Appleton Academy

Together with our community, we can achieve extraordinary things.

SEN Transition Booklet

2026-2027



We are proud that as an 'all through' school, we are a family; a community that works together to inspire, nurture and develop one another. A place where you can 'be your best'.

Our children and young people are polite, considerate, interesting and are confident in their environment.

Through our ethos we commit as adults to the following:

- Strong relationships are at the heart of our school.
- Every child and young person is greeted and welcomed as part of a community.
- We don't give up on our pupils; every day is a fresh start, and everyone has a chance.
- We value and seek to know the dreams and aspirations of our children and young people; inspiring, nurturing and developing their thirst for knowledge and sense of place.

Parents as Partners

We work together with parents, and your views are very important to us. We will let you know what we are doing to meet your child's needs and will keep you up to date with their progress.

Key Staff

Kim Sutherland – Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion and Learning Support – Kim.Sutherland@appletonacademy.co.uk
Robert Smith – Secondary SENCO - Robert.Smith@appletonacademy.co.uk
Ahson Butt – SEN and Learning Support Manager - Ahson.Butt@appletonacademy.co.uk

What does Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Mean?

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, or SEND, is the term for children and young people who are performing at a level which is below the expected band of achievement for their age, this may mean that they need extra support at school.

This could be due to a variety of reasons, for example some children have difficulty with reading, writing, maths or they may struggle in organising themselves. Some children may have difficulty in managing their behaviour or have a physical or sensory impairment.
These difficulties may mean that children are struggling to make the expected progress which is right for them.

What can the Academy do to help?

We assess your child and identify their strengths, needs and the extra help they might require. Through Quality First Teaching (QFT) and effective support and differentiation we ensure that the work we set challenges each pupil but is underpinned with the right strategies of support to enable them to succeed.

This may mean that children and young people receive support from additional adults in school, as well as their class teacher. We work collaboratively with a multitude of other professionals, such as speech and language therapists, the school nursing team, educational psychologists, CAMHS, the Youth Support Team, our school-based psychotherapist and Bradford SEN high incident team to ensure that each pupil has the best care and support throughout their education with us.

The Local Offer

The Local Offer aims to provide transparency and clarity between education providers. The Local Offer explains what might be offered for children which is underpinned by the Bradford Matrix of Need. This outlines shared expectations around meeting the needs of children and can be found on Bradford Schools Online (BSOL): https://bso.bradford.gov.uk

Our Local Offer is published on our website: www.appletonacademy.co.uk

The Hub

The Academy is dedicated to inclusive practice and providing a supportive learning environment. The Hub is a provision for children and young people that offers a range of support in addition to their classroom-based lessons.

In the Hub there are many facilities to support our pupils including: intervention groups (Maths, English, wellbeing, social interaction and communication skills), mentor 'check-ins', break, lunch and homework clubs, and information for children and young people regarding mental health support. Pupils continue to work in the classroom and follow the same school day as others; however the Hub provides a safe space for our children and young people to access when it is required.



Meet the Team

Anna Wallace



Role – Deputy Headteacher for Ethos, Expectations and Welfare
My Hobbies: I love visiting art galleries, discovering delicious food and getting creative. I also have a cat and a dog!
My Favourite Subject: Art and Design, because I love being creative and exploring different ways to make art.
Fun Fact: I make colourful pictures out of wool using a technique called needle felting. It involves using special needles to turn wool into works of art!

Kim Sutherland



Role – Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion and Learning Support

My Hobbies: I have loved to bake ever since I used to help my grandma in the kitchen as a child. I taught myself to knit and crochet during lockdown.

Favourite subject: I enjoyed all my lessons at school; my favourites were textiles technology and child development.

Fun Fact: My dad taught me to drive on an off road course, I spent a lot of time helping him to fix cars when I was younger

Robert Smith



Role – Secondary SENCO

My Hobbies include gardening, cooking and reading, although mostly I do what my kids let me which is generally Lego.
I love my family, pets and job.

My favourite subjects are English and R.E.

Fun Fact: Whilst at University I was a student athlete and competed at national rowing competitions.

Ahson Butt



Role – SEN and Learning Support Manager

My hobbies include travelling; I love to explore and have new experiences; my favourite so far has been quad biking in the dessert and ziplining in the Alps!

My favourite subjects are Maths and Product Design

Fun Fact – I can speak 4 languages

Teaching Assistants



Mr Birkinshaw

Favourite subject: Product Design.

Hobby: I have done ballroom dancing since the age of 7, winning 1st place in the grand finals and I am training to teach dance. I also go to the gym.

Fun Fact: I'm a Bradford City season ticket holder.



Miss Briggs

Fun fact- I taught myself Spanish in order to understand and talk to friends I made on my travels in Mexico. I also love Disney!

Hobby- I've played the piano since I was 7 years old.

Favourite school subject- Maths, Music and Spanish



Miss Scott

Favourite subject - English and Child Development/Health and Social.

Hobbies - I enjoy watching TV series, colouring and doing courses to develop myself professionally.

Fun Fact - I am qualified to work with children; my background is nursery work! I am also a mum to a wonderful little girl who keeps me busy! I love my job!

Miss Kelly



Hobbies: My hobbies are reading and rock climbing

Favourite Subject: My favourite subject in school is art

Interesting Fact: I've played guitar since I was 10

Mrs Miller



Interesting Fact: I feel relaxed around water and at the seaside

Hobbies: I love reading and socialising and bringing people together

Favourite Subject: English.



Mr Barnes

Hobbies: video games, watching the wrestling, reading

Favourite subjects: all of them!

Fun fact: I have owned many exotic pets, including a very angry iguana.



Mrs Daniel

Interesting Fact: I love to go on water but can't swim!

Hobbies: I enjoy cycling and travelling.

Favourite Subject: My favourite subjects are Maths, Computing and Physics



Mr Sanchez:

Interesting Fact: I like airplanes (and I know how to fly them!)

Hobbies: I like taking my photo camera and walk out in the city and make friends. I also love reading… a lot!

Favourite Subject: English and Spanish.



Miss Davison

Hobbies: I enjoy reading, cooking and cleaning

Favourite Subject: My favourite subject in school is English and History.

Interesting Fact: I have a pet snake.

We understand that transition from Year 6 to Year 7 can be daunting for parents and students as it brings about change and uncertainty.

However, we want you to know that we are here for you, our parents/carers and children to talk about your worries, to help you settle in and to support you the best we can to ensure that your experience at Appleton Academy is supportive and collaborative from the start.

Please feel free to contact us with any questions or queries you may have.

School Contact Details

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Be your Best