

The Orchard



The Orchard is an additional resource provision for autistic pupils which opened in September 2013. There are two classes within the provision catering for pupils who are flourishing at the early stages of their development. We work within the SCERTS framework, to develop social communication and emotional regulation skills through teaching opportunities embedded throughout the school day.

“Social and emotional competence plays a major role in our success or inability to form relationships that allow us to function happily and effectively in the community.” (Marans, Rubin & Laurent, 2005 – Authors of the SCERTS Model)

Many of our pupils experience sensory processing differences and therefore benefit from the calm, structured learning environment of The Orchard. Here they work on individualised tasks for reading, writing, maths and the wider curriculum. The Orchard children regularly embark on a local walk (Sainsbury’s / café / park) to develop important life skills, such as safe roadside behaviour and using money.

In each class the children are supported by a class teacher and two learning support assistants, all of whom are trained by Speech and Language therapists and Occupational Therapists. We benefit from a committed staff team who enjoy keeping up-to-date with recent research developments and current issues.

Inclusion

Each pupil is linked to a mainstream class of same-age peers where they can spend a proportion of their day, depending on their strengths and interests. The children also join their peers for break and lunch times, assemblies and whole school events such as the Christmas production. We pride ourselves of the inclusive nature of our school and the positive peer relationships we have seen develop.

The contact for The Orchard is **Colette Keane** who can be reached on the following email address:
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Parents who are interested in The Orchard can find out more by contacting the SEN department at RBKC:

[SEN Department RBKC](#)