

## Foxfield School

### Report for the School Forum on Inclusion activities with Wirral mainstream schools

6.1.2014

Foxfield School has been involved in Inclusion projects and links with various Wirral secondary mainstream schools for over 15 years.

Sixteen Foxfield pupils have attended Inclusion links over the last year. This number varies from one year to another depending upon the age and suitability of the pupils and their parents'/carers' wish for their child to participate in such an activity. The numbers of pupils participating in inclusion links has also fallen slightly in recent years in line with a fall in the total number on role at Foxfield but there are strong indications that the numbers of pupils will begin to rise quite rapidly again from 2015 and so numbers of pupils participating in inclusion links are also expected to rise.

Typically these Foxfield pupils who participate in an inclusion link spend approximately half a day in the mainstream school but this is often on a bi – weekly basis for those who visit schools which operate a two week timetable. This does however have the advantage of preventing pupils missing out totally on certain lessons at Foxfield. Some pupils spend a full day at their placement but again this is only on a bi – weekly basis so that they have a chance to catch up with missed lessons.

Our mainstream inclusion links currently only take place with South Wirral High School, but in recent years have also included Wallasey School, Park High, Pensby High School for boys, and Bebington High School.

This year pupils from Key Stages 3 and 4 were offered the opportunity of placements at South Wirral High to take part in subjects such as Art, Music, PE, Dance, Art and Maths. This can require a lot of time spent consulting with mainstream staff once their timetables have been finalised. Several meetings are organised with staff from these schools at the beginning of the autumn term to match pupils with suitable lessons and available mainstream staff. Other meetings and discussions have had to be held throughout the year to check on progress and to sort out problems.

Staff from Foxfield always accompany pupils to and from the placements and stay with them during lessons to assist in any way they can. We employ a Teaching Assistant specifically for this work. She supports pupils on these links throughout the week. Other staff are also used for individual projects where required. All pupils are usually transported to and from the placements by taxi. Pupils attending afternoon sessions are escorted by Foxfield staff directly to their homes in taxis.

At present the Deputy Headteacher coordinates the setting up and monitoring of inclusion placements.

### Aims and Objectives

Key objectives for all pupils taking part in inclusion links are

- To participate as much as possible in lessons within a mainstream setting according to each individual's abilities
- To communicate with staff members and peers without being prompted
- To build confidence in a different setting both in their work and in their socialising with different sets of peers.
- To offer mainstream pupils and staff a greater insight and understanding of the needs of people with a learning disability

There are also a range of possible additional targets for individual pupils such as

- to initiate an interaction with a mainstream pupil without prompting,
- to ask the mainstream teacher for help rather than being dependent upon the support of the accompanying member of staff from Foxfield
- to go to the toilet in the mainstream school when needed and show good levels of personal hygiene
- to demonstrate good hygiene and skills when participating in cookery lessons,
- to remaining calm and focussed during mainstream lessons
- to ask politely for assistance or permission to leave lessons if feeling agitated or upset.

### **Areas for future development**

A) In 2015 Foxfield School will move to its new location next door to Woodchurch High School. This will be a great opportunity to expand inclusion links and opportunities for Foxfield pupils including

1) offering pupils a purely social experience whereby they can go into the High School for lunch times or social activities when they are not yet ready to access and participate in a full mainstream lesson

2) providing increased inclusion placements for more pupils from Foxfield who will be able to access the mainstream school (with staff support) for single lessons. This will enable those pupils currently not participating in inclusion links to participate when previously a full day or half day was too much for them to cope with or where they have a particular interest in or strength in a subject which the mainstream setting can offer.

B) The leadership and coordination of Inclusion links for Foxfield pupils will be improved in 2014 as a result of the appointment of a teacher with a specific responsibility for this area of work in school. This teacher will have more time than the Deputy can currently offer to coordinate and develop this area of the Foxfield's work and to maximise the teaching and learning opportunities offered to pupils who participate in inclusion links.

C) To continue to encourage staff from mainstream schools to visit Foxfield

- to gain a greater understanding of the range of pupils within a school for pupils with Complex Learning Difficulties
- to gain an understanding of the physical, personal health and educational needs of our pupils
- to gain an understanding of the differentiation required within the mainstream classes for pupils on inclusion links
- to understand how a school for Complex Learning Difficulties operates

### **Allocation and use of funding**

**Foxfield's annual budget allocation for Inclusion: £33, 470**

Amount spent on mainstream inclusion activities	
<b>Area</b>	<b>Costs (£)</b>
Staffing – Full time Teaching Assistant	24003
Taxis to transport pupils to/from inclusion links	6500
Management time to plan, coordinate and monitor links	2535
Other staffing and equipment costs:	432
<b>Total Spend</b>	<b>33470</b>