



**Learn  
together,  
play together,  
achieve  
together.**

**Maben House  
School Prospectus**





Nicola McDonald  
Head of Education

# Welcome

A very warm welcome to Maben House School, part of Options Autism, from all the staff, children and young people.

Our school prospectus offers an insight into our school, curriculum and the range of support services we offer to children and young people. You'll also find our contact details if you'd like to explore a place at the school for your child or young person.

[www.holisticchildcare.co.uk](http://www.holisticchildcare.co.uk)

## What we do

**At Maben House School, we support children and young people who have often faced exclusion, isolation, and feelings of difference and resentment. Understanding the psychological impact of these experiences, we've designed our approach to be trauma-informed, placing nurture and structured boundaries at the heart of everything we do.**

We view behaviour as a form of communication, approaching it objectively and reflectively. Our students thrive in an individualised, inclusive, and caring environment where they can safely address trauma and challenges through therapy, play, and positive social modelling. We believe that school should be a time for children to learn, grow, and build the social and academic skills needed for a successful future.

“

The team at Maben House have a great insight into my young person's needs and they collaborate with professionals to ensure they are meeting all of their needs. The core of their interventions are therapeutic and Trauma-informed. My young person is progressing well...and is being supported with their emotional literacy. We are delighted at the standard of care. ”



Maben House School, part of Holistic Childcare & Education, was formed over 20 years ago with a mission to give every child the opportunity to thrive in a supportive learning environment, regardless of their trauma or circumstances. We work in partnership with parents, carers, Local Authorities and partner organisations to address the unique needs of each child and young person.

Our school supports children and young people with a range of additional needs, including Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), trauma, social, emotional, and mental health needs, among other conditions. Many of our students are care-experienced, and we are dedicated to providing a nurturing and therapeutic environment, grounded in trauma-informed practice.

# Vision & Values

**Our vision is to create a happy, safe and nurturing environment that supports children to become settled to learn and develop to their full potential.**

**Our values of honesty, kindness, respect and safety underpin how our community develops and thrives. These are key to growing nurturing and successful relationships.**



# Curriculum

**We provide pupils with a uniquely tailored curriculum that provides a broad range of rich and meaningful experiences designed to support their complex needs. Our curriculum complies fully with the expectations of Curriculum for Excellence and follows the Getting It Right For Every Child (GIRFEC) framework to ensure each pupil receives the personalised support they need.**

Supporting children and young people aged 5 and above, we deliver all aspects of the Primary Curriculum and Broad General Education, focusing on wellbeing, literacy and numeracy. Due to our specialised setting and small class sizes (maximum of six pupils per class), we provide a high level of personalisation in our lessons, complemented by opportunities for both group and whole class learning.



Our daily curriculum includes core subjects' literacy and maths, alongside specialised activities including science, PE, art, cooking, RSHP, music and personal development. Learning experiences are tailored to the individual needs of each pupil, and students play an active role in shaping their educational journey. Progress is carefully tracked through Individual Education Plans (IEPs), ensuring a supportive and responsive learning environment.



## **Benefits of play**

Our mission is to help children overcome barriers to learning by providing a supportive environment that nurtures emotional intelligence, confidence and resilience.

Play serves as a powerful tool for developing social and emotional skills, which is why we make it a key part of our curriculum. Through play, children engage in experiences that enhance their emotional, creative, cognitive, and imaginative abilities, supporting the development of skills such as decision-making, sharing, empathy, conflict resolution, negotiation, and motor coordination.

Play also provides children with a safe space to confront and reframe negative interactions, empowering them to navigate social challenges with confidence. We believe in the importance of facilitating play to foster holistic growth and support our students in reaching their full potential.

# Supporting Behaviour

**We understand the importance of emotional and social literacy in developing a child's character, and we use the Emotion Works programme to support emotional literacy.**

The Emotion Works educational programme is 'homegrown' in Scotland so it is aligned with the Scottish Curriculum and other related policies such as Getting it Right for Every Child. This hands-on, visually engaging programme is designed to help children learn the language of emotions, develop emotional understanding and manage their responses. By exploring key components - Triggers, Body Sensations, Influences, Intensity, Emotion Words, Behaviours and, Regulation Strategies - children gain an understanding of how these areas link together, increase awareness of their own emotions and feel more prepared for learning.

Additionally, our team is trained by the Crisis Prevention Institute, enabling us to fully support children effectively in any moments of crisis or emotional dysregulation. This approach emphasises building positive relationships to understand the roots of challenging behaviours, helping children regain emotional balance, and reducing future anxiety and distress. Through a sensitive and non-judgemental approach, we help children reflect on these moments, identify causes, and develop strategies for similar situations in the future.



## Trauma-informed Practice

Maben House is a Trauma-informed service and currently holds the Silver accreditation. Trauma-informed Practice (TIP) Accreditation aims to embed trauma-aware approaches in services across three primary areas:

Leadership & Development, Nurturing a Trauma-informed Culture and Embedding Connect, Co-regulate and Co-reflect.

We are currently working towards the Gold award, with particular strengths in promoting independence, maintaining nurturing relationships and creating a positive environment.



**We have implemented several key initiatives to support our young people including:**

- Regular reflective practice and debriefing sessions
- Positive behaviour management and listening to young people's voices through meetings and consultations
- Multi-agency collaboration to support the care and education needs of young people such as referrals to CAMHS and working with in-house specialist Occupational Therapist and Wellbeing clinicians
- Use of Trauma-informed practices to address behaviour and support the emotional regulation of young people



# Clinical Provision

**Our pupils are supported by a dedicated and on-site clinical team that works with both our education and care teams, as well as directly with pupils, to create an environment that removes barriers to learning and enables young people to thrive. This approach encourages children and young people to explore their challenges and develop strategies to maintain positive behaviours.**

The clinical team - comprising professionals in Occupational Therapy, Speech & Language Therapy, Psychotherapy and Educational Psychology – conduct a comprehensive 12-week observation of each new pupil at Maben House, then together with information from relevant professionals, key staff, input from family and any other additional assessments, informs and individualised clinical plan.

**Clinical support is delivered through a tailored three-tiered approach:**

**Universal:** Clinicians support staff to create an optimal environment for both learning and living.

**Enhanced:** Support strategies are provided to education and care staff to implement directly with children and young people, with oversight and review by the clinical team as needed.

**Specialist:** Clinicians conduct specialist assessments and can offer direct 1:1 support tailored to the individual needs of a child or young person.

“Explore their challenges and develop strategies to maintain positive behaviours.”





# Our Site

Built in 2022, our new education building offers a warm, nurturing and modern learning environment for our pupils. Equipped with the latest technology our classrooms feature adaptive lighting, sensory toys and “calm corners”, creating a space where pupils feel ready to engage and learn without barriers.

Adjacent to the new building is the original school building, home to our IT room, clinical support service, dining room, kitchen and outside playground.

Set in rolling countryside close to Lochmaben, our location enables pupils to access a diverse range of outdoor learning opportunities including walking, access to local stables and hands-on play in our newly developed mud kitchen. With our Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) pupils can stay active and enjoy sports whatever the Scottish weather brings.



# Autism Accreditations

## Ask, Accept, Develop

Maben House School currently holds to the Bronze accreditation, which is based on three key pillars: Ask, Accept, Develop. These pillars ensure that the voices of young people are heard during the decision-making process, the neurodiversity of our young people is celebrated in a sensory-friendly environment, and their growth and independence is supported.

We have implemented several initiatives to support autistic individuals including communication profiles, consultation and personalised care and education plans. We have a focus on sensory needs and provide a structured environment for our young people, while promoting independence development and integrating their strengths and interests into daily activities.

# Parents & Families

We understand that many of our young people have faced challenges before joining Maben House School.

To support them fully, we take a proactive approach with parents, families, carers and professionals. Each young person's Key Teacher will provide monthly updates to families and professionals, and where required, liaise with the team around the young person to ensure information is available.

“  
The neurodiversity of our young people is celebrated in a sensory-friendly environment.”

## Admissions

We welcome admission requests from parents, carers, and Local Authorities. Maben House School offers day, 39-week, and 52-week residential placements, with fees generally funded by Local Authorities.

If you are interested in making a referral, would like to visit the school, or simply want to find out more information about our services, please get in touch. You can contact the school on **01387 811995** or by emailing **[office@mabehouse.co.uk](mailto:office@mabehouse.co.uk)**

Alternatively, for more information, you can contact our Admissions Manager by email at: **[iain.owens@ofgl.co.uk](mailto:iain.owens@ofgl.co.uk)**

**We support  
children and young  
people to take life's  
important steps**



**Holistic Childcare  
and Education**  
Living and Learning in Harmony

Part of  
**OptionsAutism**

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