Carwarden House Community School

The following are qualities that our stakeholders (parents, students, staff & Trustees) have said they value about our school:

Our school ethos – how the school 'feels'

- We put the needs of our students first (a 'child centred' approach).
- We maintain a learning environment that is safe, calm, friendly and especially welcoming.
- We promote positive & trusting relationships as they are key to successful learning.
- We know our students really well and understand their individual needs.
- We foster a strong and meaningful sense of 'belonging' to the Carwarden community.
- We create an environment where student develop meaningful friendships.
- We embrace and celebrate our differences - the fact that we are all 'differently-abled'.
- We actively celebrate success in all its forms (rather than highlight failure).

Meeting our students learning & additional needs

- We have developed a high-quality curriculum (Curriculum for Life) with the explicit aim of developing the knowledge, skills, behaviours and attitudes to maximise their future independence, autonomy and employability.
- We 'personalise' the curriculum to meet individual student's needs, setting them ambitious but realistic targets.
- We ensure that the curriculum helps students understand the world in which they live and what they need to do and know to be happy, safe and successful in their future lives.
- We rigorously prepare students for successful transition (next steps) and maintain a clear focus on their future adult lives.
- We ensure learning is fun, motivating and relevant to our students' lives.
- We encourage everyone in their responsibility to care for the environment.
- We look to embrace innovation & technology to further support student progress.
- We strive to integrate any therapies students require into their school day and ensure their medical needs in school are fully and sensitively met.
- We ensure that our students' individual special needs don't preclude them from any part of school life, making any adjustments that are required.
- We continually seek to improve the quality of education we provide (e.g. by following the principles of 'quality first teaching').

Caring for our students

- Safeguarding our students in every way is our top priority.
- We continually strive to eliminate any form of prejudice, bullying or hatred within our school and actively promote tolerance & kindness.
- We promote and maintain outstanding behaviour through the effective use of praise and reward rather than through sanctions and punishments.
- We make the wellbeing and positive mental health of students and staff a priority.
- We maintain high aspirations for our students and for ourselves, ambitious that everyone becomes the 'best possible versions of themselves'.
- We actively promote high levels of attendance for all and provide support to overcome any barriers.

How we work

- We are a ‘self-reflective’ school that is always exploring what we can do to improve our students’ outcomes.
- We involve all staff and, where appropriate students, in improving our school.
- We involve all stakeholders in decision making (wherever possible and appropriate) and keep listening to ‘student voice’ a priority.
- We offer and develop high quality opportunities for staff development & training (at all levels).
- We look to develop leadership at all levels (staff & students).
- We develop strong staff teams and always strive to work collaboratively.
- We understand the critical importance of working in effective collaboration with other agencies involved in the care of our students (e.g. Social Care, SaLT, OT, medical practitioners, Police).
- We continually work to develop effective partnerships and communication with parents / carers.
- We actively seek to reduce the negative impact of workload and stress on our staff.
- We seek to actively engage with and contribute to our local community.