



Benton House SCHOOL



BENTON HOUSE SCHOOL Prospectus 2026–27

Inspire · Empower · Achieve

Welcome to Benton House

Thank you for your interest in Benton House School. This prospectus will give you the essential information about our school, and we hope it helps you understand the experience and education we can offer your child.

Benton House is a safe, supportive and exciting place to be. We provide an environment that is stimulating and nurturing, balanced with clear structure and boundaries, so that every child can learn and grow academically, socially and emotionally. We encourage children to understand what's expected of them, and to set their own personal targets and goals. Every child is valued here, and encouraged to respect themselves and each other.

Our work is guided by four core values — Curiosity, Ambition, Respect and Empathy — alongside genuinely positive relationships and nurturing principles. Together, these underpin everything we do.

We are fortunate to have a caring, committed staff team, and children who are friendly and eager to learn. We always strive to provide the very best educational environment in which every child can achieve, and experience real success.

Vincent Sinclair

Headteacher



Our Core Values

Everything at Benton House is guided by our motto — Inspire, Empower, Achieve — and by five values we want every child to see modelled, and to grow into themselves.



Curiosity

We encourage asking questions and exploring ideas to develop a lifelong love of learning.



Ambition

We aim high and work hard to achieve our goals and aspirations, whatever our starting point.



Respect

We treat others with kindness, listen carefully, and value everyone's differences.



Empathy

We try to understand how others feel, and offer support when they need it.



Empower

We build confidence and independence, so every child can advocate for themselves.

Our Offer



A specialist provision

Benton House School is a specialist independent day school run by Outcomes First Group, with highly trained staff, a purpose-suited building, and carefully chosen equipment throughout.



A close-knit community

We provide places for up to 60 pupils aged 5–14, with small class sizes of between 6 and 8 pupils — every child genuinely known and understood.



A curriculum built on a primary model

We support pupils by delivering an enriching, engaging curriculum tailored to their individual needs, whatever their age.



In-house clinical and pastoral support

With our own clinical and pastoral team on site, we provide a safe, nurturing environment where pupils feel secure enough to learn.



A genuinely individual pathway

We understand that every pupil is on their own unique learning journey, and we embrace and celebrate that diversity — knowing that, together, we will achieve.

Our Priorities This Year

Every year, we set out clear priorities for the school to focus on. Here's what we're working on for your child, right now.



An ambitious curriculum

for every child, whatever their starting point.



Keeping every child safe

every day, in everything we do.



Understanding every child's needs

so every child can thrive, not just cope.



A settled, ready-to-learn environment

helping every child attend as much as possible.



Confidence, character and voice

helping every child grow, and making sure they're heard.



Real progress for every child

measured from their own individual starting point.



Strong, sustainable leadership

so Benton House keeps improving, year on year.

What Ofsted Says

DRAFT FINDINGS — FINAL REPORT PENDING OFFICIAL PUBLICATION

Attendance & Behaviour

STRONG STANDARD

“Leaders’ strategies to improve attendance are incredibly successful... Behaviour around the school is superb.”

Safeguarding & Standards

SAFEGUARDING STANDARDS MET

All eight Independent School Standards were judged as met, including Quality of Education, Welfare, and Leadership & Management.



“Pupils have wonderful relationships with staff... They enjoy school, feel safe.”



“Training around trauma-informed practice... has been particularly effective.”



“Golden Time activities are particularly enjoyed by pupils — kickboxing, forest school, spa and cookery club excite pupils.”



“The careers programme is linked to the academic curriculum... across the school, for pupils of all ages.”

“One parent typified the views of many when they described the ‘amazing’ difference that the school has made to the life of their child.”

A TYPICAL DAY

Our School Day

Monday to Thursday follow the same structure; Friday afternoon is given over to Golden Time.

Monday – Thursday

8:45 – 9:15	Registration (Wake Up, Shake Up)
9:15 – 10:00	Lesson 1
10:00 – 10:45	Lesson 2
10:45 – 11:00	Assembly
11:00 – 11:15	Social Time
11:15 – 11:20	Transition / Regulation
11:20 – 12:00	Lesson 3
12:00 – 12:30	Lunchtime
12:30 – 12:45	Social Time
12:45 – 12:50	Transition / Regulation
12:50 – 13:20	PSHE
13:20 – 14:05	Lesson 5
14:05 – 14:45	Lesson 6
14:45 – 15:00	Whole Class Reading
15:00	Home Time

Friday

8:45 – 9:15	Registration (Wake Up, Shake Up)
9:15 – 10:00	Lesson 1
10:00 – 10:30	Lesson 2
10:30 – 10:45	Celebration Assembly
10:45 – 12:15	Golden Time
12:15 – 13:00	Lunchtime
13:00	Home Time

Golden Time is a highlight of the week — pupils choose from activities including kickboxing, forest school, spa/sensory sessions and cookery club.

WHAT WE TEACH

Our Curriculum

Our curriculum is built around each pupil's individual starting point, blending the National Curriculum with a wide range of enrichment opportunities designed to build confidence, independence and a genuine love of learning.

National Curriculum — Core

English, Mathematics, Science.

National Curriculum — Foundation

History, Geography, Art & Design, Design Technology, Food Technology, Music, Physical Education, PSHE and RSE, Religious Education.

Three features of a Benton House education



Forest School

Weekly sessions building confidence, resilience and a love of the outdoors — alongside our Beach School programme.



Golden Time

Every Friday afternoon, pupils choose from activities including kickboxing, forest school, spa/sensory sessions and cookery club.



Careers

Our careers programme is linked directly to the academic curriculum, helping pupils of all ages prepare for adulthood and understand their future options.



School Term Dates

Benton House follows the same academic year structure as mainstream provisions — 38 weeks across three terms, each with a half-term break.



Autumn Term

September – December

Includes an autumn half-term break in late October.



Spring Term

January – March/April

Includes a spring half-term break in mid-February.



Summer Term

April – July

Includes a summer half-term break in late May.

Exact dates for the current academic year, including INSET days, are confirmed annually and available from the school office or our website.

Our Therapeutic Approach

Alongside our highly qualified and trained teaching and support staff, we offer in-house clinical support, led by our Lead Clinician. Our dedicated clinical team includes a Therapies Assistant, a Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) and an Occupational Therapist (OT).



Individual support

Pupils have access to this exceptional support to help meet their individual needs, ensuring a smooth and positive school experience.



Trauma-Informed Practice (TIP)

Every member of staff is trained in trauma-informed practice, shaping how we understand and respond to behaviour. We see behaviour as communication — building strong, respectful relationships, maintaining clear and predictable boundaries, and always focusing on solutions rather than punishment.



A joined-up team

Our clinical and pastoral teams work closely with teaching staff, providing regular training and 1:1 intervention so that best practice stays up to date and support is tailored to each pupil.



Our School Uniform

We believe strongly in a school identity that increases every pupil's sense of belonging.

Benton House uniform consists of a royal blue sweatshirt or hoodie, white polo shirt, and grey or black trousers or skirt with black shoes. For PE, pupils wear a pale blue or white t-shirt and navy-blue shorts. Every pupil is also provided with a school bookbag, as shown.

Uniform is available from the school. Please contact the school office to enquire about sizes and prices, or to place an order.



Community Cohesion

We are committed to building positive relationships and strong links with our community — showcasing the great work we do, while also engaging in volunteer initiatives such as local visits and welcoming community members into our school.

Fostering these connections will always remain at the heart of our vision, ensuring that our school is not only a place of learning, but also a valued part of the wider community.

Educational visits are an integral part of our curriculum offer, involving individuals or groups of pupils using school or public transport to gain experience in the local and wider community. Public transport is also used as part of pupils' daily programmes. Wherever appropriate, we work hard to forge links with mainstream schools and colleges — this only ever happens with parental agreement.



COMMON QUESTIONS

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. How old are the children at Benton House School? We support pupils between the ages of 5 and 14.

Q. How many children can attend? The school provides places for up to 60 children.

Q. What special needs do children at Benton House School have? Pupils may have a range of special educational needs, which may include a diagnosis of Autism or Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs. Many also have associated conditions and additional learning or communication needs.

Q. How long is the school year? The school follows the same 38-week year as mainstream provisions.

Q. What extra support is provided? Our multi-disciplinary team consists of teachers, support staff, pastoral and wellbeing staff, and therapists. We also have a Family Liaison Officer who works directly with children's families, carers and professionals.

Q. What facilities are available on site? Well-equipped, low-stimulus classrooms; clinical and therapy specialist support; an immersive room for interactive and sensory learning; a MUGA (Multi-Use Games Area); a play-gym; a trim trail; a forest school; and an allotment with greenhouse and planters.



Promoting Positive Behaviour

Benton House School sees behaviour as a means of communication. We build self-esteem, and help our pupils feel good about themselves. As a Trauma-Informed School (TIP):

- We value developing strong and respectful relationships across the whole school community — between young people, among staff, with parents and carers, and with the wider community, including CAMHS.
- We maintain clear boundaries and expectations, creating safe and predictable environments.
- We regularly consult pupils, to make sure their voices are heard.
- We recognise that, as a whole-school community, we impact one another — regular reflective practice helps us understand, make sense of, and positively support that impact.
- Our philosophy is never based on punishment, but focused on solutions. Our young people are managing in the best way they currently know how, with the skills they currently have.



Referral Process



Parents & Carers

An informal request can be made directly to the school office, by telephone or email. Alternatively, you can contact your local SEN department within your local authority — all numbers can be found on your LA website. Each LA has a Parent Partnership Service, which can support you in exercising your parental choice around which school your child attends.



Local Authorities

An application is made in writing by a SEND Officer, including documentation covering all current and relevant educational, behavioural and social information — including the pupil's most up-to-date statement and most recent Educational Psychologist report.

The school will consider the documentation, and if the initial assessment confirms Benton House appears suitable and a place is currently available, we would invite parents/carers and the pupil to visit. Following a successful visit, a place would be offered.

Admissions

For any admissions enquiries, please email **Julie Dockerty, Admissions Manager**, at julie.dockerty@ofgl.co.uk

Applications for admission to Benton House School are normally made by a SEN Officer of the Local Authority in whose area the pupil currently resides.

Regulations under the 1993 Education Act, and all subsequent legislation, state that parents have the right to express a preference for a school which is not an LA school, but which is an independent special school approved by the DfE. If the LA agrees, it will fund the placement at that school.

Who we support

All pupils referred to Benton House School will have a history of emotional, social and behavioural difficulties, and/or associated learning difficulties — including Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Attachment Disorders, Oppositional Defiance Disorder, ADHD and ADD.

Pupils will normally be aged between 5 and 14 (Academic Year 1 to Year 9). In exceptional circumstances, we may admit pupils early in Year 6 on an LA request.

Contact Details

Headteacher

Name

Vincent Sinclair

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Email

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Address

Benton House School, Front Street (entrance via
Hoylake Avenue), Newcastle Upon Tyne, NE7 7XE

Website

www.bentonhouseschool.co.uk

Proprietor Representative

Name

Richard Power

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01204 522 667

Email

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Address

Acorn Education and Care, Atria, Spa Road, Bolton,
BL1 4AG

Chair of Governors

Name

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Thank you

We look forward to welcoming you and your child to Benton House School.

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