

DISCOVERY SPECIAL ACADEMY – ASSESSMENT NURSERY

WHO ARE WE?

A special free school based in Middlesbrough, providing high quality specialist educational and therapeutic provision to primary age children from both Middlesbrough and Redcar & Cleveland areas. We also have a small number of assessment Nursery places.



OUR SEND SPECIALISMS

Discovery specialist Nursery will assess children who are referred by one of our partner Local Authorities. The children will already be under a multi-disciplinary pathway and will present with one or more of the following needs: severe and complex learning difficulties; speech, communication and social interaction delays, sensory processing difficulties, sensory impairment, physical and/or medical needs.

HOW MANY NURSERY ASSESSMENT PLACES ARE THERE?

We can offer nursery assessment places up to 7 children.

ASSESSMENT NURSERY SESSIONS AND DURATION OF PLACEMENT

The nursery will operate over 3 full days. Starting at 9.30am and ending at 2.30pm. This provides children with 15 hours per week for the year the child is placed with us on assessment.

STAFFING

As a special school, all of our classes offer a much higher adult to pupil ratio. Staff are highly skilled and receive regular CPD in learning and pedagogy, signing and communication, safeguarding, medical care, pastoral and welfare. We receive regular inset from professionals on specialist topics, such as incorporating sensory therapies into the children's daily activities and physical movement to support learning.

In addition to this, we employ dedicated care staff to help support and develop the children's self-help, independence and personal care skills. Our pastoral team provide an essential link to families.

Discovery Academy is part of a Multi-Academy Trust with four other academies who also have specialist educational provision; our staff often work with our partner academies to look at new SEND developments and ways to improve our SEND 'offer'.

EARLY YEARS CURRICULUM (EYFS)

We follow the Development Matters curriculum using the four themes of the EYFS Framework and the principles that inform them work to support the development of babies, toddlers and young children.

We use Development Matters as part of daily observation, assessment and planning to support the early learning of young children. It is also used at points during the EYFS as a guide to make best-fit judgements, with parents and colleagues across agencies, in relation to whether a child is showing typical development, may be at risk of delay or is ahead for their age.

The age/stage bands overlap because these are not fixed age boundaries but suggest a typical range of development. When using Development Matters, we always consider that toddlers and young children develop at their own rates and in their own ways. Staff work closely with specialist practitioners to deliver therapies, this includes modelling of speech and language and a sensory diet; all of which are incorporated to support the delivery of the curriculum. This holistic way of working allows us and our partners to work with parents during this crucial stage of the child's early development; with the assessment Nursery providing the essential environment and resources to

help determine the most appropriate full-time provision for the child in the next phase of their learning journey (please follow the curriculum links under **other information**).

OUR PARTNERS

At Discovery we are proud of the relationships we have built with a wide range of partners and stakeholders, to enable us to support each child and their family. Please refer to our SEN Information report for more details on who we work with and how this supports our children.

WHERE ARE WE?

We are extremely fortunate to be working with the Government and other local partners in building a new purpose built school for our children. In the meantime, Discovery is located in temporary buildings on Brambles Primary Academy site at Kedward Avenue, Middlesbrough, TS3 9DB.

In September 2022, Discovery will move into a new purpose built school at Sandy Flatts Lane, Middlesbrough TS5 7YN (part of the former Natures World site). Artist impressions of the build and our journey so far can be found on our website www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk

WILL MY CHILD RECEIVE HOME TO SCHOOL TRANSPORT?

Because we work with several Local Authorities, you will need to check with your LA link officer (contact below) to ask what the local transport protocol is for your area.

OTHER INFORMATION

Virtual Tour of Discovery Special Academy provision

<https://www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/>

SEN Information Report and Accessibility Plan

<https://www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/key-information/send-information-report/>

Discovery Curriculum

<https://www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Discovery-Special-Academy-Curriculum-2020-2021b.pdf>

<https://www.discoveryspecialacademy.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Informal-to-Formal-Pathways-Overview-v2.pdf>

CONTACTS

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You can also contact your child's Early Years link worker for further advice.

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