



Welcome to our wonderful school, we are delighted that your child has secured a place with us. As you are probably aware, we are a small, independent school catering for children aged between 5-18 who may have a range of additional needs.

Everything we do revolves around the individual needs of each child attending our school, with the aim that every learner is able to fulfil their potential.

We are so proud of what we do here and can't wait for you to experience it with us.

Ben Reading – Executive Headteacher
Nicola Sawyer – Head Of School

Maple Grove School, Clare Avenue, Hoole Chester, CH2 3HR
Tel: 01244 257950 Email: info@maplegroveschool.org
Website: <https://www.maplegroveschool.org/>

Maple Grove School





Vision, Mission & Values

When pupils leave Maple Grove School, they...

Know that they are valued and have a sense of belonging in this world. They will have the **self-belief**, courage, and aspirations to follow their own journey through life.

Will have a **better understanding** of their own mental health and have a range of helpful coping strategies to use through life.

Understand who they are, be proud of who they are and can positively identify their own unique **strengths and achievements**.

Become meaningful **participants** in, and **contributors** to, society, leaving with the skills and qualifications they require for their next steps in life.

Will understand their own sensory differences and have a range of co-regulation and self-regulation strategies.

Can communicate and self-advocate **confidently, independently and effectively**.



Who can I contact about my child's wellbeing and mental health?

Please feel free to contact your child's class teacher or phone/email our Family Support Worker Shelly for a chat.

michelle.williams@maplegroveschool.org

If there is an emergency, please phone the school office on 01244 257950

A nurturing approach at Maple Grove School

At Maple Grove School, a nurturing approach and the wellbeing of your child are central to everything we do—it is our bread and butter. We are dedicated to creating a supportive and inclusive environment where every student feels valued, safe, and understood. Our holistic approach ensures that academic, emotional, and social needs are met through personalised support and a range of wellbeing programs. We believe that when children are happy and secure, they are more engaged and successful learners. From our attentive staff to our comprehensive pastoral care, every aspect of our school is designed to foster the growth and development of your child in a compassionate and encouraging setting.

Wellbeing and Pastoral



Our individually tailored curriculum covers all National Curriculum subjects in imaginative and flexible ways. In addition, we deliver an autism specific curriculum based on the following eight areas of the Autism Education Trust's Pupil Progression Framework:

- Communication and Interaction
- Social Understanding and Relationships
- Sensory Processing
- Interests, Routines and Processing
- Emotional Understanding and Self-Awareness
- Learning and Engagement
- Healthy Living
- Independence and Community Participation

What Pathways do we deliver?

We use the term Pathways to help explain how we break down our curriculum and provision for the needs of all our pupils. We have a diverse school population and therefore have a flexible curriculum approach which is tailored for the needs of individual pupils, including qualifications where appropriate.



Pathway 1 – Eastgate

Pathway 2 - Northgate

Pathway 3 - Watergate

Our Curriculum





The SCERTS Model explained...

Social Partner: where a child is using fewer than 3 words or phrases (which may be spoken, signed, involves pictures, written words or other symbolic system) referentially, regularly and with communicative intent.

Language Partner: where a child uses more than 3 words or phrases (which may be spoken, signed, pictures, written words etc.) meaningfully, regularly and with communicative intent.

Conversation Partner: where a child uses at least 100 words or phrases (which may be spoken, signed, involves pictures, written words etc.) meaningfully, regularly and with communicative intent and can use at least 20 different word combinations that are creative.

Pupils on the Eastgate pathway will be following the EQUALS informal curriculum focusing on:

- My Sensory play
- My Outdoor School
- My Physical wellbeing
- My Communication.
- My Leisure and Play
- My Creativity (Semi-formal)

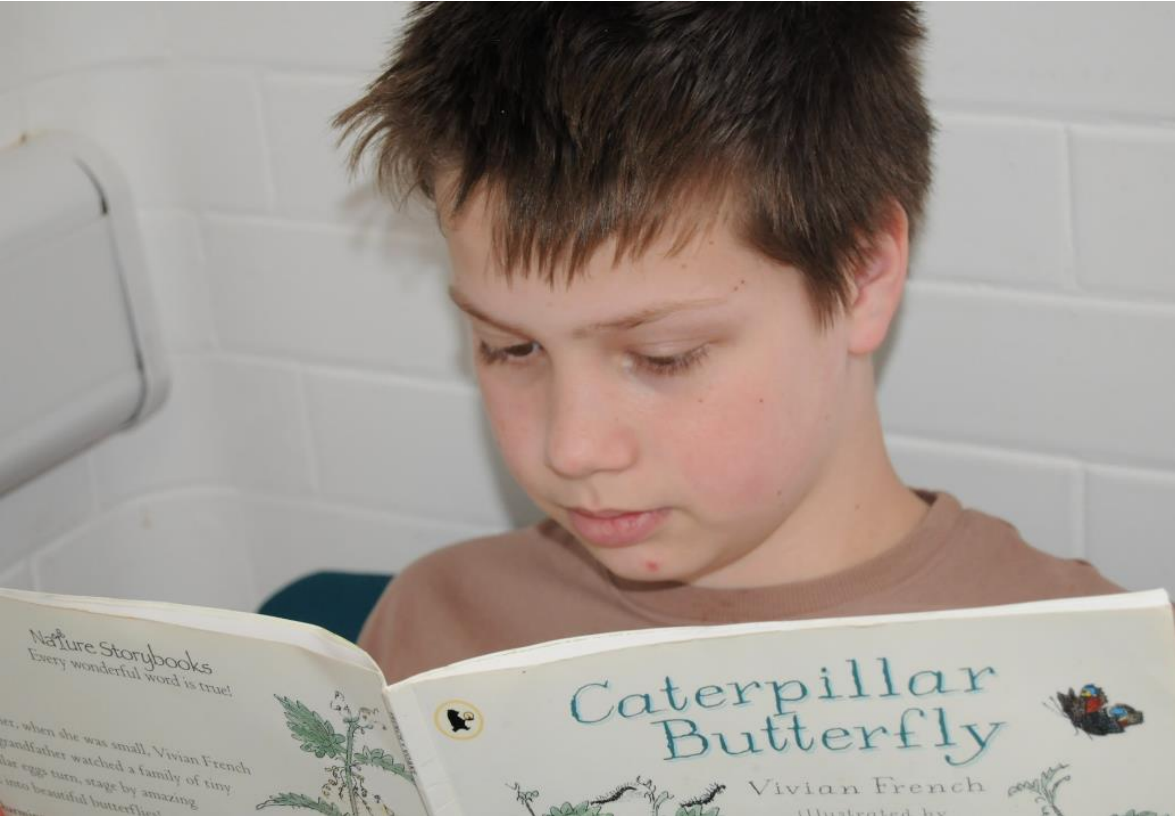
This pathway is for pupils who meet the guidelines for the *Social Partner Element* within the SCERTS Model.

The Northgate Pathway follows EQUALS Subject-Specific Curriculum which is intended to provide a structured and flexible framework for teaching specific subjects to learners with special educational needs. This pathway incorporates sensory learning techniques, identifying that learners with special educational needs benefit from tactile, auditory, or visual experiences to strengthen their understanding of concepts. This pathway is for pupils who meet the guidelines for the *Language Partner* element of the SCERTS Model.

The Watergate Pathway has been designed to support learners who can access the National Curriculum in a highly adapted and differentiated form. It reinforces the underpinnings of the Northgate Pathway by providing a tactile, auditory, or visual experiences to strengthen their understanding of concepts at their ability level. This pathway is for pupils who meet the guidelines for the *Conversation Element* within the SCERTS Model.

Our Pathways





Reading

What to expect about reading at Maple Grove...

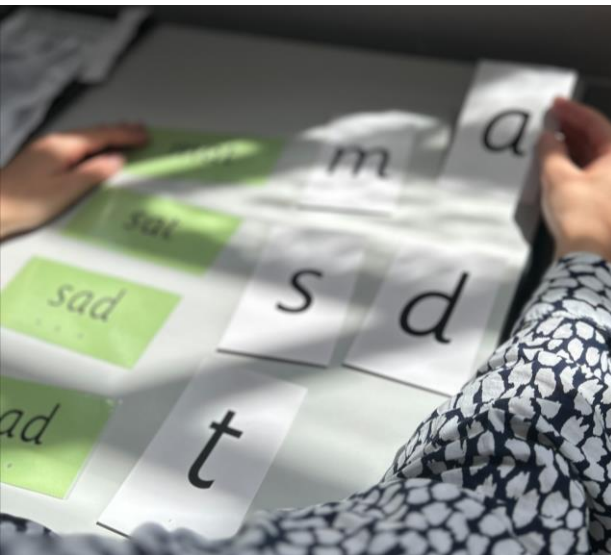
We believe that a love of reading is one of the most important gifts we can offer our young people.

Reading unlocks worlds of imagination, fosters curiosity, and builds a foundation for lifelong learning.

It enhances critical thinking, empathy, and communication skills, preparing our young people for success in all areas of life.

Your child will be supported at their own reading level within their class using a variety of strategies so they can access a variety of texts in their own way.

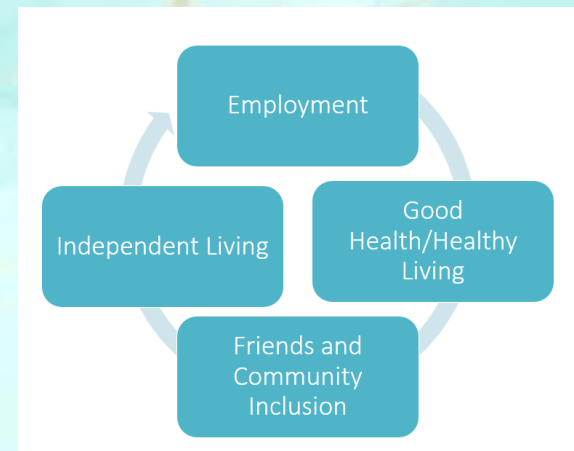
Our goal is to empower students with the skills and passion to explore, understand, and contribute to the world around them.





Preparation for adulthood, flows in everything that we do in school, from the first day that pupils join us to the time that they leave us. It is taught within every subject, across every key stage and every pathway.

Careers is taught as discreet subjects entitled 'World of Work Wednesdays' but also flows through other curriculum areas in a purposeful way that is relevant and meaningful to each individual pupil.



Preparing for adulthood





Preparing for adulthood



What is Enrichment?

Maple Grove wants to prepare our young people for adulthood, so we ensure we give you a fully rounded curriculum. With this in mind, we think it is fundamental to enrich our curriculum.

- Outdoor Education
- Duke Of Edinburgh
- Regular swimming lessons
- Lego therapy
- Community visits
- AmaSing
- British Sign Language (BSL)
- Animal Care
- Commando Jo's
- Yoga
- Eco Gardening
- Sporting Activities
- Music



Enriching the Curriculum



Do you offer residentials?

To complement our curriculum, we offer a range of residential trips that provide unique opportunities for personal and academic growth. These residentials take our young people beyond the classroom, allowing them to explore new environments, develop practical skills, and build stronger bonds with their peers and teachers.

Our pupils might engage in outdoor adventures such as hiking, canoeing, and team-building exercises that foster resilience, leadership, and cooperation. Cultural excursions to historical sites, museums, and theatres expand their understanding of the world and enhance their appreciation of different cultures and histories.

At Maple Grove School, residential trips are an integral part of our commitment to providing a well-rounded education that prepares our students for success in all aspects of life.

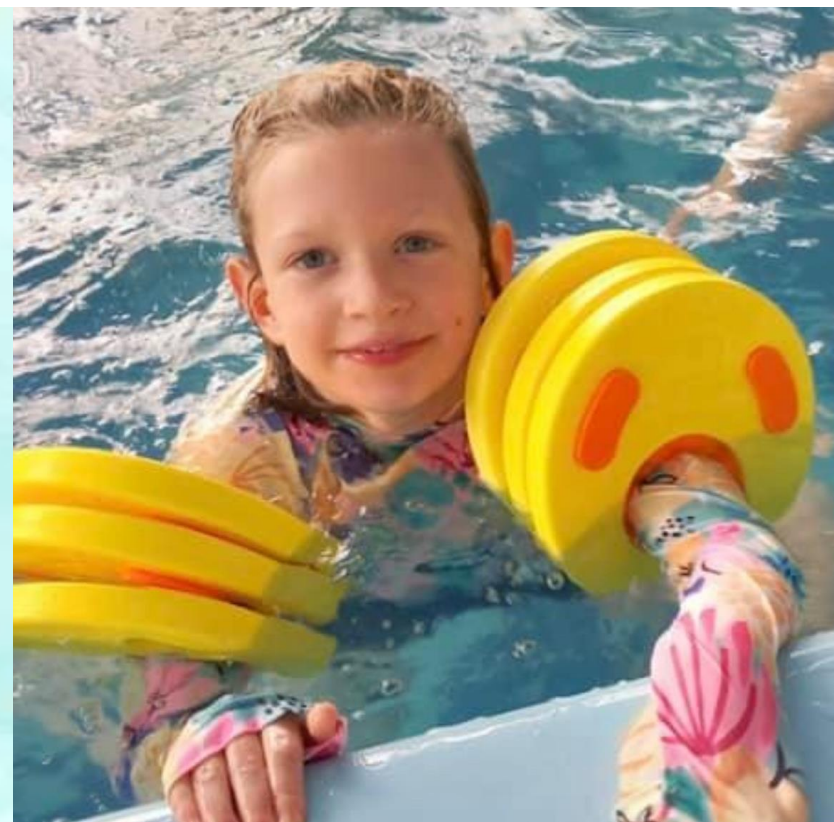


Enhancing the curriculum



What sports do you do?

We believe that physical activity is essential for the overall development and wellbeing of our young people. Engaging in sports helps improve physical health, fostering strength, coordination and fitness. Beyond the physical benefits, sports also play a crucial part in promoting mental and emotional wellbeing.



By encouraging regular participation in sports, we aim to instil a lifelong appreciation for physical activity and healthy living.

Sport at Maple Grove





At Maple Grove School, we understand the profound impact that trauma can have on a child's ability to learn and thrive. That's why trauma-informed practice is a cornerstone of our educational philosophy. Recognising that many of our young people may have experienced adversity, we are dedicated to creating an environment where every child feels safe, supported, and understood.

Our whole staff are trained to recognise the signs of trauma and to respond with empathy and effective strategies that promote healing and resilience. By integrating trauma-informed practices into our daily routines, in each classroom, we ensure that all our pupils have the opportunity to succeed academically and emotionally. We believe that understanding and addressing the effects of trauma is essential to fostering a positive and inclusive school community where every child can reach their full potential.

Trauma Informed Practice





How do I contact my child's class teacher?

Please feel free to email your child's class teacher or feel free to phone for a chat. Please be aware that staff will be working with your children through the school day, so they will come back to you after school hours.

If there is an emergency, please phone the school office on 01244 257950

What time does school start?

Young people arrive at school for 8.45am and the school day ends at 2.45pm for all pupils although, lesson times and lunch times will depend on individual timetables and what pathway your child is on.

On Friday we have a shorter day and home time is 1.45pm.

There are several staff members on the carpark in the morning and afternoon to guide vehicles safely in and out of the playground.

When your child starts school, you will be informed, which door they will come in and out of.



Our School Day



What if my child uses local authority transport?

You will need to organise transport for your child to get to and from school on a daily basis.

Before your child starts school, you will receive confirmation from the transport department for your area.

We have many taxis coming on a daily basis, from 9 local authorities, most vehicles have a few children in them travelling from the same area. There is often a driver and personal assistant to support your child on their journey.

If you have any problems, please contact your local transport office for support.



Getting to School



At Maple Grove School, we believe that regular attendance is crucial for the academic and personal development of our students.

Consistent attendance fosters a stable learning environment, allowing students to fully engage with the curriculum, participate in classroom activities, and build meaningful relationships with peers and teachers.

If your child is unable to come into school, please inform the school office or email info@maplegroveschool.org

If you are requiring leave during school time, please inform us by following this link. <https://forms.office.com/>



Attendance



Please check
the website for latest
term dates and our
'Dates for Your Diary'
document

Autumn Term 2024

<i>Inset Day</i>	<i>Monday 2nd & Tuesday 3rd September</i>
Term Starts	Wednesday 4 th September
Half Term Break	Monday 28 th October - Friday 1 st November
Term starts	Monday 4 th November
End of Term	Friday 20 th December

Spring Term 2025

<i>Inset Day</i>	<i>Monday 6th January & Monday 24th February</i>
Term Starts	Tuesday 7 th January
Half Term Break	Monday 17 th – Friday 21 st February
Term Starts	Tuesday 25 th February
End of Term	Friday 4 th April

Summer Term 2025

<i>Inset day</i>	<i>Wednesday 23rd April</i>
Term Starts	Thursday 24 th April
Bank Holiday	Monday 5 th May
Half Term	Monday 26 th May – Friday 30 th May
Term Starts	Monday 2 nd June
End of Term	Wednesday 23 rd July

Summer Holidays – Thursday 24th July – Friday 29th August
Pupils return to school on Monday 1st September TBC

Term Dates



Creating a Family Atmosphere at Lunchtime



We strive to make lunchtime a pleasant and supportive experience where students can relax, socialise, and enjoy their meals together, fostering a sense of community and belonging.

Lunch is offered free of charge.

What happens at lunch time?

At Maple Grove School, we understand that lunchtime can be challenging for some of our young people due to perhaps sensory needs, other worries or past experiences.

That's why we work diligently to create a warm, family-like atmosphere during this time, where the staff eat alongside the pupils.



What can I do at lunchtime?

At Maple Grove School, students could choose from at least three lunchtime clubs each day. These clubs provide a chance to socialise and engage in fun, enjoyable activities. Whether your child prefers sports, arts, or special interest groups, there is something for everyone to enjoy while building friendships and making the most of their lunch break.



Lunchtime Clubs



Where can I buy uniform?

We use The Uniform Shop in Ellesmere Port, you can pop into their shop or order online

<https://www.theuniformshopwebsite.co.uk/>

Two jumpers and two polo shirts are provided by us free of charge, so please contact the school office to get advice on sizing. You can find all the details of the uniform you will need in this pack.

If your child has sensory needs, please talk to us if you feel the uniform will cause discomfort.





Jumper/ Cardigan / hoodie	In school colours and featuring our logo with a choice of a school jumper, hoodie or cardigan. We will provide two of these for you annually. We have all sizes available in school to try on if you are unsure of the size you need.
Polo Shirt	Simple white polo shirt featuring our school logo. We provide two of these for you annually and have all sizes at the school for you to try on if you are unsure of the size you need.
Trousers/skirt	We ask that you provide your child/ren with simple grey school trousers or school skirt. These are available from the uniform shop, or you can purchase from high street shops or supermarkets.
School Shoes	We ask that you provide a pair of suitable school shoes. If you have any queries regarding this, please don't hesitate to call or email us for advice.

Uniform



How will you communicate with me as a parent?

We will keep you informed about the learning your child has completed in a variety of ways.

A newsletter will be sent out every term.

We will stay connected with you via a platform called Parent Portal.

We have regular coffee mornings so you can come along, chat to us, but also chat to other parents if you choose too.

Please join our Facebook page so you can keep up to date with all the events.

Weekly update from the Family Support Worker.



Communication



What clinical therapy do we offer?

At Maple Grove School, we are fortunate to have a dedicated therapy team consisting of Speech and Language Therapists (SALT), Occupational Therapists (OT), Art Therapist and psychologists. This team is onsite weekly, providing essential support and interventions to help our young people thrive.



Our Therapy Team



What do I do if I have a safeguarding concern?

If you have any safeguarding concerns, please contact one of our designated safeguarding leads (DSL) by either calling the school office or emailing info@maplegroveschool.org

- Nic Sawyer
- Ben Reading
- Shelly Williams

Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and at Maple Grove, we take it very seriously. Every member of our community, including staff, volunteers, and students, are committed to creating a safe environment where everyone is protected from abuse, harm, and neglect. We adhere to strict safeguarding policies, provide comprehensive training, and ensure that any concerns are promptly addressed by our designated safeguarding leads.

Together, we work to maintain a culture of vigilance and care.



Safeguarding



How will you meet the needs of my child's EHCP/IDP?

At Maple Grove School, we take the review of your child's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or Individual Development Plan (IDP) very seriously.

Reviews are conducted annually to ensure that the plan continues to meet your child's needs and supports their progress effectively. However, if there are significant changes in your child's circumstances or needs, we can arrange for an interim review.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any concerns or wish to discuss the timing and details of the next EHCP review for your child.



Education Health and Care Plans

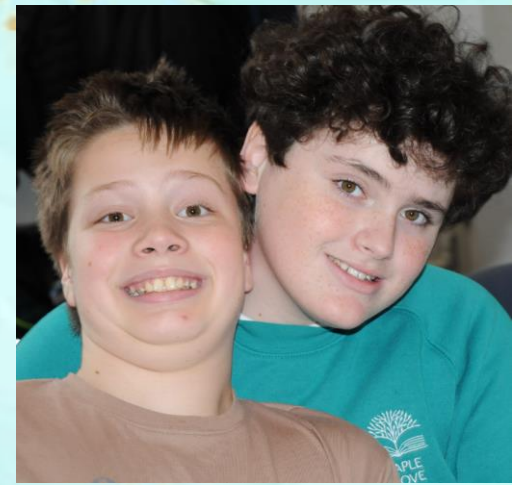


How should I let school know my child is on medication or has medical needs?

Many pupils will need to take medication or be given it at school at some time in their school life.

For most, this will be for a short period to allow them to finish a course of antibiotics or apply a lotion. In some cases, there may be a long-term need for pupils to take medication.

We ask that you follow the process to allow us to administer medication safely and effectively.



Medicine must only be brought to school in the original unopened packaging by an adult and needs to be taken to the school office.

The packaging should be clearly labelled with the following information:

- Name of the pupil
- Name of the drug
- Dosage
- Frequency of administration.
- Use by date/expiry date to be clear.
- Medicines should always be kept in their original packaging.

Supporting Learners with medical conditions



What animals do we have?

These are some of the additions to our Maple Grove family and they play an essential role in our community, helping our young people develop vital skills for their future aspirations.



Beyond that, they provide excellent therapy and support the overall wellbeing of our students

Animal care lunch club is definitely one of the most popular!

Meet Our Animals

Our aim is to provide a safe and inspiring environment in which pupils aspire, believe in themselves and create their own pathway to succeed in the world in which we live.

Aspire

Believe

Create

