



Oakbank School

Date: 31st October 2025

RE: Inclusion and SEND

Dear Oakbank School Community

I am writing to provide and update on the inclusion support at Oakbank School. We really want inclusion to mean something at Oakbank School. We communicated how this approach would look, back in June and July through presentations and the parent booklet. Now it has time to embed. We wanted to clarify certain areas.

Our inclusion philosophy

We have very high expectations that all students can be incredibly successful and that when we lower those expectations we are letting students and their families down. We also understand that this may be challenging for both students and parents. Every expectation consistently applied shows students we care, that they really matter to us, and we will not give up on you. As students become ever more comfortable, and familiar, with our expectations we have seen them grow in confidence, as they trust the systems are supporting their happiness and achievements. Feedback from parents and students has been overwhelming on this.

What does it look and feel like in school

This means providing a consistent, transparent, predictable, visible approach so that no one is in any doubt what the school community expects. The culture of warmth and togetherness in school is really shaping the day to day operations in school, and a profound feeling of fairness. Lessons, and social times are now calm and positive, students having great conversations. More importantly lessons are now fully inclusive for ALL students to be involved with. To clarify the '5 Oak', SEND area, remains open for the department to use, but it is no longer necessary for students to use this area to avoid being in lessons that were previously disruptive and would be of no value to them, or supportive of their needs. The whole school is now inclusive, we no longer need a separate area for students to feel safe. Lessons are inclusive of all needs and students.

Mr Jonathan Heap, Headteacher

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk



Oakbank School

SEND Department Staffing

As mentioned in the last letter home, Ms Reggler will be taking on the role of SENDCO. There will be a transitional period between now and Christmas with support every day from Mr Ackland and Mrs Vardy. They are both very experienced and highly qualified GLT SENDCOs. We are also very pleased that Ms Reggler will continue to be supported by Mrs Kittelsen, Deputy SENDCO, and the fantastic team of TAs.

Future open events

This half term we will be hosting a series of events for all parents, and also some specifically for those of SEN students. These will include observing morning greetings and the tutor reading programme, and also coffee meetings for parents to come and chat. There is also, as always, school in action tours (book on school website), your own personal tour of the school

Communication

We always welcome feedback and comments, this really does help us drive our improvement journey. As ever, please keep this polite and remember we are role modelling to students. I would also remind you that not all you read on social media is necessarily based on fact, but we will never respond directly to posts. It is always best to come and see for yourself what the school is actually like - it really has become something very special very quickly. We would prefer everyone to be rowing in the same direction to support our consistent and very transparent approach.

We realise it is a big change, but together we can support students to be included in the school, not sat in a separate room away from their peers falling further and further behind in the myth that they are being included and supported to be successful.. Being in calm, disruption free classrooms, with predictable systems learning from subject experts, supported by TAs where required, is true inclusion.

Yours faithfully,

Mr J Heap,
Interim Headteacher, Assistant Director of Secondary Education GLT

Mr Jonathan Heap, Headteacher

Oakbank School, Hyde End Lane, Ryeish Green, Reading, RG7 1ER

T: 01189 883616 | E: contact@oakbankschool.co.uk | W: www.oakbankschool.co.uk
