

Welcome from the SENDCo



Hello, my name is Dr Maxine Bedward, and I am The Orchards Primary Academy's SENDCO and Trauma Informed Attachment Aware School (TIAAS) Lead. With many years' experience leading Special Educational Needs (SEN) in various mainstream and special school settings I am certainly not new to the role of SENDCo.

Furthermore, I am very familiar with supporting children with medical needs and disabilities as I worked for over a decade as a hospital teacher specialising in neuro-rehabilitation and other complex needs. Indeed, I first trained to be a SENCo in 2007 when I was working as a hospital teacher and was given the responsibility of managing SEN and Disability (SEND) provision across several sites. In 2015, as a mainstream school SENCo I re-trained to ensure my knowledge, understanding and experience of SEND support reflects the person-centred values of empathic understanding, and genuine acceptance required by the current SEND Code of Practice (2015).

My passion for practices that personalises learning in partnership with the learner and their families began at the tender age of eight when I learnt the immeasurable joy of feeding my curiosity with reading history as opposed to the recommended story books. This in turn led to a commitment to life-long learning and enabled me to obtain a PhD in pastoral pedagogy (2014) by proving the ability for everyone to achieve their full potential regardless of circumstances if we nurture their minds, body and spirit.

Not surprisingly, I welcome this opportunity, as a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), to contribute to the development of The Orchards Primary Academy as a first-class provider that puts the needs and well-being of every pupil, in partnership with their parents / carers, at the heart of its educational practice and vision.

Please feel free to contact me via the following email address:

mbedward@theorchards.uwmat.co.uk Or contact the school's main office on (0121) 464 4302 if you would like to speak to me.

I am available in school by appointment on **Tuesdays and Wednesdays** if you have any queries or concerns regarding your child's special educational needs or disabilities.

In the meantime, please refer to the Policies section of our website to find the necessary documentation for SEND in our school. This includes:

- The University of Wolverhampton Multi-Academy Trust SEND Policy & Information Report
- The University of Wolverhampton Multi-Academy Trust Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions Policy
- Disability Equality Scheme and Accessibility Plan
- Mental Health and Well Being Policy
- Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy

In addition, further information can be found regarding Birmingham City Council's '**Local Offer**' for children with special educational needs and disabilities at <https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/>

Specific information about **support services** for pupils with SEND that the local authority provide can be found at:

<https://accesstoeducation.birmingham.gov.uk/>

You may also find **SENDIASS** useful. They are a free, impartial support service for parents/carers of children with SEND. Their contact telephone number is (0121) 303 5004 and email address is SENDIASS@birmingham.gov.uk

Finally, we believe that at the core of all the provision for children with SEND attending The Orchards Primary Academy lies in our inclusive vision and ethos. That is, 'To support each and every child to love learning and become the very best that they can be'. In my role as SENDCo I am continually committed to this vision and will be working to continue to improve our SEND policies, practices and procedures throughout school.

I look forward to meeting you in the future but until then please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Dr Maxine Bedward -SENDCo Contact: mbedward@theorchards.uwmat.co.uk