



Beechlawn School

'Raising Standards through Excellence'

www.beechlawnschool.co.uk

Background Information

Beechlawn School is a co-educational Controlled School catering for pupils with additional educational needs (AEN).

This includes MLD (Moderate Learning Difficulties), ASD (Autism).

The school, whose current enrolment is around 160 pupils, is situated in a pleasantly landscaped 7 acre site on the outskirts of the historic village of Hillsborough, Northern Ireland.

Pupils use this environment to investigate all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum including History, Geography and Science.

In the words of our Mission Statement :

Beechlawn School seeks to offer and continually develop an environment which fosters the highest quality of :

- ***Teaching and Learning***
- ***Respect***
- ***Behaviour***
- ***Personal Well-being***

By achieving this, the school seeks to :

- ***Empower all members of the school community to achieve their full potential.***
- ***Meet individual and social needs of pupils.***
- ***Prepare pupils for the constantly changing world in which they live.***



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Terms of Reference 1

1.1 For those pupils in Beechlawn School ready to make the Transition from full time schooling the current range of choice and opportunities are provided by the following organisations:

- Lisburn/Downpatrick SERC (Training for Success)
- Lisburn/Downpatrick SERC (Jobclub)
- People 1st
- Springvale Learning
- Workforce Training Services
- Hugh J. O'Boyle Downpatrick
- Mencap Employment Services
- Stepping Stones Employment and Training Services
- Volunteer Now

1.2 The table below indicates the destinations of 28 school leavers in June 2013

Destination	Number of Pupils
Year 13 Beechlawn School	14
Lisburn SERC – Training for Success	10
Lisburn SERC – Jobclub	1
People 1 st	2
Lisburn SERC – Full time	1
Employment	1

1.3 While a number of our pupils are able to make the Transition to training courses at the end of Year 12 an increasing number of more vulnerable pupils are not ready to progress to this stage.

1.4 In response to this concern and the concerns of parents since September 2013 we now offer Post 16 provision offering a wide range of social and life skills as well as academic and vocational opportunities to better equip our more vulnerable pupils to successfully meet the demands of the world of employment, education and training.

Terms of Reference 2

2.1 As a result of the ever changing and complex needs of our pupils we as a school feel it is essential that all Post school providers ensure that they can fully meet the needs of the pupils by having appropriate measures in place in terms of pre-entry support to include travel training, staff expertise including additional support staff, facilities and equipment.

- 2.2 At present 47% of our enrolment are pupils with ASD and in 3 years time this is predicted to rise to 90%. In our Post 16 provision we can meet the needs of these pupils but our concern is that at Post 18 there is a lack of specialised and supported provision for many of our young people whose needs can be complex.

Terms of Reference 4

- 3.1 In our Post 16 provision we currently have 15 places available. If we had additional appropriate facilities, increased teaching and support staffing levels we would be able to cater for a higher number of more vulnerable pupils, including pupils with ASD, as we have the expertise to address the barriers for the delivery of high quality provision.
- 3.2 We in Beechlawn School are now preparing to set up an additional provision within Post 16 The Beechlawn School Hotel. This facility will allow vulnerable pupils in Post 16 including pupils with ASD to develop social and life skills as well as opportunities to develop vocational skills. There may also be the opportunity for other groups of vulnerable pupils and young people to access this facility on a collaborative basis.

Summary

While we as a school recognise existing post school provision for our leavers is suitable for some of our pupils it is not at present suitable to meet the more complex needs of other pupils. It is for the benefit of these pupils that as a school we would have concerns about the current level of pre-entry support, the level of additional support staff during training and the range of choice and appropriateness of post school courses available to pupils with a range of complex needs.

Mrs B. K. Green
Principal

Mr A. Corrigan
Vice Principal/Careers Coordinator