



Silverdale SCHOOL CONTEXT



WELCOME TO SILVERDALE

Silverdale School is a dedicated special school providing comprehensive support and education for **144 children (oversubscribed from 133 planned places for 2024-2025)** across Key Stages 1-4.

All students at Silverdale have an **Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP)** with **Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH)** identified as their primary need. Many also present with co-occurring neurodiversity and additional needs including communication and interaction, physical and sensory, and cognitive challenges.

Our students often arrive with complex backgrounds, having experienced **significant trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)** such as loss, bereavement, domestic violence, changes in care, family incarceration, and transitions into social care (fostering, adoption). This frequently manifests as **challenging and violent behaviour** towards others and difficulties managing complex medical conditions linked to their neurodiversity. Their prior educational experiences are typically negative, with many having histories of **emotionally based school non-attendance (EBSNA)** or very low attendance rates.



Silverdale's highly trained staff are proficient in supporting children with diagnoses including **ADHD, Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC), Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), Oppositional Defiance Disorder (ODD), Conduct Disorder,** and various sensory profiles. The majority of our students are known to or actively supported by **Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)**, and many families engage with social care for support.

Understanding that our children often arrive feeling overwhelmed, rejected, and isolated, struggling with emotional and behavioural regulation, we employ **PRICE (Protecting Rights in a Caring Environment)**. This trauma-informed, positive behaviour support system prioritises human rights and well-being, focusing on: protecting rights, reducing restrictive practices, promoting a person-centred approach, creating a safer environment, improving quality of life, and reducing placement breakdown. Our training emphasises positive relationships, de-escalation, and, as a last resort, low-trauma physical management.



Our **first priority is building relationships, trust, stability, predictability, and security.**

Our dedicated team of **Link Workers**, supported by a Senior Leader for attendance, helps re-engage students who may have experienced significant attendance barriers. Once settled, students engage with a rich offer of **engagement and regulatory activities**, including calm and play areas, sensory rooms, bespoke plans, 1:1 staffing, and access to assistance pets.

We offer both informal and formal timetables, adapting to individual needs. For students with significant barriers, particularly those joining late in KS3 or KS4, we commission **approved alternative provisions** like Sporting Chance and The Motor Project. Students also engage in **community-based projects** such as joinery and conservation work.



Over time, evidence shows that students at Silverdale achieve **positive outcomes**, including improved attendance, reduced incidents, strong academic progress, and enhanced self-management, social skills, wellbeing, and independence.

Our school operates across two buildings on a single site. The **Langdale building** serves KS1 and KS2, with an additional "middle school class" for Year 7 students transitioning to the main site for specialist subjects. The **main site building** houses the Upper School for more resilient students and **Oasis**, a quieter, connected corridor providing enhanced support for highly vulnerable students, particularly those with or on assessment pathways for ASC. The **Phoenix class** offers a bespoke, high staff-to-child ratio timetable for students at high risk of exclusion, focusing on functional skills in core subjects.



Silverdale prioritises **Post-16 destinations**, offering qualifications in English, Maths, Science, and Computing at Entry Level, functional skills, BTEC, and GCSE. Students also choose from options like DT, Art, Music, Land Science, Photography, Cookery, and Duke of Edinburgh, supported by **North Tyneside Connexions**. Our working garden and community café offer practical career experience in horticulture and hospitality.

The primary curriculum focuses on **regulatory skills, wellbeing, and understanding neurodiversity**, encompassing core and foundation subjects, swimming, outdoor learning, and pro-social skills, with staff responding to specialist interests.

We actively foster a strong sense of **community**, exemplified by our partnership with **Howdon Hub**, providing a safe space for families outside school hours. Hub staff also work on-site, strengthening connections. Our PSHE offer and coaching from staff, particularly the Behaviour Team, empower students against anti-social and gang cultures. We provide **counselling** and collaborate with external agencies for safeguarding.

Our **open-door policy** for parents/carers includes regular fundraising, awareness, and academic progress events. Our aim is for students to leave Silverdale with essential **functional skills (reading, writing, maths, digital)**, tailored qualifications, and vital **independent living skills** (time management, travel, swimming), alongside effective communication, conflict management, self-belief, and confidence to successfully transition to colleges, apprenticeships, or employment.

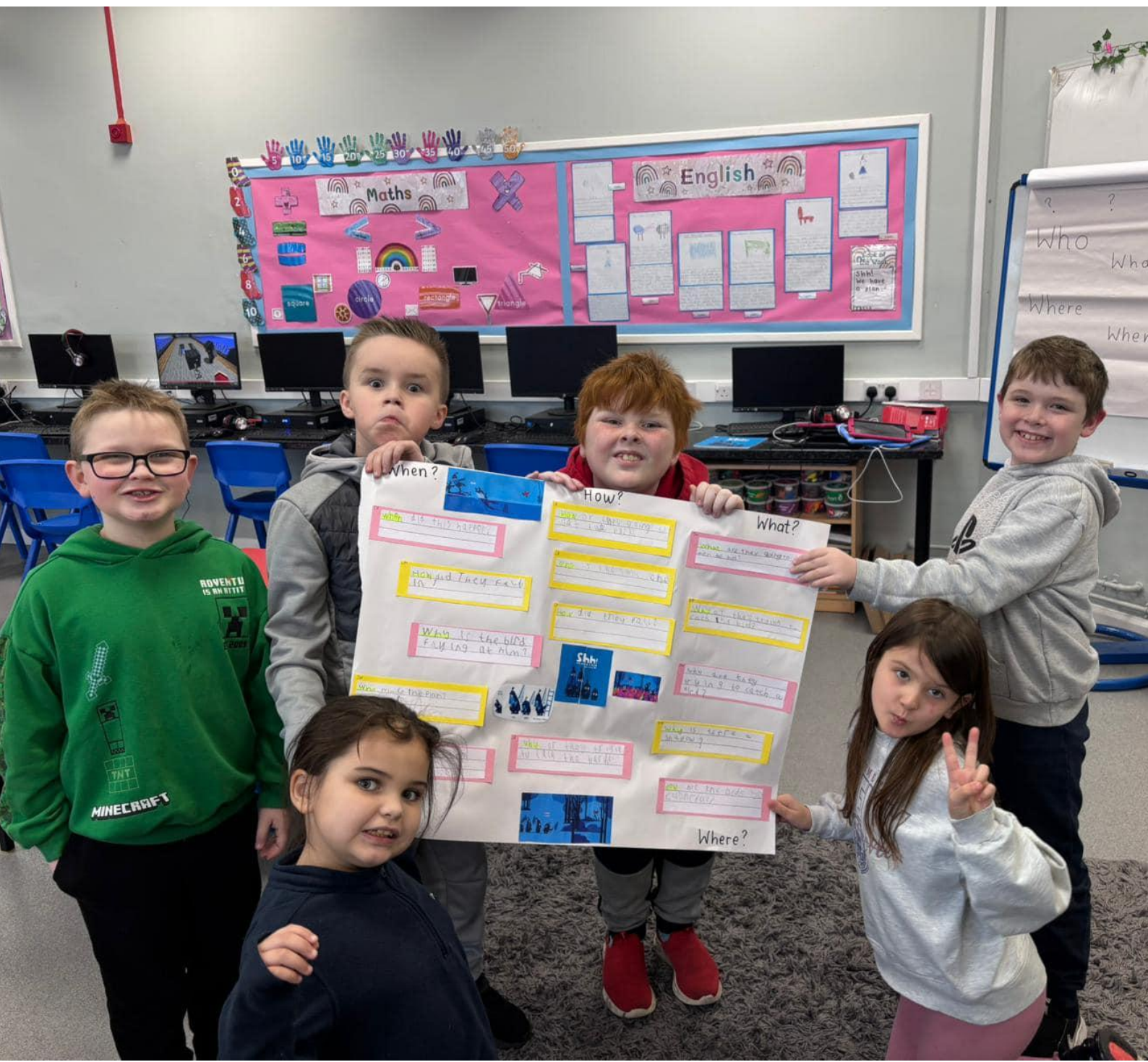
Visitors to Silverdale will often observe polite, respectful, and welcoming students. However, it's also important to be aware that you may hear inappropriate language or see students in moments of dysregulation or crisis.

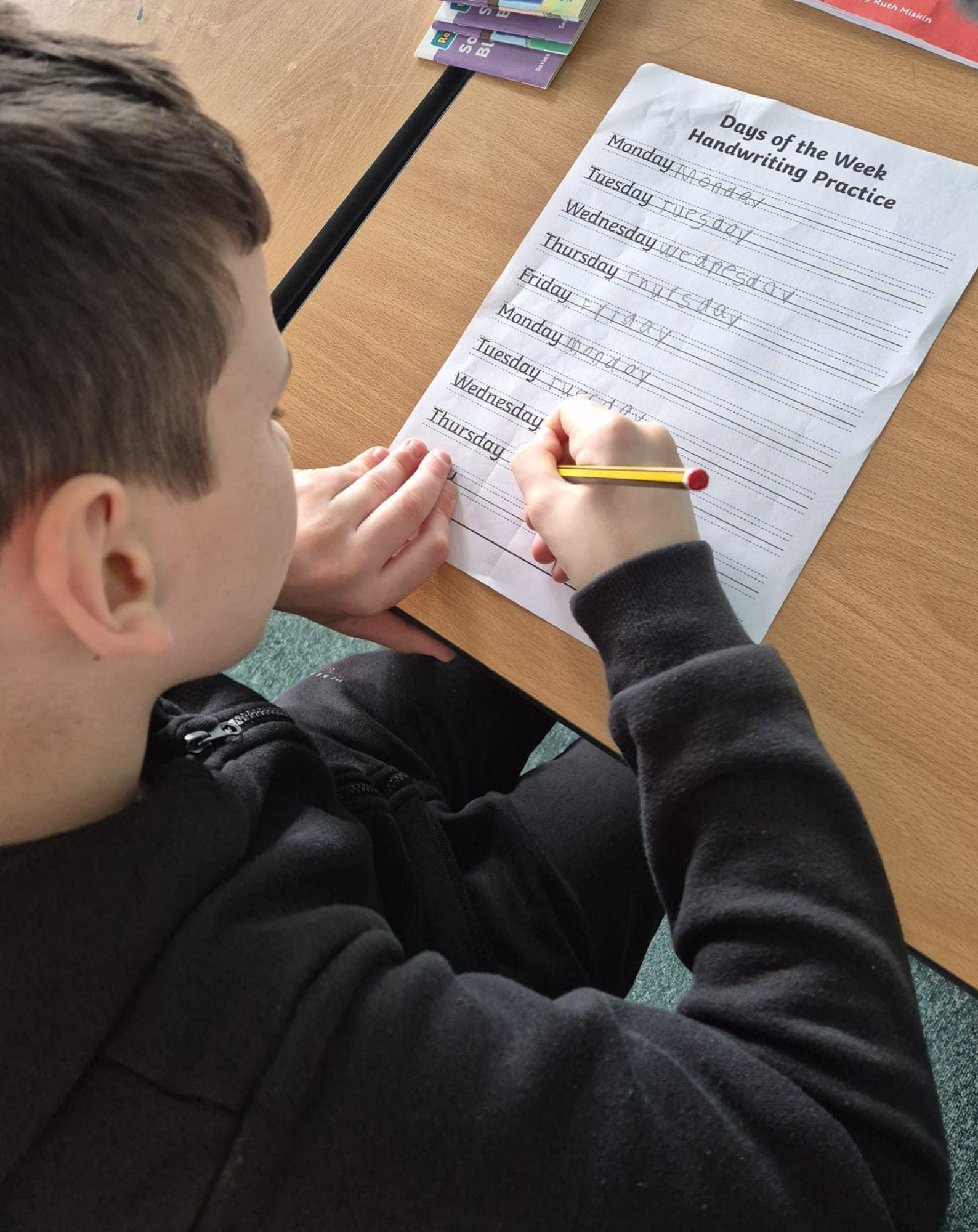
Some of our children are unable to give direct eye contact and have difficulty understanding and managing personal space. Our staff are deeply knowledgeable about each child's profile and needs, responding with **personalised, trauma-informed approaches** that prioritise dignity and self-esteem.



We understand that for many of our neurodivergent children, direct challenge can trigger unhelpful behaviours, leading us to use **tactical ignoring, gentle scripts, appropriate humour, redirection, and reframing** as part of our de-escalation toolkit, often when the child is calmer and in a private setting.

The strength of our diverse staff team allows for flexibility, ensuring the best-placed staff member supports a young person during challenging times.





Days of the Week Handwriting Practice

Monday Monday
Tuesday Tuesday
Wednesday Wednesday
Thursday Thursday
Friday Friday
Monday Monday
Tuesday Tuesday
Wednesday Wednesday
Thursday Thursday

SOCIAL MEDIA FEED



Silverdale School & Commissioned Service

606 likes • 746 followers



Professional dashboard

Edit

Advertise

Posts About Mentions Reviews Reels Photos More

New Follower



Leonie

Forever grateful for such patient staff! X

POSTED 1HR AGO

REPLY

3

Top Fan



Paul

Just wanna say thank you to the amazing staff at Silverdale... you have been an amazing support for all of us.

POSTED 2HR AGO

REPLY

5

Top Fan



Tara

Thank you to all the staff that has helped my son ... he wouldn't be the person he is today without all your lovely help xx

POSTED 3HR AGO

REPLY

4

Top Fan



Michelle

Thank you to all the staff that have helped my son over the last 5 years. You are an amazing team Xx

POSTED 4HR AGO

REPLY

3

Rising Contributor



Emma

Thank you again for all your support over the last 10 years. You are all amazing. X

POSTED 5HR AGO

REPLY

2

Top Fan



Hannah

Thank you all so much for everything you have all done for [my son] since he first started... Couldn't be anymore thankful because without all your hard work, support and believing in him he wouldn't be where he is today!! Guted he's leaving xx

POSTED 6HR AGO

REPLY

3

Top Commenter



Bev

Thank you so much for all the help & support ♥️ you are all amazing 🙌

POSTED 7HR AGO

REPLY

2

Active Follower



Jane

Thank you for absolutely everything you've done for [my son], went above and beyond! He wouldn't be the lad he is today without your help and support. We as a family appreciate everyone who's had an input big or small x

POSTED 8HR AGO

REPLY

2