

Prospectus



Promoting achievement for all and an enjoyment in learning

Our Core Values



We promote achievement for all and an enjoyment in learning for life

We help each pupil to succeed through a challenging curriculum, innovative teaching and highly trained, experienced staff

We build effective and engaging learning partnerships between school and home





Pictor Academy is an outstanding
Community Special Academy
that is part of The Sovereign Trust.

For pupils aged 2-11 - EYFS, KS1
and KS2.

We can meet the needs of any
pupil with any special
educational needs, including any
developmental delay, a language
disorder, on the autism spectrum, a
physical difficulty, profound or
multiple learning difficulties.



Jo Williams, Head of School, says:

I'd like to welcome you to Pictor Academy. We are so proud of this special place where learning is fun and individualised to meet every pupil's needs. We want everyone to feel part of a special community where the best help and support can be offered for our children and families.

We hope you enjoy looking at our prospectus and find all the information you need.

To organise a visit or if you'd like further information then please feel free to contact us by email or phone.



Why choose Pictor Academy?



Highly trained, experienced staff

- A team of highly qualified and experienced teachers, special support assistants.
- Staff skilled in a wide range of specialist SEND approaches.
- A team of specialist speech and language therapists who work closely with staff to deliver programmes, train staff, work with parents, and are at the forefront of developments.
- Physiotherapists, occupational therapists and hearing, visual impairment specialist teachers as required for each pupil's needs.
- Staff trained in postural awareness, dysphagia and medical needs for pupils with profound and multiple difficulties.
- All staff are trained according to the medical needs of the children and a group of staff are trained paediatric first aiders.



Helping our pupils to succeed through a challenging curriculum and innovative teaching

- A curriculum that aims to engage, inspire and challenge all our pupils.
- We equip pupils for daily life.
- Teachers are responsive to each learner and builds on their individual strengths and interests.
- Our curriculum is cohesive and developmental with strong links to assessment at every opportunity.
- Learning is supported through extending play opportunities and communication opportunities.
- Learning is visually supported with the development of communication at the heart of everything.
- Specialist teaching techniques including TEACCH, PECs, Sign Along, Intensive Interaction, PODD, Lego Therapy, Numicon, TACPAC, music and massage sessions.
- Creative use of interactive smart boards/iPads with programmes such as Clicker 6 incorporated into learning.
- Programmes including 'Write Dance' and 'Disco Dough' to improve fine and gross motor control.
- Individual approaches that promote wellbeing and develop key physical skills, including where appropriate play therapy, music therapy and rebound therapy.
- Themed learning linked to pupils' interests, motivations and learning needs.

Snacks and lunch

- Our kitchen staff provide healthy, lovely lunches and responds flexibly for many of our pupils who struggle with sensory difficulties with food.
- Communication opportunities are incorporated into lunchtime and snacks times.
- Milk and fruit are provided along with bespoke snacks to expand pupil's diet and encourage communication and social skills.

What would my child's day look like?

- Each class group's timetable will be individual to meet the needs of all the pupils.
- Classes are highly structured and have a consistency of routine to ensure that pupils feel safe and secure and ready to learn.
- Pupils learn in small groups or through individually supported teaching sessions and supported access to a larger group setting.
- Access to an adapted curriculum that includes all subjects including music, RE, and humanities.
- Interactive sessions that might include the use of computers, iPads, sensory resources, games and lots of visual prompts and cues.
- Sessions in the Rumpus / soft play room and sensory room usually take place weekly.
- Weekly PE sessions in the hall using gym equipment and may include dance sessions and games sessions outside.
- Weekly swimming session for 8 / 9 weeks per year.
- Sensory movement breaks at the beginning of sessions like Wake up Shake up, following a sensory circuit or running on the track outside.
- Daily fine motor control sessions to practice these vital skills.
- 'Write Dance' sessions to develop writing skills and physical coordination movements.
- Highly supervised outdoor play sessions in well-equipped playground.
- Many pupils access highly skilled therapies, such as music therapy, play therapy, rebound therapy and TACPAC.
- Highly specialist speech and language support to promote autonomous communication.
- Where appropriate access to a full phonics scheme named Floppy Phonics. Floppy Phonics is a comprehensive Synthetic Phonics scheme taught in sequence – it is a DfE-accredited scheme.

Our child really enjoys school and has settled in so well, building excellent relationships with his teachers.

Pictor Parent 2023

What type of class will my child be in?

- The school is divided roughly into three departments; Early Years, KS1 and KS2, although age groups are often mixed depending upon needs.
- Your child will be placed in a class that ensures their understanding, communication and social skills are developed.
- Classes are specifically resourced to meet a wide range of SEND needs with a high adult to child ratio.
- Pupils follow either the pre-formal curriculum / semi-formal or formal curriculum depending upon their learning needs.
- The Early Years and pre-formal curriculum is highly personalised and focuses upon the prime areas of learning; communication, physical development and personal, social and emotional development.
- The semi-formal curriculum ensures learning is relevant and related to the pupils' experiences and understanding and uses many of the Early Years' principles.
- The formal curriculum follows an adapted national curriculum with challenges built in to push those pupils who show higher skills in certain areas.
- Take a look at our website to see booklets describing our curriculum, approaches to reading, assessment and behaviour.
- You will receive a handbook that provides lots more detail about what to expect if your child comes to Pictor.



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Specialist Resources

- Soft play room.
- Sensory room with OMI interactive projector.
- Mobile OMI interactive projector.
- Specialist food technology resources.
- Additional low distraction, withdrawal room for each classroom.
- Physiotherapy room with specialist resources.
- Outdoor classrooms including an orchard.
- Outdoor play spaces for each key stage including large secure field with swing, slide, trim track, outdoor gym equipment, inclusive wheelchair accessible roundabout and lots and lots of space to run or cycle.
- Hydrotherapy pool - all pupils access water fun sessions.
- Yr 6 pupils access formal swimming lessons at local community pool.
- Rebound therapy sessions on full size trampoline.
- James' Sunny Garden.
- Interactive smart board/computer in every room and the hall, and iPads.
- Ceiling tracking hoists in hygiene rooms, shower beds and changing.
- A real context for learning with range of opportunities.
- Real life practical experiences with three adapted minibuses and planned visits into the community.
- Lots of outdoor play.
- Experiential hands-on learning.
- Multi-sensory approaches.
- Small steps repeated over time.
- Sensory approaches to maximise attention and concentration.
- Physical movement breaks incorporated throughout the day including a morning 'Wake up Shake up' or track running.
- Fun school theme weeks such as China week and mad scientist week, that awake a child's fascination with life.
- A week residential holiday for Yr 6 pupils, usually at Bendrigg Activity Centre in the Lake district.
- Friday pm - Club de Noon for KS2 pupils to choose and explore their interests which changes each year and has included in the past: bike club, Pepper Pig club, iPad club, construction club.
- Pictor choir who perform locally and at concerts.

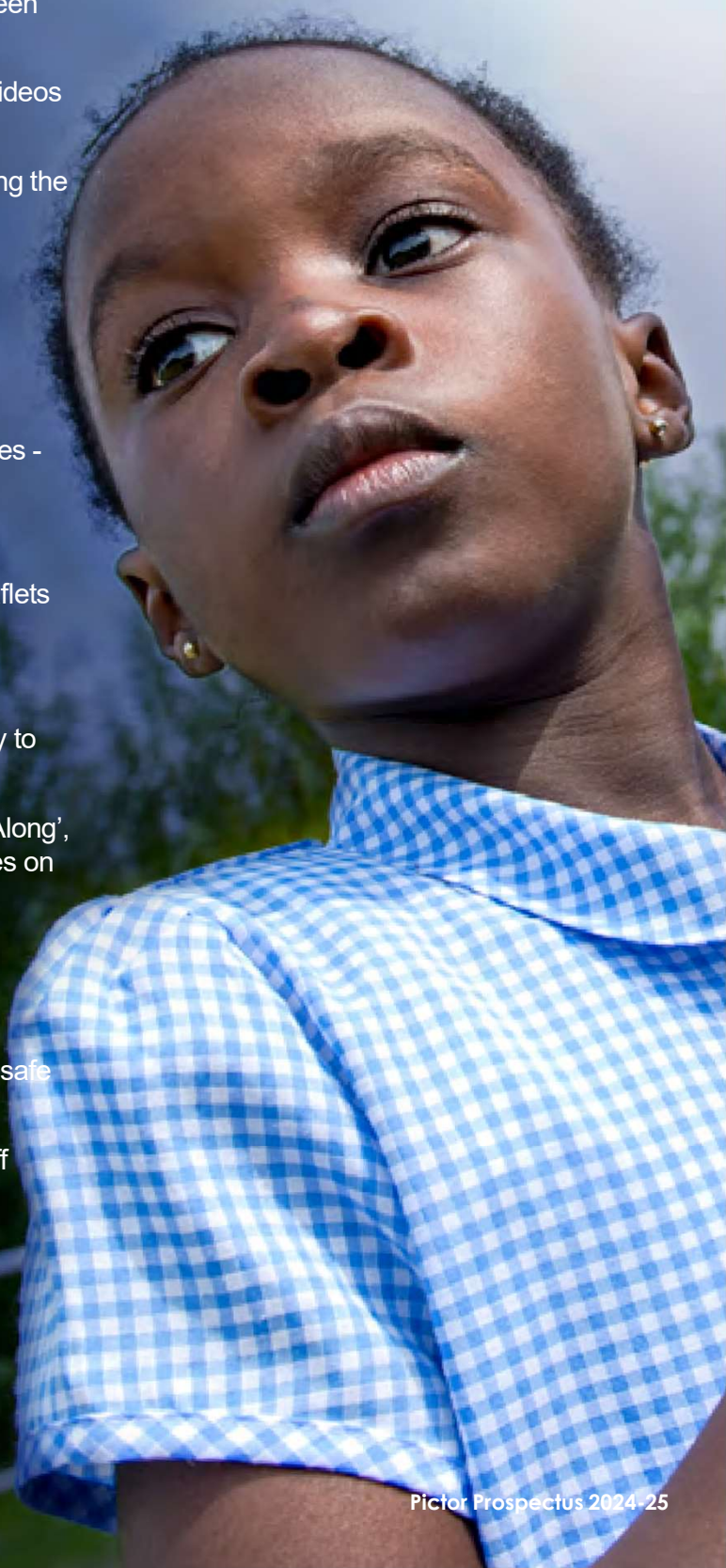
Extended School

- Pictor Hub providing a breakfast club.
- After school swimming club run by experienced swimming teacher.
- The Pictor Staff Friends Association (PSFA) run staff and family events e.g. children's discos, family fun days, Christmas fair.
- Leisure for Autism – charity-led play scheme uses school as a base.
- Class Dojo app for communication and notifications between school and home.
- Evidence for Learning app so we can share photos and videos with you of your child's learning.
- Detailed 'Learning Journeys' sent home each term detailing the progress your child is making across the curriculum.
- Available to talk whenever you need.
- Close involvement with your child's learning with termly Education Action Plans, yearly Annual Review meetings, parent's evenings and class events
- A school nurse who can help you access specialist services - continence service, ophthalmologist, CAMHS, etc.
- Paediatric appointments held in school.
- Welcoming parent room with useful resources, books, leaflets and tea, coffee and support on hand.
- Current parents available to link up, support and listen.
- Parent support worker, Marisa Vazquez, on call and ready to listen and provide practical support.
- Parent workshops organised regularly for instance 'Sign Along', behaviour support, understanding autism or practical ones on how to complete a DLA form.

Safe and secure building because we have:

- A secure electronic signing-in system.
- A modern building designed to ensure pupils can be kept safe whatever their needs.
- Rigorous safeguarding procedures and training for all staff working in school.
- Close working practice with Social Services.

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Admissions

- Trafford LA fund places for pupils who require specialist provision who live in the local postcodes WA14, WA15, WA16, M33 2, M33 3 and some of M33 4 (on a case basis by appeal to LA).
- Adjoining Local Authorities may also fund places for pupils if we are able to meet their needs.
- Trafford early years pupils can be referred for specialist assessment.
- Other pupils will be offered a place following a request as part of their Education and Health Care Plan.
- To ensure that your child has a positive transition, staff will work with you to devise appropriate arrangements, visits and information, including a special photograph starting school book.

Further help and advice

- Local Authorities will have an accessible webpage focused upon SEND called the Local Offer, where you can find the SEN department contacts and the procedures to follow.
- Your local Parent and Pupil Partnership Service for impartial and independent help and support for your child with SEN - Trafford's contact number is: **0161 912 3150**
- Talk to your child's nursery or school SENCO for advice.
- If your child is pre-school, your health visitor, GP or a support service involved with your child (such as a Speech Therapist) or the TEDS team may be able to help.



Our child coped extremely well with the transition to Pictor – he loves Pictor, the staff and his classmates.

Pictor Parent 2023

Our child is making amazing progress with his speech and his confidence has grown hugely too.

Pictor Parent 2023

Our son has made a huge amount of progress this year with many things. His reading and writing has improved massively.

Pictor Parent 2023

There is a clear focus on developing pupils' reading, writing and number skills across the school.

Ofsted 2019

The progress made by pupils since joining the school is clearly visible in pupils' books and learning records. Most pupils make very strong progress from their starting points.

Ofsted Report 2019

Promoting achievement for all
and an enjoyment in learning



Specialist help

A centre of excellence.

Outreach service that offers advice and strategies for pupils with SEN for professionals in other schools.

Training and workshops on SEN strategies and approaches for professionals and parents.

How to contact us

Visit our website for further information, policies and guidelines.

Contact us by email or phone if you have more questions or just want to talk to us about your child. Alternatively, we could organise for a current parent to talk to you about having a child at Pictor.

Where to find us

We can be found on Grove Lane in Timperley, next door to the Health Centre. The Academy is located in a residential area within walking distance of Timperley village.



Pictor Academy

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Pictor Academy is part of The Sovereign Trust

