists will conduct family assessments, to see whether a child's family would benefit from dedicated therapy sessions.



Mountfield Heath School at a Glance

How old are the children at Mountfield Heath?

We support boys and girls from 5-11 years of age.

How many children attend?

The school will open in Autumn Term 2018 initially with four children. We will gradually increase the number of children, so that by the start of September 2019 we will have 22 pupils on roll. We anticipate our capacity of 42 children to be achieved during the academic year 2020/21.

How long is the school year?

The school year is intended to follow the same 38-week timetable as mainstream schools within the area.

What special needs do children at Mountfield Heath have?

All the children who attend Mountfield Heath will have an Education, Health and Care Plan. Many will have social, emotional and mental health difficulties and likely to have a range of additional learning needs.

How far do children travel to attend the school?

Mountfield Heath school will provide support for children who live within Kent and East Sussex.

How do the children get to school?

Most children will arrive at school via taxi or with their parents and are dropped off and picked up at the door.

What extra support is provided?

Our multi-disciplinary team consists of teachers, teaching assistants, learning support assistants and therapists.

What facilities are available?

Mountfield Heath School is situated in Johns Cross close to the A21, near Robertsbridge and Battle. In addition to individual classrooms, we have a large hall which is used for indoor games, dedicated therapy rooms, onsite catering facilities, a covered playground and plenty of outdoor space.

If you are interested in further information about Mountfield Heath School, please call **Craig Ribbons** on **07912 31 00 52**.



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