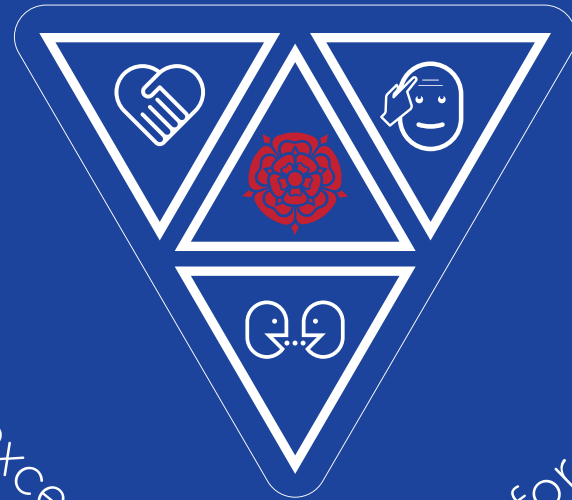




Hillside Specialist School & College • Providing exceptional education for all students •



Welcome to Hillside

Hillside Specialist School and College is a non-denominational school and college that educates students with autism, serving all of Lancashire. We are Lancashire Services only county provision for autism and offer a specialist educational environment. We have a multi-disciplinary approach to the pupils' education and care that includes speech and language therapists and sensory integration therapists working alongside highly qualified and dedicated school and college staff.

At Hillside Specialist School and College we have built an eclectic approach to pupils learning, taking into account current theories and methods of teaching. All of our pupils display significant difficulties within the 'Triad of Impairment' that is at the heart of the autism. A student's difficulties in language and communication, social relationships, and rigid patterns of behaviour, thoughts, interests and sensory difficulties form major barriers to learning. Our role is to help our pupils to come to terms with, and overcome, these difficulties.



Providing exceptional education for all students



Our Mission Statement:

For all pupils to learn to their full potential in a fun and safe environment

We aim to:

- Remove and reduce a student's barriers to learning,
- Assist students to develop effective systems of communication and social interaction,
- Develop students abilities to adapt to, and accommodate change,
- Encourage students to positively manage their own behaviour and difficulties,
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum that meets each student's needs, including access to the National Curriculum,
- Provide an environment that fosters care and control of students to enhance learning opportunities,
- Develop life skills and independent living skills.



Hillside - A great environment for your child

We are situated in our own extensive grounds in Longridge, Preston. Within the grounds there are a number of play and educational activity areas including:

- Woodland Areas/Nature Study Areas
- Tactile Trail
- Extensive External Play Areas
- Sensory Pod
- Low ropes trail
- Outdoor gym

In addition to general teaching classrooms there are a number of specialist rooms that include:

- Art
- Food Technology Rooms - Primary, Secondary and College
- Sensory Room
- Library
- Interaction Room
- PE Hall
- Computer suite
- Lego Studio

- Outdoor Gym
- Conference suite
- Extensive outdoor play and woodland areas
- Poly tunnel

The school and college has two minibuses and three SUV's giving regular access to facilities in the local community including leisure centres, swimming pools, libraries, shops and cafes. Our students enjoy visits to our neighbouring area of outstanding natural beauty and regularly visit local parks and conservation areas. There is also the opportunity to take part in educational visits and extended residential outdoor and adventurous activities and work experience for pupils in Key Stage 4 and 5.

Getting your child to Hillside

The majority of pupils are transported to and from school and college in vehicles provided by the Local Authority. PA's are employed to supervise the pupils during the journey. Parents are requested to have their child ready for when the transport arrives.

Learning at Hillside

Hillside Specialist School and College offers a broad and balanced curriculum that includes full access to the requirements of the National Curriculum for all pupils.

At Hillside the whole curriculum is used to promote key skills for pupils with autism including communication and interaction, cognition and learning, life skills, independence skills, social skills and physical and sensory development.

The College - post-16 education at Hillside

Our post-16 provision is delivered in our dedicated College building. There are three classes which can each support up to six students. The curriculum on offer in the College is suited to the individual needs of the students and the route they choose to take, whether this is continual assessment or exams. The qualifications undertaken vary to develop personal life-skills, vocational and academic outcomes.

We identify progression routes and work towards achieving accreditation that will support the students' future aspirations or requirements. The qualifications will continually evolve to meet the requirements from the students.

With a dedicated college car and access to other vehicles, students can access activities in the local community, take part in work experience and develop skills for life such as travel training and shopping.

The College building features:

- Three classrooms
- Food Technology
- Common room
- Sensory room
- Interaction room
- Outdoor gym equipment
- Leisure area





Achieving at **Hillside**

At Hillside the pupils are set challenging, yet achievable targets throughout the academic year. This may be through their Annual Review, or through their Personalised Learning Plan, in which individualised learning goals are set. These may be around curriculum subjects, communication skills, life skills or self help skills. Teachers and parents work together closely to identify these goals, and provide the pupils with appropriate strategies to support them in their learning.

Achievement at Hillside is measured in a number of ways, mainly through ongoing teacher assessment. Pupils achievements are recorded within their Record of Achievement, and some have the opportunity to take part in the KS1 Phonics screening and End of Key Stage tests, where appropriate.

Accreditation/Examination Results

We are centre accredited for a number of examination or qualification boards including ASDAN, AQA and Pearson Edexcel. Most of the qualifications achieved are through continual coursework, with individual levels of ability recorded. We have thorough internal moderation systems, with qualifications only being awarded when the boards have confirmed the quality of the work. Where exams are essential, students are prepared for sitting them with guidance and support.



Vocational Education and Work Experience

We try and provide work experience for all our KS4 and KS5 students. This might be internal in the first instance and then placements found within industry and community settings where possible. We look for appropriate jobs and skillset for the individual. Vocational options are timetabled into the college week, offering opportunities to try different things and learn new skills. Students are also given a greater understanding of occupations and careers guidance.

Destination of Leavers

There is involvement from a number of professionals in the time leading up to students leaving us. Destinations are all very dependent on the individual needs of the student, but may include other educational establishments, residential colleges, supported living or employment. Although we do not make the final decisions, we are able to talk with families to best support this transition.

Involving you at Hillside

Parent/Carer Involvement

We welcome and encourage a regular and open dialogue with parents. We operate a home-school and college diary system called the 'chat book' for everyday messages and information. We consider parents/carers to be our partners in the education and care of the pupils at the school and college. There are many ways in which parents can become involved in the life of the school and college and can contribute to their child's education.

We encourage parents to visit the school and college and to volunteer to assist with activities on an occasional or regular basis.

Our 'Parent, Staff, Friends Association' (PSFA) is organised by hard working and dedicated parents and friends of the school for the sole purpose of fund raising for specific projects or offering social activities and gatherings. These events include the annual summer fair, winter bingo and many others which gives opportunities to come together and share ideas and solutions.

Statement and Annual Reviews

A student's EHCP is reviewed annually at a meeting with parents and class staff, the Head Teacher, and other professionals. The review will involve a report from the class teacher and comments are invited from parents and other professionals involved with the student. The student can also be invited to contribute to the review.

Community links

We continue to extend and develop links with the local and wider community, which in turn develops skills in communication, social interaction and life skills. Classes may visit shops or parks, and take part in many sports activities including swimming. The college is part of a SEN FE Network where they take part in events together.

We also provide placements for students from other local schools, colleges and universities to assist in developing the knowledge and understanding of autism in the wider community.





Ribchester Road, Longridge,
Preston PR3 3XB

Acting Head Teacher: **Paul Leaper**

Telephone: **01772 782205**

Email: hillside@hillside.lancs.sch.uk

www.hillside.lancsngfl.ac.uk