

Bank View High School Profile



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Sherwoods Lane, Fazakerley
Liverpool, Merseyside, L10 1LW
Telephone: 0151 525 3451
<http://www.bankviewhighschool.com>

Children's Service Authority:	Liverpool
Age range:	11-18
Number of pupils:	170
Head teacher:	Mr Ian Wright
Chair of governors:	Jan Pollard

What have been our successes this year?

Pupils make a positive contribution towards school. Pupils hold a ballot each year and all class groups are represented on the School Council and influence policy and decision making at whole school level e.g. behaviour policy.

In 2009/10, 100% of all year 11 pupils achieved one or more GCSEs with 42% passing 5 or more. The alternative curriculum has been extended to provide wider college options e.g. hairdressing, vocational taster sessions, mechanics. The Entry Level qualification results were equally impressive.

The school's annual production, which focused upon a talent contest last year was a great success with almost all pupils contributing.

The school has strong sporting teams and compete at local and district level. Two pupils represented the country in soccer and gymnastics.

The school has continued to make a positive contribution to a variety of charities at home and abroad.

Bank View has the Investor's in People Award and Basic Skills Award.

Staff have been actively involved in a variety of training, particularly autism training (ASD) in preparation for the changing population.

What are we trying to improve?

Attendance was graded as satisfactory by Ofsted in 2008 but remains a key issue for action. Many strategies have been put into place including: first day response, praise assemblies, merit awards, targets sent home, weekly meetings with the EWO, fixed penalty notices and even court action. The school reached its target of 90% for 2009/10. The new target for 2010/11 is 92%.

Staff are working together to promote equality of opportunity by sharing experience of examination courses e.g. GCSEs. Our Ofsted report stated that our teaching was good to outstanding whilst some was satisfactory. The school is continuing to ensure that all teaching reflects that of the very best.

The school is trying to use its data more effectively by showing how pupils make progress over time. This progress will be monitored more closely by staff and be made available to governors twice per year.

The school will continue to work towards meeting the needs of pupils who are on the autistic spectrum.

At the end of last year the ARC (Additional Resource Base) was put into place ready for use in the Autumn term 2010. This provision is aimed at meeting the additional needs of all pupils in school.

How much progress do pupils make?

Pupils often enter Bank View below National Curriculum or have very low National Curriculum scores. At the end of Key Stage 4 most pupils successfully complete several externally accredited courses at Entry Level and GCSE.

GCSE results for 2009/10 were again excellent with 100% of pupils achieving one or more passes in English, maths, science, art, food tech and drama. 42% of pupils achieved 5 or more GCSE passes.

The vast majority of pupils in year 11 achieved good Compact Graduation Awards last year, mostly at gold and platinum level. Leavers are expected to achieve standards set by industry and local employers e.g. attendance, work experience, exam accreditation.

Senior pupils gain confidence working alongside mainstream peers by attending a variety of vocational college link placements in the local community.

Pupils make good progress with behaviour development. This is heavily supported by an effective pastoral team and underpinned by a positive merit award system. Pupil progress is recorded in 'SPECTRUM' files which are pupil owned and encourage individual improvement.

How have our results changed over time?

Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 progress at Bank View place the school in the top 20% nationally (all schools) and in the top 25% of special schools for 2008/9 for value added performance.

19% of pupils achieved 5 GCSE passes in art, science, maths, English and drama on the North Site in 2009. In 2010, 42% of pupils gained 5 or more GCSE passes.

All children were entered last year for external exams at Entry Level or GCSE.

All groups of children perform well given their ability. Looked after children achieved as well, and in some cases better than their peers last year.

The school has continued to reflect the five strands of Every Child Matters (Safe, Healthy, Achieving, Positive Contribution and Employable - 'SHAPE') for all its pupils e.g. more pupils are now involved in sporting activities, Pupil School Council established, increased numbers and higher levels of Compact Awards, more pupils attending local community colleges e.g. vocational taster programmes.

How are we making sure that every child gets teaching to meet their individual needs?

Pupils at Bank View are taught by experienced staff who are skilled in encouraging pupils to build upon their individual achievements and give clear guidance on how to improve.

The curriculum is broad, balanced and differentiated and supports pupil learning styles. External accreditation is designed to meet all ability levels e.g. GCSE, Entry Level, Asdan.

The Alternative Curriculum e.g. college courses, is successful in engaging individual pupils who experience problems accessing parts of the curriculum.

Individual pupils have Individual Education Plans/Behaviour Plans which are reviewed termly. The Pupil Advocacy Team assists pupils with target setting.

Annual Reviews are generally well attended by parents/carers who support the school.

The SENCO ensures that staff are aware of individual needs, e.g. learning styles and ICT programmes.

Bank View participates in the LA's Gifted and Talented Programme challenging individual pupils e.g. sport, drama, arts. The school links with the Fusion Project which provide out of school activities for the more vulnerable pupils e.g. healthy eating, friendship groups.

An additional resource base has been set up in school.

What have pupils told us about the school, and what have we done as a result?

Pupils at Bank View are encouraged to become actively involved in the development of the school. A School Council operates giving pupils a voice within school. Pupil ideas and concerns are then referred to whole school staff meetings e.g. concerns were raised over potential bullying areas such as the lower playground gate. This issue was brought to the attention of staff at a full staff meeting and extra supervision by senior teachers was put into place. Representatives of the School Council meet with the governors at each full governor meeting and report on Council issues. This is a set agenda item.

All pupils had the opportunity to complete a Pupil Satisfaction Survey. The key issues highlighted in the survey have been brought to the attention of staff for action .e.g. improved choice and diet at dinner time resulting in LA advice and monitoring, anti-bullying concerns resulting in whole school anti-bullying assemblies and review of school policy.

Pupils are proactive with fundraising events and are responsible for suggesting and organising activities e.g. danceathon, Red Nose, Children in Need and Sports Relief.

How do we make sure our pupils are safe and well-supported?

Bank View rejects negative values such as bullying and has an effective anti-bullying policy which is regularly reviewed. The school has been proactive in developing an anti-bullying and caring ethos e.g. anti-bullying week, Childline signposts, Community Police Officer weekly drop-in sessions for pupils. Safeguarding policy is regularly reviewed.

The headteacher is the named safeguarding officer.

Incidents of a racist nature are dealt with effectively and reported to the LA.

Health weeks are timetabled each year and address key areas. These are supported by visiting agencies e.g. Fag Ends, relationship drama productions, Choices and Fusion.

Bank View has achieved the Healthy Eating and Healthy School's Award.

The school nurse provides weekly drop-in sessions for all pupils.

The school runs extended sports activities (early morning, dinner and after school) supported by the Sports Development Programme. SportsLinx have been involved in monitoring activities and fitness levels of pupils.

The safety of our pupils is further supported by effective risk assessment for outings and activities. The school governors carry out regular health and safety checks in addition to LA audits.

What activities and options are available to pupils?

All pupils at Bank View have the opportunity to become actively engaged in a variety of additional activities. The school runs dinner time clubs e.g. library, drama, music, dance, soccer. After school clubs run for sporting activities e.g. cycling, handball, design and technology.

Annual school productions involve large numbers of pupils in the cast and supporting roles e.g. costume, scenery, music and stagehands and are well supported by parents.

Several residential experiences take place for all age groups e.g. canal boating, Colomendy, Barden Towers (N.Yorks). All pupils have the chance to attend on a rolling programme.

The merit system is linked to an end of term class competition with additional activities on offer e.g. dry skiing.

Alternative curriculum programmes are available for some older pupils mostly based at local colleges and focusing upon individual needs and life skills.

Pupils in year 11 attend taster courses at the local community college in vocational areas e.g. painting and decorating.

Pupils in years 10 and 11 are given option choices at the start of the year which include: DT, humanities, Spanish, hairdressing and mechanics at college.

How are we working with parents and the community?

Bank View continues to work well with parents and the community. The school has an open door policy for meeting parents/carers to discuss issues and offer support.

Individual pupil targets are set and agreed with parents who have the opportunity to add their own targets. Parent's afternoons encourage parents to support their child's learning in partnership with the school.

The school runs courses for parents led by the learning mentors and SENCO e.g. behaviour management. Parents evenings/afternoons take place when pupils' art work is exhibited.

Bank View has worked closely with local colleges, which has had a positive impact upon pupil learning and progress.

A variety of outside agencies work in partnership with the school to enrich the curriculum e.g. Trading Standards, Connexions, Police, Fire Service and RSPCA. Our immediate neighbours are invited to school events e.g. productions and fundraising.

Parents' newsletters have become a regular feature of the school in 2009/10, keeping parents informed of events and developments. The school has its own website which is updated half termly.

All parents had the opportunity to complete a 'Parent Satisfaction Survey' which has been acted upon and reported back to parents.

What do our pupils do after leaving this school?

The majority of our pupils follow college courses after leaving school. Individual pupil taster courses followed in years 10 and 11 often influence the pupils' final choice. Courses last year included: painting and decorating, joinery, hairdressing and mechanics.

Pupils are well supported by the Connexions Service during years 9, 10 and 11 resulting in better informed decisions and direction.

A number of pupils opt to attend Bank View's Sixth Form and follow individual programmes with a life skills focus. The sixth form meets the needs of the more vulnerable pupils who are identified as requiring further additional support.

Several pupils accessed full time college courses in 2009/10, some of our pupils (12 pupils) were placed in BVHS Sixth Form where they follow accredited courses with life skills themes.

What have we done in response to Ofsted?

Bank View High School had its first Ofsted inspection in February 2008. This was when the both sites were inspected as one school. The school was graded as good with some outstanding practice. There were three issues identified for further development which continue to be addressed in 2009/10:

1. Ensure that all teaching is the quality of the very best.

The Senior Management Team and School Improvement Partner are monitoring teaching and carrying out lesson observations and giving feedback to teachers on ways to improve. Good practice between teachers is also being shared.

2. Improve attendance

The overall attendance for Bank View was graded as satisfactory. Attendance had already been highlighted as an area for development and now includes many strategies for improvement e.g. first day response, links to merit awards, traffic light scheme, new EWO, fixed penalty notices and legal action.

3. Provide data about the progress of pupil groups to governors

This data is now being collected and will be used to identify areas for development and shared with the governing body twice per year

The above issues have now been included within the School Improvement Plan.

More Information

If you would like more information about school policies, including our policies on special educational needs and disability, admissions, finance, school food and our complaints procedure, please contact us:

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