

# PROSPECTUS

[www.mapledownschool.co.uk](http://www.mapledownschool.co.uk)





Mapledown School is a maintained school in Barnet, catering for pupils aged 11-19 with severe and profound learning difficulties (including autism).

The school has a wide range of resources to support the curriculum, including a multi-sensory room, an aquatic learning pool, a soft play room, a gym and excellent playground and outdoor facilities.

**Prospective parents are encouraged to visit the school. Please telephone for information or to make an appointment.**

## MAPLEDOWN SCHOOL



### Claremont Campus:

Claremont Road, NW2 1TR



### Queenswell Campus:

Sweets Way, N20 ONQ



020 8455 4111



[office@mapledown.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:office@mapledown.barnet.sch.uk)



[www.mapledownschool.co.uk](http://www.mapledownschool.co.uk)



Working and learning together to achieve our best.  
**Respect, Empower & Thrive**



# Head's Welcome

**Sandra Chaaya**  
Headteacher

Welcome to Mapledown School! We hope that you find all the information you require and that our website will also provide you with a good understanding of our school, and how hard staff and students work together to ensure students achieve their potential.

We are a proud secondary school serving students aged 11-19 with Special Educational Needs, including autism. We recognise that adopting a personalised approach is key to promoting each student's development. We invest a significant amount of time assessing the students' needs prior to joining the school, so that we can ensure students are placed in the most suitable class and/or provision, either on our Claremont or Queenswell Campus or in our satellite provision at Clarion. This approach is continued throughout their time with us. Our aim is to discover the unique voice within each of our students through the education and curriculum we offer them, so that we can ensure that education is as bespoke as possible, and they are prepared for life beyond Mapledown.

Each day our students bring their own unique energy into school. In turn we ensure that they receive a high quality educational provision delivered at the capable and effective hands of our staff.

At Mapledown, our ethos and vision are to provide a learning environment for all members of the school's community, where everyone can work and learn together. We aim to ensure our wonderful and inspiring students are given the dignity of challenge, opportunities to be heard, to become as independent as possible and achieve their very best. All young people have the right to have their individual needs met, and Mapledown staff therefore provide learners with a personalised curriculum which is focused on the successful acquisition of knowledge and skills which will have a positive impact on their lives and opportunities.

We have spaces for up to 88 students on Claremont Campus. This campus is currently organised into eleven classes in three distinct 'Learning Zones' and caters for children with a range of severe and complex learning and/or medical needs.

In September 2022, we set up a second satellite provision co-located in Clarion Secondary school (Claremont Road) for up to eighteen students - Mapledown@Clarion.

In September 2026, we will be opening a second campus on the Queenswell School site in Whetstone. The provision will grow over time and offer the same educational opportunities as our original Claremont campus.

All students have an Educational Health Care Plan. Some of our students have profound and multiple learning difficulties, and some have additional sensory, physical or health and care needs. We have developed strong partnerships with families and carers and will always place the needs of students at the heart of all we do.

Mapledown provides a holistic environment for young people and their families, and we work closely with a range of health professionals to ensure health and therapy needs are met in our students' daily experience. We are committed to working in partnership with our families to maximise everyone's potential, and to prepare our students for adult life.

Our staff are creative and hardworking and the school holds numerous awards for excellence. Our last Ofsted inspection (November 2023) rated the school as 'good' overall, with enough evidence gathered to suggest the inspection grade might have been 'outstanding' if a graded inspection had been carried out.

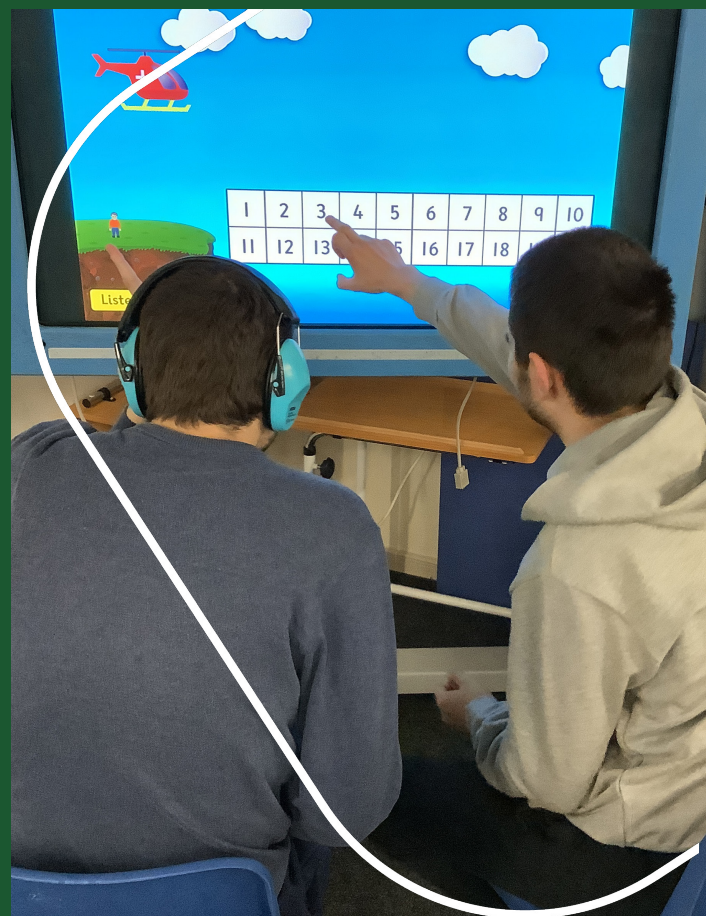
I hope you find this prospectus useful and that you can gain a sense of our work and achievements by looking through it. If you would like to find out more about us, please contact us.



# What are Our Values?

## Our Vision

Mapledown's vision is to provide a learning environment for all members of the school's community. We aim to ensure that our wonderful and inspiring students are given the dignity of challenge, opportunities to be heard, become as independent as possible, and achieve their very best. We are committed to developing a genuine partnership, based on equality of opportunity, with pupils, families, staff and the wider community so that continuous improvement, excellence, service, innovation and progress become a reality.



## Our Mission

To deliver a place of learning for all members of the school's community. Students' needs and aspirations sit at the heart of our curriculum, which enables our staff to create highly personalised learning programmes so that pupils can thrive, with "preparing for adulthood" as a starting point. Recognising that the skills needed in adulthood are difficult to master, including teaching and promoting independence, and recognising that our learners need to practice skills over long periods, we aim to provide our learners with a curriculum which is focused on successful acquisition of knowledge and skills which will have a positive impact on their lives and opportunities. Our mission is to create and develop:

- **A dynamic and inclusive pupil focused organisation.**
- **Skilled staff able to meet all students' needs.**
- **Teams which offer mutual support and foster collective responsibility.**
- **A place where staff reflect and learn continuously.**
- **A school environment with facilities to enable students' learning**
- **A place where people enjoy and take pride in their work**
- **A focus for support and service to families**
- **A centre of excellence, which we are proud to share**

# What are Our Aims?

## We aim to

- Provide expertise to deliver a personalised curriculum for each pupil's learning.
- Develop our pupils' communication.
- Maximise our pupils' personal autonomy and independence.
- Enable pupils to form social relationships.
- Encourage maximum mobility.
- Prepare learners for the opportunities, experiences and responsibilities of adult life.
- Promote pupils' spiritual, moral development, as well as their cultural capital.
- Broaden pupils' range of experiences.
- Work together with families and other agencies to ensure every pupil is valued, challenged and supported.
- Have the highest expectation that every learner will make sustained academic and personal progress.
- Ensure that every pupil is ready for the next step in their learning and is supported to participate in, and contribute to, life in modern Britain.



## Provision

All pupils at our school, on both Claremont and Queenswell Campuses and Clarion satellite provision have a learning difficulty; many also have additional needs such as a physical disability or a diagnosis of autistic spectrum condition. Our pupils have a very diverse range of needs and our aim is to work together with all stakeholders to meet those needs and promote learning. The school has over 100 full or part time staff and numerous additional staff from the health services who work on and off site alongside our staff to assist the pupils. These include physiotherapists, a school nurse, a healthcare assistant, speech and language therapists, an occupational therapist and music therapists. We have regular visits from professional services such as social workers and advisory teachers. The classes are organised so that the environment and delivery of the curriculum meets the needs of the pupils as effectively as possible. They are grouped into three learning need areas (Learning Zones). The staff working in each area are trained in their relevant area of specialism.

- ▣ **Learning Zone 1: Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD)**
- ▣ **Learning Zone 2: Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC)**
- ▣ **Learning Zone 3: Complex health and / or physical needs**

There are 11 classes on our Claremont Campus, two @Clarion and three at our newly established Queenswell Campus. Each class is usually taught by a teacher and three or four learning support assistants. There are an average of 8 students per class, but this can vary slightly according to need.

# The Building And Facilities

Due to the very wide range of pupil needs we routinely develop and adapt classrooms, staffing and shared spaces to best meet the needs of the current cohort. Mapledown works hard to develop its building and surrounding lands to meet needs in and out of the classroom, thus ensuring a safe, stimulating and exciting environment. Buildings on all our sites are fully accessible and provide appropriate toilet facilities and hoists. As well as eleven classrooms on the Claremont campus, we have a library, a food technology room, gym, soft play hub, a therapy room for music therapy and an Aquatic learning pool. The sensory room has been developed to provide a fresh approach to improving learning experiences across the school.



The Queenswell campus will provide fully accessible classrooms and will have two play areas, a sensory integration room and a soft play area. It will also provide indoor gym equipment. Students will be able to attend the Claremont campus to access additional resources such as Rebound Therapy, cycles or the grounds.

Our Clarion provision has direct access to the Claremont campus through the playground so that all our facilities can be used.

On both campuses, a medical room is provided for nursing, health and therapy support. The halls are used for a variety of purposes including sensory sessions, P.E., assemblies and school performances. We have a sunken trampoline beneath the hall floor at the Claremont campus, to allow our students to easily and safely participate in Rebound Therapy. The outside environments are safe and secure and provide all weather access to most areas. There is a wide range of outdoor play equipment: a trail, secure play areas, slides and climbing equipment, special cycle / walking track, sensory garden, bikes and go-carts, basket and accessible swings, a large enclosed play area suitable for all students and an outdoor stage.

Our PTA runs three Minibuses which are used daily to support learning activities, e.g. offsite swimming, college links, work experience, day trips, etc. Every classroom has an internet-linked interactive touch screen and extensive use is made of technology to promote learning. If you have any enquiries about the facilities we have at Mapledown School, please contact the school.







# Curriculum Implementation

**At Mapledown, we have one curriculum, organised as a continuum of skills, further divided into levels or pathways.**

**The Pre-formal Curriculum pathway** has been designed for learners with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD), including complex Autism, and complex learning styles and learning needs, who cannot access subject specific learning. Four key areas of learning are “taught” via a vast array of opportunities, which teaches pupils the prerequisites needed to access subject specific learning: Communication, Cognition, Physical Development, and Personal Health Education (including self care and independence). Pupils use some subject areas, such as the arts, physical education and humanities, to provide the contexts for their learning. These subjects are part of a thematic approach to the curriculum adopted by the whole school.

**The Semi-formal Curriculum pathway** has been designed for our learners who have Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), including Autism. This group of learners also require repetition and a consistent approach. This curriculum teaches through six main subject areas (Communication, Language and Literacy, Cognition, KUW, Personal Development, Physical Development, and Creative Development).

**The Formal Curriculum pathway** has been designed for our learners who have more moderate learning difficulties, including Autism, and working at Pre-Key stage 1 standards. There are eleven subject headings which are taught in more traditional stand alone sessions.

**The Formal Curriculum - Reaching Higher pathway** has been designed for learners with moderate learning difficulties, including Autism, but which may not be their main barrier to learning, and who are able to work within the National Curriculum, up to aspects of Key stage 2. It is expected that this level is only used for a very small number of learners who have been able to demonstrate the ability to work independently in sessions with less adult input. There are twelve subject headings which are taught in discrete sessions which stretch and challenge the learners knowledge and understanding.

**Across the school the Work Related Learning (WRL) Curriculum is further split into Secondary (KS3 and KS4) and Post 16. Each phase is expected to deliver sessions which recognise the age of the learners whilst using key motivators for our learners.**

# The Wider Curriculum

**Collective Worship** takes place at the end of every day and provides an opportunity for pupils to reflect and share a special and different space with their peers.

## Religious Education

We acknowledge and celebrate the major religions and offer a vibrant curriculum for all pupils throughout their school life using schemes of work specifically created to meet the learning needs of our pupils.

## The Arts

Mapledown School holds the Artsmark (Platinum) award and boasts exciting creative opportunities for pupils both in and outside school. A range of Dance and Art Workshops amply supports this area of the Curriculum. We are a founding member of the Barnet Cultural Education Partnership.



## PE/Sports/Mobility

We hold the Healthy Schools Award (Silver) and the MOVE Quality mark. This is a school-wide system for assessing and promoting mobility skills for those students who are developing sitting, standing, walking and transitioning.

It enables them to be able to practise these skills in a functional way throughout the day. PE and Mobility are a central part of the day for pupils, enhanced by visiting coaches, swimming at local pools, an on-site multigym and outdoor gym. In addition we have an aquatic learning pool and a range of physio equipment to support mobility and positioning throughout the day.

## ICT

Every class has an interactive touch screen which brings the outside world to the classroom. In addition, there are a host of hardware peripherals to support access and communication for all pupils. A key example is Eye Gaze technology which empowers our students with limited mobility to navigate and control a computer using their eyes. ICT supports all subject areas. iPads are an essential tool for learning across the school, enabling students to explore sensory apps, improve literacy and numeracy skills, and develop their understanding of the world around them. For many students, the iPad is an invaluable support to their communication skills via apps such as GridPlayer and MyChoicePad.

## Assessment Recording, and Reporting

Pupils are baselined on their arrival into school using a range of assessments. At their Transition in Meeting and EHCP Annual Reviews, Key Personal Learning Targets are discussed and set with families to meet EHCP outcomes. These targets are assessed on a daily basis, with termly reviews and a yearly report.

We know that up-to-date assessment is essential to provide ongoing and challenging learning opportunities for our pupils.

# Families and School Working Together

**Mapledown actively fosters strong partnerships with families to support students' learning and development.**

An Open Evening is held in September for families to meet teachers and discuss their child. We hold parents' consultations in February and June each year. Parents and carers receive an Annual Postcard and are invited to their child's statutory Annual Review, which takes place throughout the year.

Homeschool books are used on a daily basis to provide parents with information. There are regular newsletters and the school uses text and email services to update parents on school events.



Our school has an "Open Door" policy. However, due to teaching responsibilities, staff are not always available without notice. Please write or phone to make an appointment if you would like to talk to a specific member of staff.

**You can also find information on our website**



**[www.mapledownschool.co.uk](http://www.mapledownschool.co.uk)**

## Mapledown Parents Workshop Programme

We plan a programme of workshops/coffee mornings throughout the year, often as a result of suggestions and requests from parents.

These are usually an informal and friendly occasion where members of staff share their knowledge and experience with parents. Sometimes we have external speakers and we always have coffee and biscuits!

Our aim is to support parents and give them ideas and information to help their child at home, in the community and for life after Mapledown.

## Parent Governors

There are governors who represent the views of parents on the Board of Governors. Please contact the Headteacher for more details.

## Volunteers

Please contact the office if you would like to volunteer either occasionally or on a regular basis. All volunteers are required to be checked by the DBS (Disclosure and Barring Service)

# School Meal Service

Meals are freshly cooked on the premises and accommodate most dietary requirements.

Wherever possible, students are given a choice of appetising and nutritious foods to choose from. Invoices are issued at the beginning of each half term.

If you are in receipt of benefits, your child may be entitled to free school meals. Please ask the office for details.



## Transport

Transport is organised by Barnet Council. Please phone the Transport Department on **020 8359 5116** for further information.



## Clothing and Personal Property

Following our uniform consultation with parents, our school community and governors, we introduced a basic school uniform code for all students in Year 7 to 13. Our leavers will not be required to wear a uniform.

We are phasing it in, and therefore it will be optional for our existing students, but a requirement for our new students.

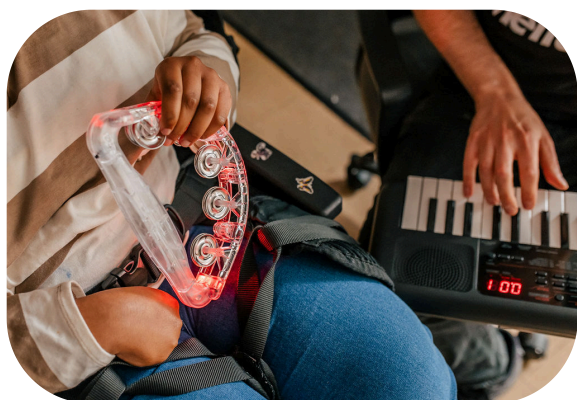
# The Uniform Consists of:

- Plain bottle green jumper, cardigan/zip up hoodie or sweatshirt.
- White shirt, blouse, polo shirt (short or long sleeved).
- Plain black trousers or jogging bottoms.
- Sweatshirts and zip up hoodies with the Mapledown logo are available to order (<https://www.worldcoloursuniforms.com/>).

In warm weather, we recognise that some students may have particular sensitivities to the heat. For this reason, students may wear plain black shorts in the summer months. These may include black cargo-style shorts.

We recognise that some students with Autistic Spectrum Conditions may have particular preferences and dislikes in relation to clothing. Please discuss any sensitivities your child may have with their class teacher.

Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name. We don't encourage students to bring personal property into school and cannot take responsibility for lost or broken items.



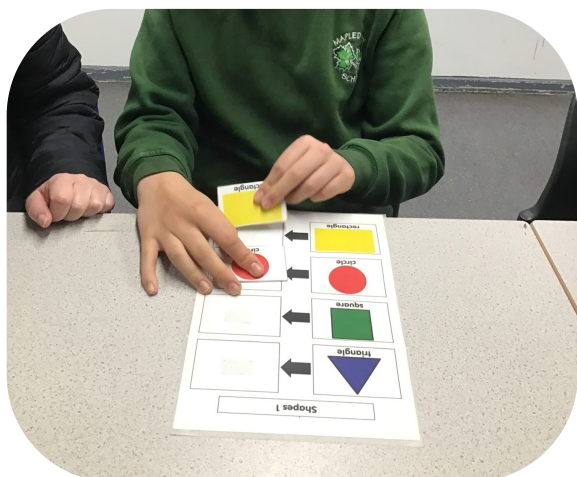
## Attendance

Schools have a legal obligation to record unauthorised absences. To ensure accuracy, we ask you to inform the school by phone if your child is absent due to illness, or in writing (completing our 'Request for Permission for Absence from School' Form) if your child will be absent due to an appointment or family circumstances.

## Safeguarding

The school has a duty to take reasonable action to ensure the safety and welfare of all its students. As a Barnet school, we work within the agreed national safeguarding procedures and are a reporting authority. We have a clear system for identification and reporting into which every member of staff is fully inducted. All our staff have full DBS checks. In cases where the school staff have cause to be concerned that a pupil may be subject to any form of abuse, school staff follow the procedures in the Safeguarding Policy. A copy of the policy can be downloaded from our website at

[www.mapledownschool.co.uk](http://www.mapledownschool.co.uk)



# Mapledown School Documentation

Families are invited to view all of our documentation, including policies, schemes of work and our most recent OFSTED report. Key documentation can be found on our website.



[www.mapledownschool.co.uk](http://www.mapledownschool.co.uk)



## Medical Matters

When a pupil becomes unwell at school, we will contact you and ask you to collect your child. Parents are asked not to send their children into school when suffering from heavy colds, flu or a temperature or when they are too unwell to engage in learning.

**If a pupil has diarrhoea, or is vomiting,** we ask that they remain at home for at least 48 hours after symptoms have ceased to ensure a full recovery and prevent further contagion.

**If a pupil has a raised temperature or is clearly unwell,** we ask that they remain at home for at least 24 hours after the symptoms have ceased.

**If your child is on a course of antibiotics and unwell,** we ask that they remain at home for the first 48 hours or until recovered.

**If your child is on antibiotics, and/or other medication but has no obvious symptoms,** school should be informed regarding the medication and for what purpose it is being taken. Parents should make themselves available to be contacted during this time if needed. If it is necessary to send in medication for a pupil, please ensure it is sent into school in the original container, labelled with the Pharmacist's instructions, the child's name and a clear expiry date. The medicine needs to be accompanied by a consent form. These are available from the school nurse. Please hand the medication to the escort who will take it directly to the school office.

**Please let the school know if your child has been given paracetamol (or any other pain relief or other medication) at home before being sent in.**

If your child has a severe epileptic seizure or medical treatment prior to coming to school, please be sure that she/he will be able to cope in a busy classroom without one-to-one support before you send her/him in. A day at home is often beneficial after a hospital admission for illness, but not after tests or checkups.

**If your child has head lice, please inform the school.**

# Admissions

The school serves the community of Barnet and sometimes accepts pupils from other London boroughs. All admissions come through the Complex Needs Panel via the SEN department of Barnet Education. Pupils attending Mapledown School have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

As a part of the Admissions process, parents and carers are invited to the school to meet the Headteacher and to view the school. Once a placement has been agreed, the school will hold a multi-disciplinary admissions meeting to make sure all the professionals involved with your child in school have the relevant information to ensure your child's learning, health and wellbeing needs are met. A programme of transition will be put in place for the pupil and there are several opportunities for parents/carers to visit and meet with staff.



## Friends of Mapledown

The Friends of Mapledown is a registered charity run by a small group of teachers, parents and wellwishers.

Our aim is to raise money and provide pupils with additional equipment needed whilst at school.

By its nature, this equipment is usually very expensive and we have an ongoing commitment to the school to provide what we can. We also contribute to the cost of maintaining the grounds, pay for end of term outings and gifts, and support extra curricular activities such as visiting performers. We ask you to support the fundraising and social events held throughout the year and to consider joining the £100 Club, which costs £10 a year and gives you a ticket in the monthly cash draw.

We always welcome new members and fresh ideas for fundraising. Any of the committee members will be glad to tell you more about us. We can all be contacted via the school office. Details of current and recent work can be found on our website.





## Mapledown School

**Claremont Campus:** Claremont Road, NW2 1TR

**Queenswell Campus:** Sweets Way, N20 ONQ

Tel : 020 8455 4111

Email : [office@mapledown.barnet.sch.uk](mailto:office@mapledown.barnet.sch.uk)



[www.mapledownschool.co.uk](http://www.mapledownschool.co.uk)

