

## Snowflake School Parents Frequently Asked Questions

Why do you give my child food at school?	We aim to use a variety of reinforcers, but for some pupils' edibles have the highest reinforcer value. If we feel edibles would be useful to help a pupil acquire new skills we will discuss this with you first.
Do I have to buy food reinforcers for my child?	We would encourage you to send in food reinforcers for your child but should this be a problem for you please discuss this with a member of staff.
Do I need to send in money for reinforcers?	No
Why is my child not eating? Why don't you make the children eat?	There can be a number of reasons as to why your child is not eating especially when they are settling in to school. We will always encourage our pupils to eat and use positive reinforcement to promote this; however we cannot demand a pupil to eat. We do not wish to create the environment surrounding food to become aversive. If this is an on going problem for your child we can discuss this with you and try to help.
Did my child eat lunch? How much fruit did my child eat at snack time? Is my child drinking at school? How is my child's toileting?	We will always aim to provide information on whether your child has eaten at snack/lunch and how much they have eaten in the home/school book. The home/school book can also be used to provide you with information on toileting.
Can my child sleep at school?	We have a medical room with a bed in case any of the pupils need to sleep due to medical related reasons e.g. seizures. Other than for a health reason we discourage pupils sleeping during school time.
Can my child have a hot lunch?	Parents/carers are welcome to send in hot lunches. We can heat these up at lunch time.
Can I bring my child's I Pad to school?	The school provides I Pads for the pupils. If there is a specific APP your child uses inform the school and we will do our best to download it.
What clothes should my child wear for yoga?	Loose fitting trousers, jogging bottoms that are comfortable.

Why don't you make the children stand up?	At Snowflake, we want our pupils to comply with instructions independently rather than force them to do so. We believe this is better for school and home life.
Why don't you make children work?	Each pupil has an individualised programme which has been developed according to their ability and needs. We find that children at Snowflake School make very good progress and enjoy learning and the school experience.
Why don't you tell the children off?	Each pupil has an individual behaviour management programme. These are devised after an assessment and the interventions used are based on the function of the specific behaviour. In many cases, telling a pupil off may reinforce the behaviour, for example, if they are misbehaving to get our attention. Also, our methods are based on reinforcing appropriate or alternative behaviours, rather than punishing others.
How is my child progressing?	Data on pupil progress is taken daily and progress is monitored using graphs. The Home-School book which gets sent home every day provides information on what your child is learning and skills they have mastered. Termly reports go into each curriculum area in more detail.
Is my child interacting well with others?	Pupils are given plenty of opportunities to interact with each other and are encouraged to do so. Group lessons include structured activities and turn taking to promote this.
Why does my child behave so differently at school and at home?	At home it is a different environment with a different routine to school. We do our best to provide information to parents so that they can be consistent with the behaviour management plan. If you need advice on how to deal with specific behaviour management, please ask for a meeting. In some circumstances it may be beneficial to organise a home visit to help you with any problems you are having.
Has my child settled well?	Although we do our best to provide a fun and safe environment, it is a new environment and settling can take time. Details on how your child is settling into school will be communicated in

	the home school book. If you have any concerns please speak to a member of staff to organise a meeting to discuss this.
Is there a chart I can use to track performance?	We take data on pupil progress daily and monitor this closely. When a pupil joins Snowflake School an ABLLS assessment is conducted. This is then updated yearly and a copy can be given to you so you can see how your child has progressed over the year. Information will also be provided our termly reports.
How often will I get reports?	We send reports home each term, and a more detailed report each year. Should you require more information on your child's progress, please feel free to ask in the home/school book, or arrange a meeting.
Who is working with my child?	Each pupil has a morning tutor, who is usually designated as their key tutor (that is, they introduce skills and manage the pupil's data), and an afternoon tutor. Each term, we aim to move one tutor on from each pupil and introduce one new tutor, though sometimes a pupil will keep the same two tutors, or get two new tutors. We will write to you on the last day of term to give information on who your child's tutors will be next term.
Why was my child working with someone different today?	If a tutor is absent, the pupil will be covered by one of the lead tutors, or another tutor who is available that day.
Why do you change tutors so often?	We want our pupils to be generalise responding and good behaviour to a variety of people, rather than becoming used to only working with certain people.
Was my child well behaved today?	Tutors write in the home/school book daily to update you on your child's behaviour. If there is certain behaviour you want updates on, please write it in the home/school book.
Can I come in and observe?	We find that often children behave very differently when they know their parent is watching. It would be more beneficial for us to film a session and then hold a meeting to watch

	and discuss together.
Do you need volunteers?	No. Currently we do not need any volunteers however we may need support with fundraising, you can contact Fay about this on 07795181580 or by e mailing <a href="mailto:info@snowflakeschool.org.uk">info@snowflakeschool.org.uk</a>
When does my child get homework?	Some of our pupils receive homework. This is given once a week by our teacher. If you are concerned that your child is not receiving homework, their key tutor may be able to suggest some activities they would enjoy at home.
Why aren't you prompting sentences? (My child is capable of speaking in sentences.)	Speaking in sentences may be a long-term goal. However, we use our assessments to build programs that fill in gaps in knowledge and give our children the pre-requisite skills to be able to build meaningful language. If children are prompted to speak in sentences before they have the pre-requisite skills we often see errors in generalisation.
Why are you teaching my child to sign when they can talk?	Research has proven that combining speech and sign helps to promote vocal communication in children whose speech may be unclear or difficult to understand.
Why is my child not learning to read?	We use assessments to fill in gaps in knowledge and to build pre-requisite skills in order to teach these higher-level skills. We want our curriculum to be functional and appropriate to our individual pupils.
Why are you ignoring problem behaviour?	If a behaviour is reinforced by providing attention, it may make it more likely to reoccur. The decision to ignore a certain problem behaviour will be based on a behavioural assessment. If you would like more information on your child's behaviour plan please ask in the home school book or ask a member of staff to organise a meeting.
Why aren't you teaching .....?	We use assessments to fill in gaps in knowledge and to build pre-requisite skills in order to teach these higher-level skills. We want our curriculum to be functional and appropriate to our individual pupils.
Will my child get some physical exercise during school hours?	All our pupils' access Physical education. There activities planned across the week that our

	pupils take part in. Physical Education sessions include swimming, bike training, dance, yoga and daily trip to local gardens and park.
My child has started engaging in new problem behaviour at home and I suspect that they have learned this at school - what is being done - will the pupil concerned be disciplined?	Sometimes pupil will imitate the behaviour of others at school. As with any problem behaviour an assessment will be carried out and interventions put in place to reduce this behaviour including any appropriate consequences.
Can a tutor work with my child after school/in the holidays?	This should be discussed with the individual tutor and Head Teacher.
Can I send in spare clothes?	It is advisable that every pupil has one spare set of clothes, so please do so.
When is swimming?	The swimming schedule is communicated at the beginning of each new school term.
Why isn't my child going swimming?	The swimming schedule is on a rota system. This is alternated each half term to ensure that every child is given this opportunity.
Do I need to provide nappies for my child or will the school provide them?	You will need to provide nappies for your child.
How do I get uniform?	You need to fill in the School Uniform form. Send back the completed form with the payment to the school, and then the School Administrator will take care of it for you.  You can find a copy of that form in your parents' handbook or ask a member of staff for a copy.
How much does uniform cost? Can I pay by cash/cheque/debit?	It is written in the School Uniform Form. You can find a copy of that form in your parents' handbook.
Did someone give my child food?	We will sometimes give your child some food as reinforcement or as part of a lesson i.e. Cookery. Please let us know via the home/school book if you do not want this to happen.
Do you think homeopathic remedies work?	There are many alternative therapies that claim to help children with Autism. We encourage parents to research any alternative therapy before trying something new so you have all the

	information you need to make an informed decision. If we can help you with this we will.
Can you teach my child not to (engage in specific behaviour)?	If a particular behaviour is causing a barrier to one of our pupils learning or is unsafe we will put in a behaviour intervention to reduce and potentially stop it from occurring. When looking at problem behaviour we carry out an assessment to determine the function of the behaviour before planning an intervention. We will then monitor this to see if the intervention is working and the behaviour is reducing.
Can you make my child eat faster? Can you make my child dress quicker?	If the time taken for a pupil to undertake a task is causing a problem. I.e. they are eating too fast or too slow. We will put in an intervention to help them complete this task at an appropriate pace.
Can I friend Snowflake on Facebook?	Currently Snowflake School does not have a Facebook page, we are currently finalising our social networking policy.
Do you run a Home Programme?	No. Snowflake School does not run a home program. However, we can offer a home visit to help you with problems you may be experiencing. Some of our tutors do respite/ABA work during the school holidays. This needs to be arranged by the individual tutor and discussed with the Head Teacher.
Who do I call if I am running late to collect up my child?	Please call the office. 020 7370 3232
Are you able to give my child medication?	We have trained first aiders on site. We will only administer medication if the necessary consent forms are in place. Please speak to a member of staff when you bring the medication into school in order to fill out a form. For over the counter medication we are not able to exceed the stated dose on the package. For prescription medications we will follow the advice of the doctor provided. (Normally on the box of the medication.)
Where is my child's jumper? It is lost!	We encourage parents to put their names on a child's clothing. We will do our best to find it.
What is ABA/VB?	Please follow this link to our website for more

	<p>information.</p> <p><a href="http://www.snowflakeschool.org.uk/abavb.html">http://www.snowflakeschool.org.uk/abavb.html</a></p>
What sort of curriculum will my child receive?	<p>All our pupils receive a broad personalised curriculum based on the finding from our assessments. The curriculum will be delivered using the ABA/VB teaching methodology. All pupils will take part in group lessons but most of our curriculum will be delivered by a 1:1 tutor. We offer a wide range of activities throughout our school week, including community outings, physical education, cookery and music.</p>
What are the term dates?	See the calendar on school's website.
When do events take place?	Please refer to the school calendar for planned school events. You will also be notified by letter or the home school Diary of any events that are happening specific to your child.
How can I follow ABA principles at home?	We believe consistency across home and school is the key for your child's success. If you are having problems at home or would just like to know more about our approach please arrange a meeting with us.
How can I manage problem behaviour at home?	We can provide you with a copy of your child's behaviour plan and discuss this with you. However, in the case of problem behaviour it is normally advisable to organise a meeting with your child's Lead tutor to discuss the intervention in more depth and how it can be applied to the home setting.
What can I do if my child has a problem with toileting or is not toilet trained?	Organise a meeting, using home communication book to discuss plan of action. We endeavour to toilet train all our pupils as a main priority, but will normally let them settle into school first.
Who is the Consultant?	Tracy Cooper – <a href="http://www.carboneclinic.com">www.carboneclinic.com</a>
Can I meet the consultant?	Tracy is a privately contracted consultant visiting the school for a couple of days per half term. Due to these time constraints it is not possible for her to be present at many of our school/parent meetings. However, in some cases it may be possible and we will try to arrange this.

	Our supervisors are happy to meet with you and discuss any problem you may be having.
How do I arrange a meeting to talk about my child's progress?	Using the home communication book.
What is the pupil: staff ratio?	Greater than 1:1
Can I make suggestions for my child's IEP?	Please arrange meetings via home communication book and the school are happy to discuss any suggestions.