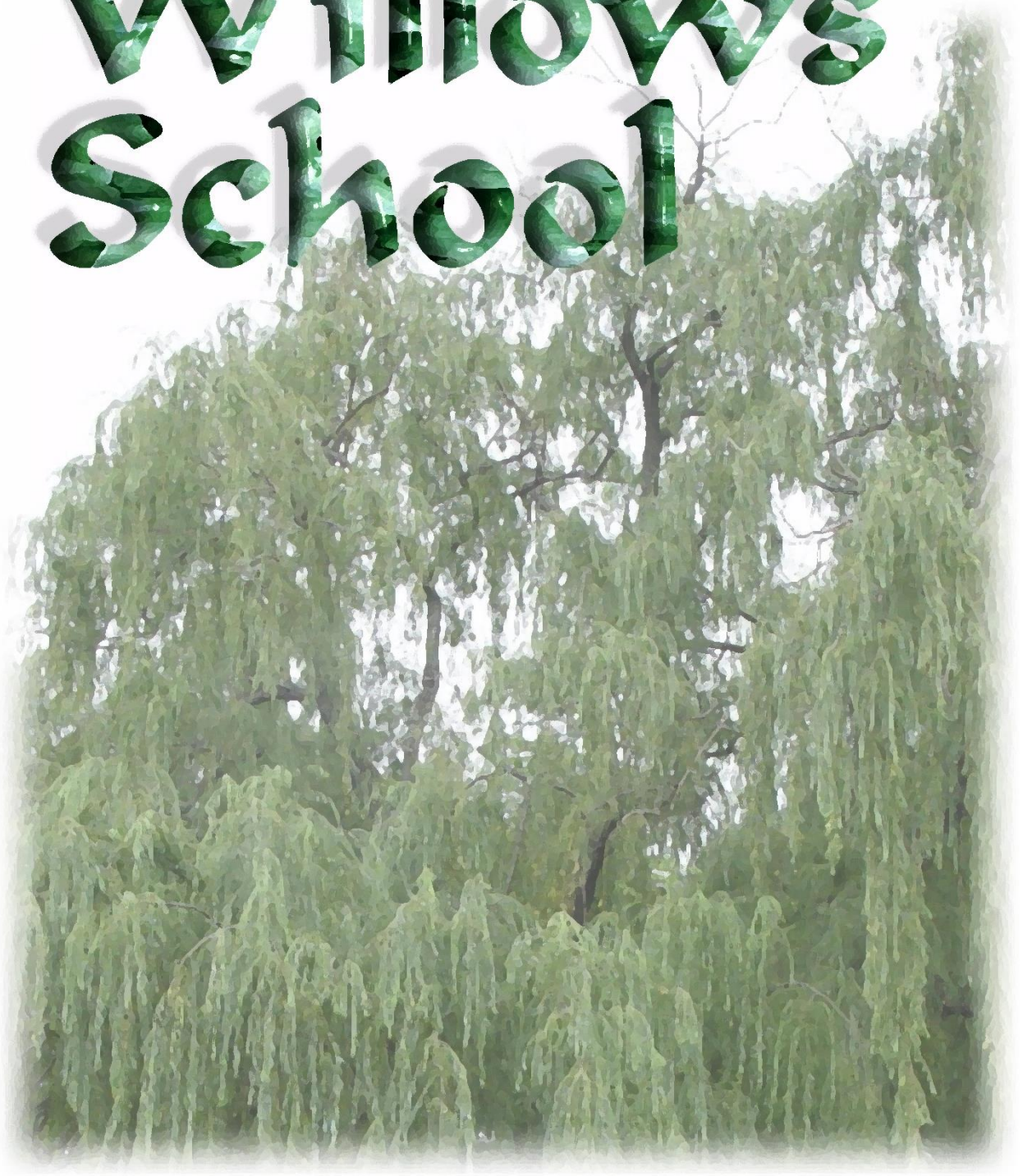


The Willows School



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Prospectus 2026-2027



The Willows School



We are an “I can” school. A special school where every young person is treated as an individual and encouraged to be the best that they can be.

We take pupils aged 7 to 19 with a range of moderate learning difficulties some with additional needs such as speech and language difficulties, children on the autistic spectrum and children with emotional and behavioural difficulties.

Here at The Willows we have strong aims and values, we believe:

- Every young person is a unique individual with their own strengths and skills
- Everyone has the right to be listened to and respected
- Everyone has the right to be included
- Everyone should be encouraged and given the opportunity to reach their full potential

Ofsted inspection November 2025

Pupils eagerly attend this inclusive and nurturing school. Staff welcome them warmly each morning. Pupils' high attendance reflects their enthusiasm. A calm, friendly atmosphere helps pupils, including those in the post-16 provision, feel happy, settled and ready to learn.

Pupils benefit from classrooms and outdoor spaces that are thoughtfully designed to promote their wellbeing. Staff know pupils well. They build trusting relationships that remove barriers to attendance and learning.

Parents and carers value the school's significant, positive impact on their children's happiness and achievements.

Pupils feel respected and cared for. They trust adults to support them with any concerns.

The school prepares pupils effectively for adulthood and life beyond school by providing a rich range of experiences.

Staff place each pupil's education, health and care plan at the heart of their learning journey, using it to guide teaching and wider support.

Staff are highly adept in meeting pupils' social, emotional and mental health needs. This helps pupils to engage in learning, enjoy school and thrive.

Staff

Mrs R Booth	Head Teacher
Mrs C Stewart	Deputy Head teacher; Head of Upper school and Post 16
Mrs E Wilkinson	Head of Lower School; Music Subject Leader
Mr M Holmshaw	Head of Middle School

Lower School

Mrs S Robinson	Class L1;
Mr J Pitchford	Class L2;
Miss Gyte	Class L3; MFL Subject Leader
Mr T Halloway /	Class L4; History Subject Leader
Miss M Galley	Class L4;

Middle School

Mr J Stevenson	Class M1; Computing Subject Leader
Mrs A Duncan	Class M2; M&V Subject Leader
Mrs N Whittaker	Class M3; PfA Subject Leader
Mrs D Swain	Class M4; Food Technology Subject Leader
Mr T Sellars	Class M5; English Subject Leader

Upper School

Mrs C Martin	Class U1; Science Subject Leader
Miss I Winson	Class U2; Art Subject Leader
Mrs J Kavanagh	Class U3; Design Technology Subject Leader
Mrs L Knight	Class U4; Physical Education Leader

Post 16

Mrs K Elshaw/	Class P1; Post 16
Miss G Phillips	Class P1; Post 16
Miss Christina Woolley	Class P2; Post 16
Miss K Van Waterschoot	Class P3; Post 16
Mrs J Annesley	Class P4; Post 16

Other Teaching Staff

Mrs L Allott	HLTA
Mrs C Carter	HLTA
Mrs K Cusworth	Outdoor Education HLTA
Mrs L Beech	HLTA
Mrs R Perveen	HLTA
Miss R Sampson	Horticulture HLTA

Pupil Support Team:

Ms S Lockyer
Mrs E Purshouse
Miss A Cooper
Miss J Kavanagh
Miss T Ellery
Miss S Warnes
Mrs N Vernon

Transition Officer and Exams:

Mrs D Hall

Office:

Mrs J Kenny	School Resource Manager
Mrs D Ridge	School Resource officers
Mrs N Ellis	School Resource officers
Mrs A Jackson	Receptionist
Mrs R Heald	Receptionist

Teaching Assistants:

Mrs Allen	Miss Baxter	Miss Skermer	Mrs M Booth
Miss Hall	Mr Case	Mrs Clarke	Miss Craddock
Mrs Burden	Mrs Devine	Miss Shokat	Mrs Lovatt
Mrs Woodcock	Miss Firth	Mrs Gamble	Miss Norbury
Miss Hallam	Mrs Holmes	Mrs Moran	Miss Redfern
Miss Woodward	Miss Moon	Mrs Moxon	Miss Stockton
Mr Monks	Miss Mills	Miss Price-Mear	Miss Tong
Mrs Jackson	Mr Sanderson	Mrs Schofield	Mrs Knight
Miss E Smith	Miss Stanley	Mr Barling	Mr Booth
Mrs Mayfield	Miss Thomson	Mrs Tierney	Miss H Smith
Mrs Wiggett	Miss Winn	Mrs Wilkinson	Mrs Roadhouse
Mrs Chapman	Mr Grainger	Mr Clarke	Mr Burke

ICT Technician:

Mr S Jamal

Vocational Manager:

Mr R Ellis

Kitchen Staff:

Mrs J Beresford	Cook
Mrs C Barrett	Kitchen Assistant
Mrs O Monolache	Kitchen Assistant
Mrs K Greenwood	Kitchen Assistant

Caretaker:

Mr N Juggins

The Governing Body

The School Governors play a major role in supporting and monitoring the work of the school. Parent Governors are there to represent the views of all parents.

Mrs A Gyte	Chair of Governors
Mr R Linkens	Vice Chair of Governors
Mrs R Booth	Headteacher
Mrs C Martin	Staff Governor
Mrs J McLoughlin	Parent Governor
Mrs A Hodgkinson	Parent Governor
Ms A Smith	Parent Governor
Mr R Monks	Staff Governor
Mrs S Hedley	

How is the School organised?

The Willows School has 4 departments:

- Lower School for pupils in Years 3 – 7
- Middle School for pupils in Years 7 - 9
- Upper School for pupils in Years 10 – 11
- Post 16 for pupils in Year 12-14.

Pupils generally work in classes with a teacher and at least 2 Teaching Assistants.

The School Day

The school day starts at 8.55am with registration and finishes at 3.20pm when pupils go back to classrooms to wait for the buses.

THE SCHOOL DAY	
Consultation/morning activities	8.55-9.20
Period 1	9.20-10.05
Period 2	10.05-10.50
BREAK	10.50-11.05
Period 3	11.05-11.50
Period 4	11.50-12.35
LUNCH	12.35-1.35
Period 5	1.35-2.20
Period 6	2.20-3.05
Form time	3.05-3.20

Useful Information

• Uniform

Here at The Willows we feel that the uniform gives our pupils a sense of belonging. It is important to us that all our pupils wear the uniform with pride.

The School Council helped to decide what the school uniform should look like:

White polo shirt

Black trousers or skirt

Black shoes or plain black trainers

Lower School/Middle School: Maroon sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo

Upper School: Black sweatshirt or cardigan with the school logo

Post 16: Non-uniform

The maroon and black sweatshirts are to be ordered through Pinders School Wear. They have two outlets, one in Rotherham Bus Station and one in Crystal Peaks Shopping Centre. Alternatively uniform can be ordered online at www.pindersschoolwear.co.uk. Reversible fleeces and white polo shirts with the school logo on can also be ordered if required.

• Lunchtimes

Healthy balanced meals are cooked on the premises each day. Meals are charged at £4.73 per day for lower school pupils, and £5.06 per day for middle and upper school.

Alternatively pupils can bring a packed lunch. As part of our Health School Policy, we are promoting “Healthy Lunchboxes” for our pupils. Please note we are a school that strives to be a nut free environment.

All the pupils eat together either in the hall or rooms designated for those who bring packed lunches.

• Milk & Snacks

Milk is available to drink during morning break and is ordered directly through ‘Cool Milk’. The cost for milk is approximately £18.00 per school term. Further information can be obtained from the school office team.

Most Friday’s the pupils run a healthy snack shop as part of their Enterprise activities. Other snacks are also available throughout the week from The Student Council.

• Travelling to/from school

Transport arrangements are assessed as part of the Statement of Special Education Needs. Written details of pick up/drop off points and times are sent to parents/carers by the council’s Corporate Transport Unit.

- Most pupils travel to school by transport organised by the local authority
- Some pupils walk/are brought by their family to school. Parents/carers drop their children off at the school gate where a member of staff will be waiting for them.

Pupils in Key Stage 4 and 5 access an Independent Travel Training programme to help develop independence.

• The Pupil Parliament

Each class elects a representative to the Pupil Parliament.

The Pupil Parliament meets at least once a term and discusses issues that affect them and their school. They make decisions about what happens at school, for example, they decided on some of the school rules and the school uniform. They are also involved in interviews for new staff.

They also choose a charity to support for the current school year.

At The Willows we value what the students have to say and the Student Council is an important aspect of school life.

• **Key Stage 4**

When pupils reach Key Stage 4 they are able to access a more personalised curriculum. There is an Options programme that changes on a termly basis and allows the pupils to try new activities and subject areas, leading to qualifications where appropriate. Choices can include art, radio, horticulture and vocational.

The Options allow our pupils to choose subjects that inspire them. Activities they can continue with throughout their adult life and opportunities to try out possible employment pathways.

There are opportunities for pupils to take part in work experience, where appropriate for example working in a professional kitchen and waitressing. All our placements are personalised to meet the needs of our pupils and work experience is matched very carefully to the strengths of individuals.

• **Assessment and Qualifications**

All our students are working outside the expected range of achievement and do not take SATS. We use a variety of bespoke assessment tools to assess pupils and show progress.

All our pupils are given the opportunity to achieve a range of external qualifications in Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 including Entry Level Maths, English and Science. There are also opportunities to gain Open Award qualifications and where appropriate some of our children and young people are entered for Level 1 and Level 2 Functional skills exams.

We are very proud of the achievements our pupils make and celebrate their success every year with an Awards Ceremony.

• **Next Steps**

We work with all our pupils and their families to ensure that an appropriate pathway is available to them to support them in their life long journey. We have a Transitions Support Worker who works closely our pupils and their families.

- Most of our pupils transfer to our Post 16 provision however we have developed good links with colleges who offer appropriate courses
- Some of our pupils transfer to 16 –19 provision at other Special Schools
- Some of our pupils go to Specialist Colleges
- Some of our pupils go on to Training Courses such as Traineeships or supported internships.

Post 16 a provision for the future:

The Post 16 curriculum is designed around need, skills, interests and personal goals. A personalised mix of educational subjects, support and enrichment of social and emotional development. An experience of leisure pursuits, community learning and engaging with local businesses with a view to match students with work placement/internships or taster sessions when students are still unsure of what they want to do.

Our rigorous transition programme ensures that our students leave The Willows as successful and independent young adults who understand their role as global citizens in the wider community.

The Pupil Support Team

The Pupil Support Team is made up of experienced members of staff with expertise in behaviour support, emotional wellbeing, nurture groups, counselling 'Listening ear' and individualised learning. Their work includes:

- Working closely with pupils, parents and outside agencies on issues surrounding social and emotional well being
- Providing academic interventions for pupils
- Working on individual health and hygiene issues
- Monitoring attendance
- They are trainers in The Team Teach Approach, which relates to behaviour support and intervention. They have been involved in training all the staff at The Willows.
The Pupil Support Team provides a valuable service to all the pupils at The Willows, as well as the staff and parents/carers.

Our Pupil Support Team works with pupils who may be having difficulties with social skills, emotional difficulties and issues around self-esteem. They work with pupils on a one to one or small group basis.

School Rules

	The Willows School Rules
♦ Always do your best to be kind to everyone	♦ No swearing ♦ No fighting ♦ No hurting other people ♦ No name calling or hurting people's feelings ♦ No bullying ♦ Respect everyone in school
♦ Always come to school ready to learn	♦ Wear school uniform ♦ No makeup ♦ No extreme hairstyles ♦ No chewing gum ♦ No mobile phones ♦ No jewellery (apart from small studs and NO facial piercings)
♦ Always do your best to learn	♦ Listen to the staff ♦ Follow instructions ♦ Turn up to lessons on time ♦ Do not walk out of lessons (unless this is part of an agreed plan) ♦ Look after school equipment
♦ Always do your best to stay safe & healthy	♦ No running in the corridors ♦ Move sensibly between lessons ♦ No fizzy drinks ♦ Make healthy food choices ♦ Use table manners ♦ No smoking

Teaching and Learning at The Willows

All our pupils have access to the National Curriculum, which is modified in order to meet their individual needs.

Subjects covered include:

English
Maths
Science
Computing
P.E.
PfA – Preparing for Adulthood
Design and Technology
Art
MFL
Food Technology
M&V – Morals and values
History
Geography
Music
Drama

The Willows has outstanding facilities and resources which include:

- A Science Lab
- An outdoor horticulture area
- A fully equipped Food Technology room
- A Design and Technology workshop including a laser cutter
- An ICT suite
- Indoor and outdoor P.E. facilities
- Fitness suite
- Vocational centre
- Forest schools' area
- Horticulture area
- A kiln for Art

The Enhanced/Creative Curriculum

We have whole school projects which allow us to be more creative and imaginative. These projects take place throughout the year when the usual timetable is suspended.

Some of the projects in the past years have included:

- Medieval Week – pupils were split into mixed age groups and took part in a variety of practical activities, a visit to a castle and a medieval showcase.
- Christmas Around the World – classes learnt about the Christmas traditions of a country and presented what they had discovered to the rest of the school.

Out of Schools Visits and Residentials

We know how important it is to learn out of school as well as in the classroom.

Many visits take place to support the curriculum for example, The Butterfly Farm, Yorkshire Wildlife Park, Doncaster Airport, Drax Power Station and Wentworth House.

We also offer residential opportunities. In the last few years our students have had opportunities to stay at PGL and Austerfield for a few nights and go camping as part of the DofE offer for KS4&5.

Fundraising and Enterprise

We feel that it is important that our pupils are given opportunities to learn about money as well as raising funds for worthwhile charities and school projects.

We have various enterprise events including jumble sales, Christmas, Easter and Summer Fayres, raffles and auctions.

For more information, please look on our website

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