



Tarren School & Mill Haven

A nurturing school for children with learning disabilities and complex needs.

At Tarren School and Mill Haven, we pride ourselves on providing a welcoming, safe and supportive environment where every student is valued as an individual. Our vision is to foster a culture of respect, achievement and care, enabling all students to reach their full potential. Both sites offer day placements in a semi-rural setting, close to the communities our young people live in.

Our Environment & Community



Mixed gender



Ages 8–18



20 pupils



Welcome from our Headteacher

Croeso!

Welcome to our school.

Many of the children who come to us have found school hard in the past. Here, things feel different. We are calm, patient and led by what each child needs, with specialist support for autism, communication and sensory needs woven into every part of the day.

We believe behaviour is communication, so we take time to really listen in whatever way a child communicates, and we build trust first. From there, wonderful things happen: confidence grows, learning clicks into place, and children begin to enjoy school again.

To every parent and carer: you are part of our team. To every young person: you are welcome here, exactly as you are.

Mr Alan Elmore, Headteacher.



Our Values



S

Safe

We create a safe and supportive environment where children feel secure and able to thrive.

H

Happy

We make learning enjoyable, helping children feel settled, curious and engaged with what they are doing.

I

Included

We foster a strong sense of belonging, ensuring every child feels included and able to take part in the school community.

N

Nurtured

We build trusting relationships with every child, offering consistent encouragement so they develop the confidence to learn, grow and believe in themselves.

E

Empowered

We encourage independence, helping children make choices, develop their voice and take pride in their progress.

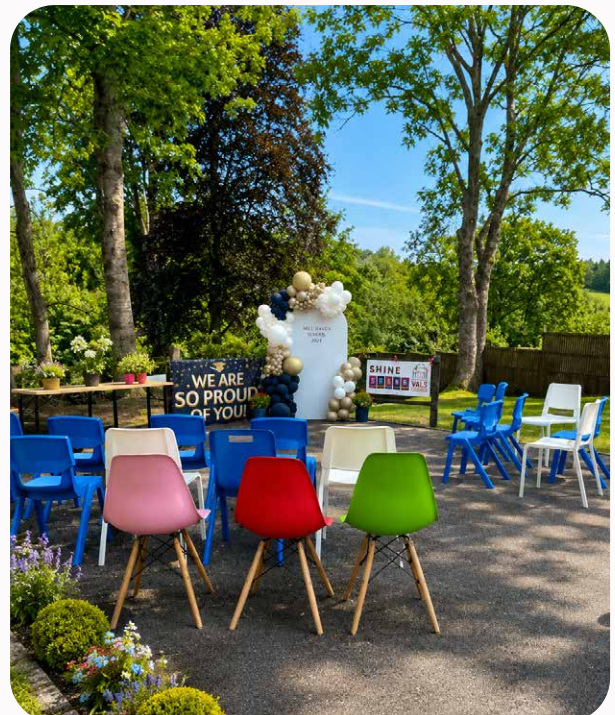
Our Philosophy: VALs – Validate, Achieve, Live

We believe in motivating through reflection and understanding the good each individual can achieve. Our education package is centred around this philosophy, with high expectations for all pupils to achieve their best and succeed beyond school.

Education at Tarren School and Mill Haven

Education at Tarren School and Mill Haven is designed to inspire and support children aged 8–18 with Additional Learning Needs. Our approach is underpinned by high standards of care and a commitment to meeting each pupil's individual needs and aspirations.

Programmes of study place learners at the heart of their development, fostering autonomy, confidence, and a sense of equality and happiness. We encourage students to see every barrier as an opportunity and to value their own achievements.



Our Curriculum

We know that some pupils benefit from a curriculum that places greater emphasis on functional learning and developing independence. To enable these pupils to meet their full potential, we have incorporated the Equals curriculum into our provision in both the primary and secondary phases. Equals is a national pathway that combines classroom-based learning with functional community access focused on daily living activities.

- Personal and social skills: safety awareness, teamwork, independent living, respect
- Recognised qualifications: ASDAN, AQA Unit Awards, NCFE



Learning Pathways

Each learner follows a personalised educational pathway designed to maximise their potential and foster independence. Our teaching and support staff employ a range of creative and innovative strategies to engage students in meaningful learning experiences.

Our students take part in programmes that build personal and social skills, including safety awareness, teamwork, independent living, decision-making and financial literacy. These pathways are tailored to each student's strengths and needs, with progress measured using 'The Tarren Way', our bespoke rights-led assessment framework, which aligns with the Equals curriculum and recognised frameworks such as ASDAN, NCFE and AQA Unit Awards.

Our approach ensures every learner receives the support and challenge they need to achieve their goals, preparing them for further education, employment and active participation in the community.



Education Beyond the Classroom

We offer a variety of activities to enrich the student experience:

- Breakfast and after-school clubs
- Assemblies, performances and fundraising events
- Work experience and employability skills
- Community engagement and volunteering

Therapeutic Support

We offer a comprehensive range of therapeutic support, tailored to what each learner needs in order to thrive. We provide:

- Specialist therapies: Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Sensory and Relaxation, and Music
- Integrated care: therapies embedded within classroom learning and available through targeted one-to-one sessions
- Holistic approach: support across academic, social and emotional development, so each student's well-being is prioritised
- External expertise: collaboration with external professionals and agencies for specialist interventions
- Pastoral care: a relaxed but purposeful environment, encouraging open communication and addressing concerns promptly

Partnerships with Local Organisations

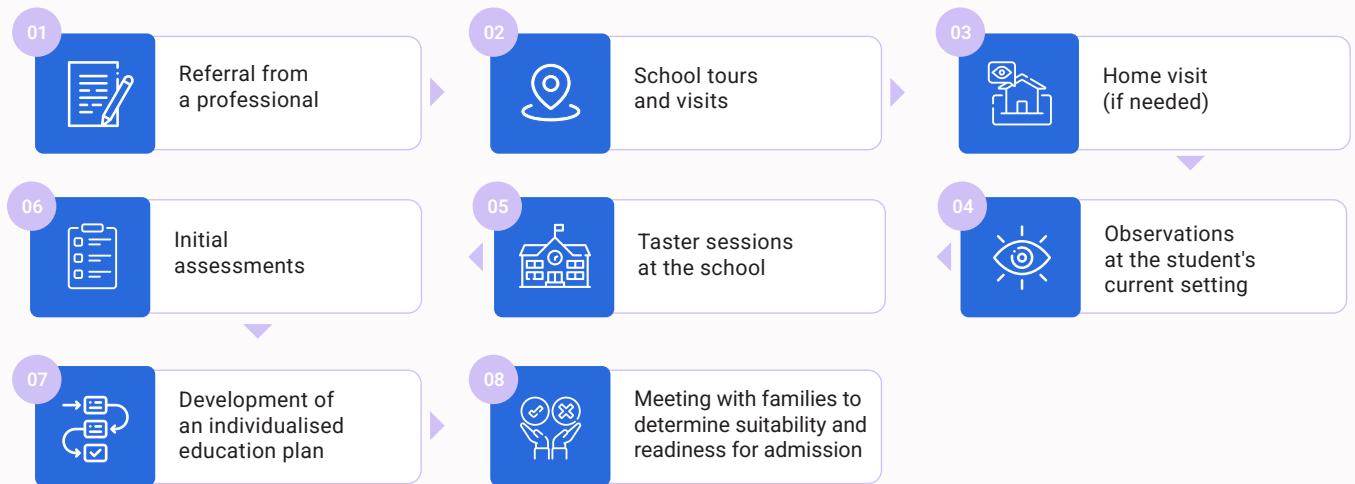
We actively collaborate with local authorities, health and social care providers, and community organisations to:

- Offer meaningful work experience placements
- Access specialist services and resources
- Engage students in community-based projects
- Ensure coordinated support for each learner's education, health and well-being



Admissions Process

Prior to joining, a comprehensive transition process makes sure that Tarren School and Mill Haven is the right fit for each learner. It usually includes:

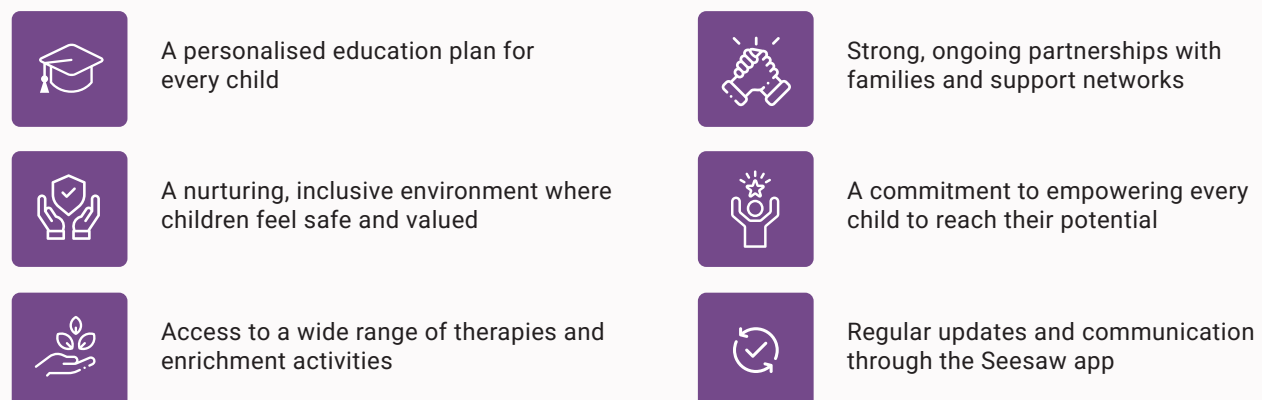


Commitment to Inclusion

Tarren School and Mill Haven are committed to inclusion. We welcome and value every student, adapting our environment and our teaching to meet diverse needs. Our goal is to ensure all learners feel respected, supported and able to participate fully in school life.

Individual differences are respected and celebrated, and barriers to learning and participation are actively identified and removed. We provide personalised support and adapt our teaching strategies to meet the diverse needs of our students, including those with autism and associated learning difficulties. Our curriculum, extracurricular activities and support services are designed to foster a sense of belonging, promote equality of opportunity and encourage every learner to reach their full potential. We work closely with families, professionals and the wider community to ensure all students have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive.

Our Promise to Families



Quotes from our ESTYN report 2025

Teaching across the school supports pupils appropriately, and planning aligns well with pupils' individual plans and additional learning needs.

Staff build positive, professional relationships with pupils, which help them to engage in learning and develop confidence and independence.

Staff also provide pupils with valuable opportunities to learn outside the classroom, for example, through shopping tasks and QR code treasure hunts, to support engagement and develop skills for their future.

Teaching staff build positive, professional relationships with pupils and encourage appropriate behaviour, for example, by involving pupils in creating class charters and by praising effort

Statutory information

All our policies, our latest Ofsted report and our term dates can be found on our website, www.valscommunity.co.uk and are available on request from the school office.

We love to hear from you. If something has gone well, please tell us and if something is not right, tell us early so we can put it right.

The quickest way is to speak to your child's key contact, or to the Head Teacher on 01792 674010. If you would rather put it in writing, write to the Head Teacher at the address below.

Our complaints policy explains each step. You can read it at www.valscommunity.co.uk or ask us for a copy.

If you have already spoken to the school and would like to take things further, please contact the proprietor below.

The proprietor of the school is Pervaz Iqbal, Education Director. He can be contacted during term-time and school holidays at:

11 Gatley Road, Cheadle, England, SK8 1LY
education@vals-place.co.uk

WE WOULD LOVE TO MEET YOU!

For any enquiries or to learn more about how to register your child for a place at Tarren School and Mill Haven, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please feel free to get in touch with us by phone or email using the details below.



Tarren School and Mill Haven

1 Hardman Street, Spinningfields,
Manchester, M3 3HF



0843 378 0653
0843 378 0654



placements@vals-place.co.uk



www.valscommunity.co.uk