

# PROSPECTUS

2022-2023



## THE OBSERVATORY SCHOOL

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WORKING TOGETHER TO REACH  
OUR FULL POTENTIAL



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# Welcome to The Observatory School

From your child's very first day with us to the day they leave, they will experience a highly supportive and nurturing curriculum, develop leadership skills, and a lifelong love of learning. Our happy, nurturing environment gives every single pupil the confidence to strive for the best and work together with our staff and other children to realise their full potential.

Founded in 2007, The observatory School is nestled in the village of Bidston at the foot of the historic Bidston Hill.

The school is set in several acres of leafy grounds and we are bound by forests & greenbelt land. Everything that our children need is on-site, from the state of the art classrooms to sports pitches, sensory play areas & highly specialist social, emotional, and mental health (SEMH) & Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Nurture Bases.



**Bidston Observatory & Lighthouse**



We aim to develop happy, confident, and well-rounded individuals that aspire to be more than they thought they could be.

We have a proven track record of turning around some of the most vulnerable groups of learners in the area. The children's progress both in school and through our extraordinary experiences outside the classroom is exceptional. these experiences and bespoke and unique to our school.

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## Misconceptions about our school

**“The Observatory School is a secondary school”** - Since 2018 the school has welcomed children in KS2 as well as KS3 and 4.

**“The Observatory School is a behavioral school”** - The school is a school for social, emotional, and mental health difficulties, within that spectrum it has three distinct pathways:

- Social - a specialist curriculum designed within a nurture base approach with a behavioral focus
- Sensory - a specialist sensory-based curriculum, in a nurture base
- Intervention - Where needs require a much more specialist and bespoke package, there is an option to have a bespoke curriculum within two specialist groups, one KS3, and one KS4

**“At a certain age, my child will have to move around the school”** - All classes, whatever their age have a central base. Children will only leave their base to use a specialist room for science, Art, PE or Food Tech. In KS2, Year 7, and Year 8, all classes in each pathway have their own teacher who delivers the majority of the curriculum, sometimes these classes have visiting specialist teachers (for example, for science in year 7).

For children whose needs require it, they can remain in the base model, with the majority of the curriculum delivered by one teacher throughout their time in school

**“The school does not have sensory equipment or specialist spaces”** - There are specialist areas around the school for sensory reflection and recovery. The school has a state-of-the-art 15m2 sensory and light therapy room. It has a brand new large 300m2 sensory garden with soft play artificial grass, sleeper benches, timber net swing, monkey bars, Tarzan transverse walk, stretch posts, and sloping balanced weave. We are also progressing plans during this summer for a full 85m2 sensory suite within one of our outbuildings.

**“There are not many classrooms and the school is small and cramped”** - Excluding the main school hall and offices, there are 19 large, state of art learning and intervention zones at the school for 84 children. All classrooms have hi-speed optical fibre broadband and each pod has its own dedicated set of high-performance i5 laptops.

**“The PE facilities are not as good as other schools”** - The school has two brand new MUGA pitches for football and basketball. There is also a large sports hall and specialist teachers delivering sport





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LIPA SHADOW  
THEATER

Children have a 'can do' attitude at The Observatory School. They are not afraid to have a go, they aim high and challenge themselves through a deep-rooted desire to fulfil their potential.



REACHING NEW HEIGHTS AT  
AWESOME WALLS



SCIENCE  
EXPERIMENTS



BLUE PLANET AQUARIUM



RESIDENTIAL TRIP TO WALES







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**The new 300 square meters sensory garden is specifically for KS2 and lowers KS3 pupils**

**It has 300 square meters of soft play artificial grass, sleeper benches, a timber net swing, monkey bars, Tarzan transverse walk, and stretch posts, and a sloping balanced weave.**







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**Our brand new multi-use game area (MUGA) opened in May 2020**

**The two new artificial surfaces provide a safe all-weather sports area for both Basketball and Football**

**Our school grounds are spectacular, green and children really appreciate our spectacular landscaped grounds**







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**Our first Nurture Base opened in 2017 and has been a resounding success. With a focus on ASC-friendly teaching and behaviour regulation, there has been an evolution in the mindset of pupils who attend this highly specialised provision.**

**There are zones within the Base for sensory recovery and time out. We have a separate playground and sensory garden for the Nurture Base pupils.**

**A total of 13 bases are now open across the school**







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**We have a state-of-the-art sensory recovery room, which opened in 2018. This room features the latest light therapy units.**

**The room benefit from fiber-optic carpets, a gentle colour-changing starlit ceiling, and stranded therapy lights**

**Massage chairs, liquid-filled sensory mats, and sensory walls are all available.**





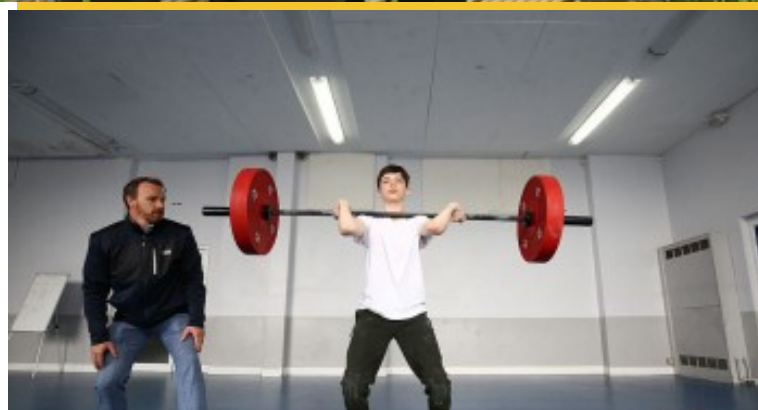


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**We understand that academic success is important, but it must go hand in hand with developing the characteristics and qualities to allow our pupils to become active members of society, inspirational role models, and risk-takers as they broaden their horizons and get ready for the next stage in their educational journey.**







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## WHO WILL YOUR CHILD BECOME ?



Unique talents are nurtured and find an outlet through our curriculum.

We look to develop children's passions and strengths for a range of curricular and extracurricular activities, finding the one that ignites their imagination.

Our children are able to challenge and push boundaries in a safe environment, this supports them in their desire to excel and to grow in confidence.

Taking risks, inspiring trailblazers, and encouraging pupils to learn from mistakes are all part of The Observatory School's journey.



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The Observatory School is an inclusive school. We celebrate and promote respect for all, regardless of gender, sexual orientation, race, faith or other difference. We are working with 'Educate and Celebrate' to ensure that our school is an LGBT+ friendly place of learning.

Call us today on 0151 6527093 and arrange an appointment. It could be the start of something new for your child and your family

We look forward to meeting you!



### MAKING SCHOOLS AND ORGANISATIONS LGBT+ FRIENDLY

INCLUSION - HUMAN RIGHTS - EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES - ANTI-BULLYING - GENDER NEUTRAL - HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS - SMSC - OFSTED

Supported by  
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