



## Fitzwaryn Special School

*'Through learning to learn, pupils will access society'*

Fitzwaryn School is highly regarded as an outstanding provision for pupils with SEN within Oxfordshire. The school has received four 'outstanding' OFSTED reports following the last four inspections, the most recent being in March 2019:

*'The wider curriculum and extra-curricular activities meet the pupils needs exceptionally well. The many awards and accolades, such as the most inclusive school award from the Oxford County Music Service and the Gold Sports Mark reflect leaders' ambitions and commitment to pupils' high achievements' Ofsted March 2019*

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/139322>

The school caters for 111 children and young adults aged 3 – 19 years whose special needs range from Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) to Severe (SLD) and Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties (PMLD) All pupils admitted to the school have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

The school is situated in Wantage, a growing market town in the south of Oxfordshire. The pupils come from a large catchment area and many are brought by taxi. The majority of pupils come from Wantage and Grove, Didcot and Abingdon, but there are also pupils on roll from West Berkshire and Swindon.

A major building programme was undertaken in 2008 that saw outdated 1970s accommodation being refurbished and new build added to enhance provision. These works resulted in a total transformation of the school. Further building work was completed in September 2018 to provide increased accommodation.

February 2013 saw the conversion of Fitzwaryn School (sponsor status) to a Multi Academy Trust within the Propeller Academy Trust (PAT)  
[www.thepropelleracademytrust.org.uk](http://www.thepropelleracademytrust.org.uk)

The school follows the EYFS curriculum for Foundation Stage pupils and The National Curriculum for Key Stages 1 – 4. Year 10 and 11 pupils work towards accreditation in Functional Skills in English, Maths and IT in addition to their ASDAN qualifications (Bronze, Silver and Gold awards, Personal and Social Development). At Key Stage 5, the school follows the National Open College Network 'Pathways to Adulthood Programme'. Students from the Student Centre also attend a weekly PE session run by sixth form students and teachers at the local Secondary School. Students are enabled to participate in regular work experience opportunities in addition to Enterprise initiatives and Horticulture.

Some pupils choose to go on to Further Education post year 11; others will join Fitzwaryn's Student Centre (sixth form) and have the opportunity to stay until they are 19.

The school prides itself on the diverse and individual curriculum offer. Off-site activities are an integral part of the curriculum e.g. swimming, hydrotherapy, RDA. The innovation of a polytunnel on site has enabled a horticulture strand to be added to the curriculum. The pupils in main school have access to specialist teaching areas such as a music room, an Art room, a D and T room, a cookery room, a gym, a jacuzzi and a sensory theatre. All pupils take part in yoga each week. The pupils are encouraged to take part in many sporting events at different locations competing against their mainstream and special school peers. Fitzwaryn works hard in the community to enable pupils to access society and there are regular community projects that facilitate this.

The school has offered an Outreach and Inreach facility since 2009 providing advice, guidance and training to our mainstream partners. The school works effectively within a local partnership of schools; Springline Partnership of Schools comprising of 7 primaries and Fitzwaryn.

Fitzwaryn is a member of OASSH (Oxfordshire Association of Special Schools) Membership allows access to a Heads group, a Deputies/Senior Leadership group and a Data Users Group. The Senior Leadership Team provides SEN training for NQTs via the Oxfordshire Teaching School Alliance (OTSA) as we are a Strategic Partner within the organisation.

After school clubs are provided by school staff (e.g. multi sports) The school provides 20 days of holiday activities a year following a contract agreement with the LA which is extremely popular with children and families. Lunchtime clubs are provided by staff including a choir, football and dance club. Our Out of School Liaison Officer works with children and families to find appropriate out of school clubs; Yellow Submarine, the 14 Club, FAAAZE and Beatbox. There is a 'Friends Association' (Friends of Fitzwaryn) that has a focus on fundraising

Therapists are allocated to the school via a Service Level Agreement agreed with the LA. There is special school nursing provision on site for 4 days a week. All agencies work together to provide the highest quality provision.

In July 2018, the school received the 'Gold' Sports Mark. The school has also achieved the International Award and has been awarded 'Story telling school, status. In September 2017, Fitzwaryn were awarded School of the Year by the charity 'Breast Cancer Awareness' and in the same month the choir received the 'Most Inclusive Award' from the Oxfordshire County Music Service. In June 2018, the school secured the Basic Skills Quality Mark 10 year award; once again verifying the high quality teaching, learning and assessment in English and Maths.

*'There is very robust self-evaluation of the School Development Plan (SDP) and the quality of teaching and learning across the school. This enables senior leaders to have an excellent whole school strategic approach to ensuring that there is outstanding provision in all areas of the school. The acquisition of basic skills in communication and literacy and mathematics is at the heart of all that the school seeks to achieve for its students' BSQM 2018*

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