The Old Library Learning Community

Independent specialist school, part of the **New Beginnings Learning Trust**

Learn | Achieve | Progress | Succeed









At the Heart of the Community

Year 6 - Year 13

New Beginnings Learning Trust
Personal journeys. Real impact.

tasunite

Powered by tas
Imaginative, diverse, impactful, partnerships

DfE 888/6113

ISA Independent Schools Association
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Welcome to Our School Community

The Old Library Community is a specialist independent provision located in the heart of Barnoldswick, supporting pupils from Year 6 to Year 13.

Our main campus is set within a beautifully restored former Wesleyan school and historic library building, offering a calm, structured and nurturing environment designed for pupils who need something different from traditional education.

With:

- 7 small classrooms
- A maximum of 4 pupils per class
- Highly personalised support

We create a space where every young person is:

Seen, understood and supported to succeed.

At the centre of the community, we actively contribute to local projects and partnerships, ensuring pupils feel connected, valued and part of something meaningful.

Who We Support

- We specialise in supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN), including:
- Social, Emotional & Mental Health needs (SEMH)
- Autism, ADHD and neurodiversity
- Trauma and attachment needs
- School-based avoidance
- Speech and language communication difficulties

Our approach is intentionally different – built on:

- Strong relationships
- Therapeutic support
- Trust and understanding
- Personalised learning pathways

Communication First

- On-site speech and language support helps pupils develop communication skills, confidence and access learning successfully.



Our Approach

At The Old Library, education goes beyond the classroom.

We provide:

- A broad, adaptive curriculum
- Outdoor and land-based learning
- Animal-assisted therapy
- Therapeutic support, including EMIT
- Life skills and independence development

Our ethos is rooted in:

- Inclusion and belonging
- A fresh start, every day
- Being intentionally different
- Supporting the whole child

Specialist Therapeutic Support

- Speech and language intervention
- Occupational therapy input
- Emotional regulation support
- Therapeutic mentoring

Our Unique Learning Environments

The Main School Campus

Our main site offers a **calm, structured and supportive learning environment** within our historic building.

With very small class sizes, pupils benefit from:

- High levels of individual attention
- Strong relationships with staff
- A safe and predictable space to learn

Golden Meadow Stables

Therapeutic Learning Through Animals

Our stables at Golden Meadow provide a **calm, therapeutic environment** offering **equine assisted therapy** where pupils work alongside:

- Horses
- Miniature animals
- Goats, alpacas and rabbits
- Therapy dogs

Through **animal-assisted and equine-supported activities**, pupils:

- Build confidence
- Develop emotional regulation
- Form positive relationships
- Increase self-awareness

This provision is particularly powerful for pupils who find traditional classrooms challenging.

Buttercup Barge

A Floating Classroom for Life Skills

Our **Buttercup Barge** is a unique, water-based learning environment focused on **therapeutic cookery and life skills.**

Here, pupils:

- Develop independence and confidence
- Learn practical cooking skills
- Work towards recognised qualifications

The calm, contained environment supports:

- Emotional regulation
- Reduced anxiety
- Meaningful engagement

The Bee Community Garden

Growing Skills, Growing Confidence

Our **Bee Community Garden**, within walking distance of the school, allows pupils to:

- Grow their own fruit and vegetables
- Learn about sustainability and food production
- Develop responsibility and practical skills

Pupils harvest produce and deliver it directly to the school kitchen – bringing learning to life from **field to plate**.



At the Heart of the Community

We are proud to be a community-centred school, actively engaging in:

- Local partnerships
- Community projects
- Skills-based learning opportunities

Our pupils don't just attend school- ***They become part of their community.***

Real Impact

One pupil, with a history of significant trauma, has made powerful progress through equine-assisted coaching.

By working with horses through groundwork, they have:

- Developed emotional awareness
- Recognised early signs of emotional overwhelm and anxiety
- Learned to self-regulate effectively

This is just one example of how our ***therapeutic, relationship-based approach transforms lives.***



What our pupils say?

"It will change your life forever! The school makes you a better version of yourself." - Freya

"You can actually learn here because they understand you. I feel happy coming to school – I've never felt that before." - Harrison

What our parents say?

"She finally feels like she belongs. This school has given her that."

"Your kindness and patience have made such a difference - she now feels excited about school."

The Old Library Community School

Where education is personalised, community is central, and every child is supported to thrive.

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For further information

To discuss a potential placement, or to arrange a visit to The Old Library Learning Community, please contact:

Email: referrals@thealternativeschool.co.uk
Tel: 01282 851800