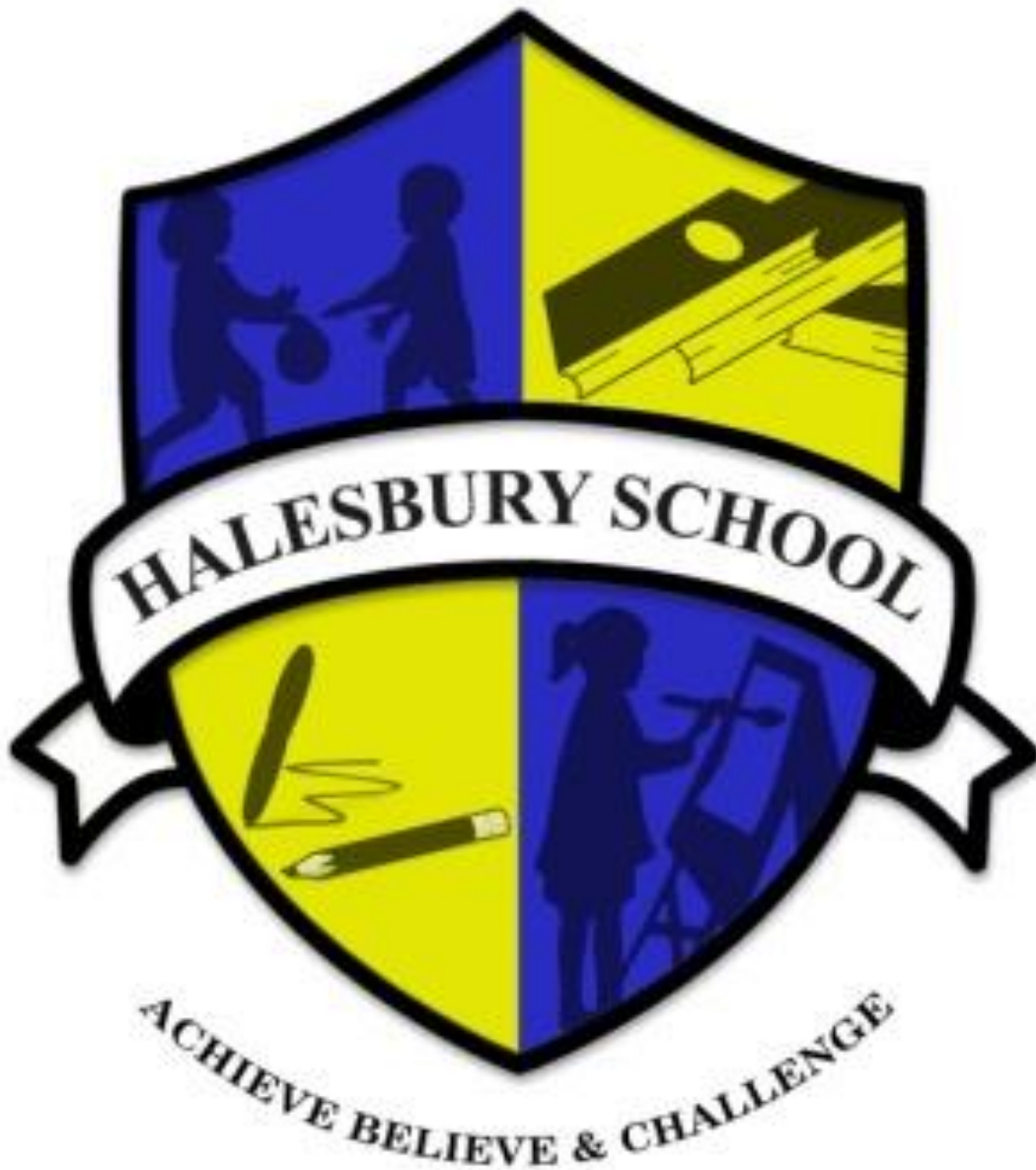


HALESBURY SCHOOL



CURRICULUM OFFER – ASD BASES

Curriculum offer – Primary Autism bases

We currently have 3 Autism specific bases in the Primary department. These are to support the pupils with significant needs that cannot be met in our main classes. This may be due to their behaviour, sensory needs, communication needs or needing a more structured environment for their learning.

The aim of the bases is to offer a curriculum to support the pupils in becoming independent and to be able to focus and concentrate on the tasks given to them. They are taught with a highly structured, routine driven timetable that offers support and guidance throughout the day to support the needs of the pupils.

The bases use the TEACCH approach. All pupils have their own workstation set up with their own individual targets. This approach gives the pupils the structure to take ownership of their learning and allows them to repeat learning and ensure they have a concrete understanding of a concept before moving on. It also aims to teach them independence and to recognise what materials or resources they need to complete an activity. Workstations are mainly used for English and Mathematics lessons, although they can be used for other topic based lessons if it is appropriate.

Pupils in the base are given activities to focus on their EHCP targets. These are set in the different areas to support the pupils and encourage independence in their later life. Timetables are set up to allow times in the week to focus on their different EHCP targets to ensure they are working towards them. These will include:

- Communication targets
- Educational targets
- Social and Emotional targets
- Sensory and physical targets

Having small, reachable targets in these areas is important to be able to monitor and achieve the small bits of progress these pupils make in these areas.

The classes all follow the same curriculum as the Primary department with some additional areas and focus to support the pupils. All of the pupils have daily English, Mathematics, Phonics and Guided Reading sessions. They also join in with the Thematic curriculum and topic days with the rest of the Primary department. Please see the Primary Curriculum offer for information.

In addition to the standard curriculum, the bases also have extra areas to support their learning. These include:

- SCERTs targets – to support the pupils with their social communication and understanding of appropriate language and transactional skills with others.
- Interoception - to support their understanding of their own bodies, their feelings and to be able to read the signals their bodies are giving them, e.g. hunger
- Speaking and listening targets – to support the pupils attention, listening and speaking skills. To help extend their language skills with support from the Speech and language therapist.

- Colourful Semantics – to support their sentence structure understanding.
- Social skills – this involves setting up different scenarios for the pupils to practice and understand social situations and appropriate behaviour and language.
- Play skills – to support their play skills with others by extending their knowledge of play and being able to play with others.
- Fine motor skills – to support their fine motor skills in order to write and complete simple skills in life.
- Gross motor skills – to support their gross motor skills through the ‘get moving’ programme or through different activities allowing the pupils to understand how their bodies move.
- Sensory diets – provided by the OT in school to support the pupils sensory needs and to ensure the pupils can have different experiences.
- Life skills – to support the pupils in gaining independent skills for life. E.g. cooking, cleaning.

In addition to the school timetable we also value times to be able to go out into the wider environment and to have different experiences outside of school. The bases all have opportunities to go off site and practice their skills in different environments. For example, ordering food at a café, mixing with other children at a play area, following and buying items from a shopping list. We encourage the pupils to transfer their skills learnt in class and then move them into different environments to give them the confidence and understanding to be able to do this in the future.

Within the bases we have specialist input from the Occupational Therapist and the Speech Therapist. Pupils are seen by the specialists and are given programmes to follow. The speech therapist can give programmes in relation to their communication needs, extending sentences or understanding language. Staff in class will then follow the programmes and produce resources to support them. The Occupational Therapist will give sensory diets to follow in school and at home and will suggest resources or equipment to use in school to support their learning and sensory needs. Pupils will have access to the different resources and equipment in school and give different opportunities to ensure they are being supported in all areas.

All of the bases work well together to ensure all pupils are supported in all areas and are given the opportunities to grow and develop in all areas in emotional, social, communication, behaviour and educational. The curriculum is constantly reviewed to ensure it meets the needs of our pupils.