

QUALITY OF EDUCATION : 1

Intent

- The curriculum is culturally responsive, ambitious and meticulously sequenced to give all pupils the knowledge and cultural capital they need to succeed in life.
- Basic skills of communication, English and Maths are very successfully incorporated across lessons, and offsite activities
- Lessons are planned well to take account of pupils' differing abilities.
- The curriculum offered to pupils is very broad in range, with a strong additional focus on the development of life skills that will enable pupils to live as independently as possible in the future.
- In KS4 pupils are offered qualifications across curriculum areas. With RE GCSE added in 2024.
- Careful planning and extensive support from the on-site therapy team ensures lessons include robust support for the development of pupils' reading, writing, speaking and listening and mathematical skills.
- Teachers are experts at using the information that they have about each pupil to break down learning into small, manageable steps
- Reading is prioritised.

Implementation

- Teachers have outstanding knowledge of the subject(s) and courses they teach. They know pupils well.
- TAs make a significant contribution to lessons. TAs use their initiative and use questions really well to check how much pupils have learnt and to effectively challenge them.
- Leaders provide effective support for those teaching outside their main areas of expertise through workshops, the SLP, peer observations, external visits and additional training opportunities.
- Teachers routinely use assessment and data on pupil progress to plan for their pupils and ensure that they provide sufficient challenge, support and pace to lessons.
- Staff are skilled at checking pupils' understanding and providing help if needed. Strategies for this include BLANKS level questioning, on the spot marking and helpful immediate feedback so pupils know how to improve.
- Teachers check pupils' understanding systematically, identify misconceptions accurately and provide clear, direct feedback.

Impact:

- Teaching is designed to help pupils to remember in the long term the content they have been taught and to integrate new knowledge into larger concepts .
- Teachers and leaders use assessment well, for example to help pupils embed and use knowledge fluently or to check understanding and inform teaching.
- Teachers create an environment that allows the learner to focus on learning. The resources and materials that teachers select reflect the school's ambitious intentions for the course of study and clearly support the intent of a coherently planned curriculum.
- There is a strong reading culture here. Key staff are building on the existing staff phonics knowledge through ongoing refresher training. The therapy team effectively supports the development of reading.
- Pupils develop detailed knowledge and skills across the curriculum and, as a result, achieve well. This is reflected in our 2025 results.
- Pupils are ready for the next stage of education, employment or training. This is because our curriculum allows them to explore a college placement and work experience whilst here. Pupils take part in practice interviews, Careers Week and work experience and develop their skills for independence.

BENSHAM MANOR SCHOOL

SELF EVALUATION SUMMARY - Sept 2025

- **Bensham Manor School makes provision for 244 pupils who have complex learning needs, autistic spectrum disorders, speech language and communication needs. Everyone has an Educational Health and Care Plan.**
- **In June 2024 Ofsted determined that Bensham Manor was outstanding in all areas.**
- **We are a large, oversubscribed secondary special school with a larger than average number of pupils eligible for the pupil premium and looked after by the LA.**
- **We are a member of a Schools Learning Partnership (SLP) which has over 30 schools working together to deliver training, support and professional development.**
- **The curriculum offer continues to be a strength of the school. The school has high quality facilities to support learning. Bensham Manor has its own Therapy Centre which was opened in September 2023.**
- **Key Stage 4 and 5 Work Experience and College Link Programmes, Annual Residentials, trips and visits and afterschool clubs provide further enrichment.**

LEADERSHIP & MANAGEMENT : 1

- The leadership team are supported by an enthusiastic, present and knowledgeable Governing Body.
- Leaders are outward facing and work closely with the borough on a number of initiatives including providing a robust bespoke Outreach Programme for mainstream schools and contributing to the new SEND Strategy 23-26.
- Governors attend training set aside for their own development. They have opportunities to visit and to update their knowledge, skills and understanding in agreed areas relating to the school's work.
- Committed and passionate leadership results in a powerful ethos that places personalised learning at the heart of all the school does. Rigorous systems ensure all pupils make the best possible progress. Pupils are well prepared for moving on.
- Leaders have an accurate understanding of the school's strengths and areas for development and these are shared through the School Development Plan. Leaders ensure that staff receive focused and highly effective continuous professional development.
- Close working relationships with therapists and other professionals and external stakeholders ensure the emotional health and well-being of the pupils are ably supported.
- CPD is strong throughout the school and ensures that staff are well equipped to contribute to school improvement. This is recognised by Investors in People and we are a Gold school.
- Governors hold leaders to account through robust appraisal objectives and procedures. All staff have objectives that link directly to agreed school improvement actions. Objectives for staff including SLT are reviewed mid year.
- The spiritual, moral, social and cultural development of pupils, including the British values of tolerance, respect, democracy and the rule of law, is an outstanding aspect of the school's work. Staff are keen to promote respect and tolerance between pupils.
- There is a strong focus on the leadership of learning. Leaders have worked hard to embed a culturally responsive approach to teaching. Individual pupil pathways are identified to ensure that all pupils complete appropriate pathways of study.
- Leaders listen to staff and have put staff wellbeing at the forefront of school improvement and development. Teacher workload is carefully considered and has been reduced.
- All staff are given the opportunity to contribute to the schools ethos and vision. The staff voice group meets termly and there is also a staff wellbeing group.
- Partnership working with parents and other schools is a strength. We are an IQM Flagship school.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT : 1

- Pupils spiritual, moral, social and cultural development is at the heart of the curriculum—recognised when the school was awarded SMSC Beacon status.
- High quality pastoral support is provided to pupils. Pupils are excited about learning because lessons are fun and enticing.
- Pupils make outstanding progress. A number of those excel further and do more than the best expected for their ability e.g. GCSE Maths, Biology, English, Art, Religious Education and Textiles also BTech's and Level 1 and 2 qualifications in Functional Skills.
- Staff look carefully into reasons for any pupil's lack of progress. Additional support is provided which might be academic or pastoral or both. Support packages are personalised to meet individual need.
- In spite of the increasing complexity of need of the pupils and changes in the curriculum, pupils have a real desire to learn. Lessons are longer allowing for deeper thinking and independent learning with the last lesson of the day incorporating valuable reading time.
- The link College course, support and guidance is of a high quality. All leavers at the end of Year 11, 12 or 13 move on successfully to further education, employment or training.
- The school provides a wide variety of extra curricular activities and gives pupils an opportunity to develop their talents and interests.
- Pupils are encouraged to be confident and resilient. They are prepared for life and understand British Values.

BEHAVIOUR AND ATTITUDES : 1

- Pupils behave in an exemplary way. They learn how to manage their emotions and are very well supported by all the adults through a Trauma Informed approach.
- Pupils' behaviour is tracked carefully and appropriate additional behaviour management strategies are put into place when needed. Attendance rates are excellent.
- Staff know pupils and their families well. They are well trained so are able to identify signs that might mean a pupil is at risk. They are vigilant and report all concerns to the safeguarding leaders in a timely fashion. Pupils say they enjoy school and are keen and motivated to do well.
- The School Council is an active, properly representative group which meets fortnightly. Their contributions are respected and accommodated where feasible.
- Weekly whole school celebration assemblies focus on achievement and behaviour and reinforce expectations of outstanding behaviour.
- The school places great importance on the safety and well being of pupils. Pupils learn how to keep themselves safe. Policies and practices to keep pupils safe are robust.
- The ability of many pupils to develop confidence in travelling independently to and from school is notable. The Council and school staff provide strong support to pupils and their families for this to happen.
- Pupil wellbeing is very high. Pupils have lots of opportunities to have their voices heard. There is an effective school council. Pupils support each other.
- Pupils play a highly positive role in creating a school environment in which difference is valued and nurtured.