

Bridgewater School

Bridgewater is a continually growing, vibrant 0-11 school in the heart of Scotswood. We provide high quality childcare and education and offer a range of extended services to the community we serve. In October 2013 our 0-3 childcare was judged as 'Outstanding' and in December 2013 the school was also judged as 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

Bridgewater's vision is to ensure that from birth every child has the best possible start in life. We strive to build a successful, inclusive, purposeful and happy community within a safe environment and encourage each child to take responsibility and become independent learners.

The community we serve (and why the below projects are necessary)

A large majority (approximately 80%) of our children live in the Benwell / Scotswood ward, an area of substantial social and economic deprivation (within the 3% most deprived households in England).

Child poverty (after housing costs) statistics show 42% of children who live in the Benwell / Scotswood ward live in poverty (www.endchildpoverty.org.uk - updated November 2016).

Research shows that children living in the most socio-economically deprived areas of the city are more likely to suffer from ill health, behavioural/mental health problems, be the victim of and/or commit crime. (Newcastle Children and Young People's Plan 2015-2020).

The issues we are aware our children face include:

Emotional Wellbeing

Poor Housing / Living Conditions

Crime and substance misuse

Poor Health

Death of parents/carers at a young age

Unsuitable Behaviour in the Home

It is difficult to imagine what these children have to deal with on a daily basis and how they can be expected to function 'normally' and learn at school.

Counselling Services

Overview:

Specialist therapeutic services for children and their families. This counselling is vital for the children and their family's long term well-being. In essence it's a family therapy intervention that strengthens parent-child attachment by helping parents to learn how to play with their children; enabling parents to understand more about their children's play themes, which encapsulates their child's development, exploring what's on their mind and what motivates them. Ultimately, it helps parents and children to bond through spending time to sit down, play and laugh together.

Using the best method / intervention to engage with an open and

	transparent discussion to explore behavioural and emotional aspects. This includes 1:1 sessions with the child, 1:1 sessions with the parent and joint sessions with both the child and parent.
Benefits:	<p>Over time children will understand their own feelings better; become able to express their feelings more appropriately; be more able to tell parents what they need and what is worrying them; become more confident and skilled in solving problems as well as asking for help when they need it; reduce problem behaviours; feel more secure and trust their parents more; and have healthier self-esteem and increased self-confidence.</p> <p>Any parental emotional and psychological issues, such as depression or anxiety will get in the way of enabling the parent to be present enough to enjoy playing and being with their child(ren) in a healthy way. By working with the parent on their own issues it can transform a child's behaviour, and their emotional and psychological state. As parents create the structure and environment in which their children live and they are the most powerful force in their lives so it is clear how working therapeutically with a parent can greatly benefit a child. Ultimately we want to help every child reach their full potential and succeed in life.</p>

London Visit	
Overview:	<p>Each year we endeavour to give our Key Stage 2 representatives on the School Council the opportunity to go on an overnight stay to London. Those children in Key Stage 2 who are not in the School Council also have the opportunity to 'acquire' one of the additional places. Our aim and desire is that every child who wants to visit London will have had the opportunity to do so by the time they leave the school at the end of Year 6. The children are consulted and discussions take place relating to the trip. They are asked a number of questions, such as why they think the trip would be a good idea; what benefits it will bring; how it will have a positive impact on them and what activities they would like to engage in.</p> <p>We plan to take them again in March 2018. Travelling by train from Newcastle to Kings Cross; staying in Elephant & Castle; visiting the Houses of Parliament; attending the Theatre; and sightseeing around London.</p> <p>During our stay we visit Parliament; including a tour of the House of Lords, House of Commons and Palace of Westminster and an educational workshop (entitled Peoples Parliament) aimed at enabling the children to learn about Politics - how it affects them and how they can have an impact on 'it'. The children will experience the new Parliamentary Education Centre, experiencing first-hand the excitement of the Lords and Commons chambers in action, in their new 360° chamber spaces. Pupils will have an insight into how our democracy functions and learn about the roles of the people that work in the House of Commons and the House of Lords.</p>

Benefits:	<p>Every year they return home having had (for most of them) "the best experience of their lives".</p> <p>To provide the children with an opportunity which the majority of them would otherwise not experience; in terms of staying away from home overnight, travelling by train and engaging in different activities. They will visit places they have only ever seen on television, read in the newspaper or discussed in class. It makes places more real for them. Due to the level of deprivation experienced by the children, very few travel outside of their immediate locality. The London trip is an experience that the majority of them would not otherwise have the opportunity to access.</p> <p>Some children attending Bridgewater have caring responsibilities due to parents suffering from physical and/or mental disabilities or dependency upon alcohol and illicit substances. Due to such factors parents are not always physically or emotionally available to their children and rely upon their child meeting some of the care needs for themselves or siblings (Children's Society 2013). The trip offers these children the opportunity for some respite from caring responsibilities providing much needed relief from the pressure of being a young carer.</p> <p>While in London the children will experience a culture and way-of-life which is different from the one they are used to. They will develop respect for others and self. Every year the school has a themed week based around respect and working together to benefit all. Introducing the children to other geographical areas helps them put what they have learnt in to practice and to draw on their experiences.</p> <p>All of the above mentioned points will in turn broaden their horizons, raise their aspirations and increase their confidence.</p>
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Invention Shed	
Overview:	<p>We seek to further develop our education provision by promoting outdoor learning. We strive to encourage children to reach their full potential, be strong and capable and driven by natural curiosity and real experiences to provoke interest. We want to encourage each child to investigate, explore and reflect by asking questions and making observations. We wish to create an opportunity to learn and search for the answer together, while building that Teacher / Pupil relationship.</p> <p>The project which we believe will have the most impact is to purchase a House of Objects Invention Shed. Invention Sheds provide a purpose-built facility on a school site, along with full training for staff. Staff learn how to facilitate, understand and document creative learning. The House of Objects' team work alongside Teachers and TAs, adapting the programme to individual needs through the entire process.</p> <p>Each Invention Shed is kitted out with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workbench handmade with recycled wood • Display units handmade with recycled wood • Communication Wall with whiteboard and

	<p>message box • reclaimed materials re-stocked every 8 weeks • A full tool kit and training on how to use it • A home-school recycling kit • A bin, doormat and dustpan & brush</p> <p>Alongside the Shed, House of Objects provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • STEM based framework for teachers • Two specialist artists, Sheducators, to work with staff and children • 3 two hour CPD training sessions for teachers and TAs • Access to the Invention Sheds Learning Network • Full membership to House of Objects services • Ongoing support for the duration of the project.
Benefits:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hands-on learning improves engagement • Meaningful context inspires literacy and numeracy • Child directed projects boost self-esteem, improve creativity and cultivate curiosity • Small group environment promotes team work and communication skills • Use of household tools gives practical skills children can practice at home • Home-school recycling project improves parental engagement • Frameworks and training boost staff confidence in applied STEM teaching • New and challenging materials improve critical thinking skills • Improve the quality and depth of outdoor experience for all pupils. <p>It is an enriching project based around the environment incorporating science, technology and art, which will hopefully lead to increased standards in all subjects by addressing the needs of our children. The project will broaden aspirations, enable the skills of resilience and thinking creatively and critically to be transferred to other subjects.</p> <p>The early years are crucial in laying the foundations for future learning. It is important to intervene early and close gaps before they have the chance to emerge. It has been proven that this approach can develop problem solving, resilience and enthusiasm throughout school; the areas in which our children need more enhancement. For more information on Invention Sheds please visit www.houseofobjects.org</p>

In Harmony – Geordie Symphony	
Overview:	<p>Children from a young age will learn to read music, play an instrument and play together as part of an orchestra. They will be taught by musicians from The Sage Gateshead.</p> <p>The concept came from Venezuela in South America. Music and learning to play an instrument taught discipline, empathy, resilience, collaboration and cooperation as well as improving cognition. It was an opportunity to develop skills and hence promote social mobility.</p> <p>Year 1 is funded by the Arts Council and commences in Autumn 2017. Additional funding is required if the project is to continue in to Year 2. It covers the cost for expert tuition and instruments.</p>

<p>Benefits:</p>	<p>It is inspirational and life changing!</p> <p>Each child will be given an opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. Talent will be nurtured and encouraged.</p> <p>They will perform to public audiences.</p> <p>Increases confidence, concentration, coordination and collaboration.</p> <p>Peer learning and support will be clearly evident.</p> <p>The skills developed also benefit them academically and can be effectively transferred to the classroom.</p>
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