

Feedback from our existing Teachers – Five Acre Wood

We asked our Teachers what they thought of working at Five Acre Wood, these are direct quotes;

“ Working at FAW is the most rewarding job I have had. The pupils are amazing! Coming into work and knowing that you can make a real difference on their lives makes staff here passionate and enthusiastic.

Every day is different. As a member of the FAW team you are valued and respected. Your hard work doesn't go un-noticed. If you need support, advice or just a chat, there is always someone to turn to. The school hours allow for lots of training time and personal development opportunities. As teachers we are allowed to be flexible and creative. The leadership team have trust that we know our pupils best and can provide learning opportunities that are engaging, inspiring and relevant to their level of learning.

We are always looking at ways to improve what we do and strive for the best!

Oh...and there's a vending machine in the staff room!!! 😊“

Teacher and now a middle leader - joined September 2018

xxxxx

“It is an honour and privilege to work for a school which has pupils best interests at the heart of everything it does. All staff are supportive, the school has worked hard to develop a can do approach and this drives through everything we work for. The best part of my role has to be the sense of achievement when pupils progress and achieve something that you have been working on with them. The support from learning approach leads and collaborative planning and teaching in relation to training specific to the learning approach you are working within is great, you receive training and support from the therapy team. The morning training programme support's class based training for all staff and I've received support from SLT to further my career.”

NQT Teacher - joined as a TA in 2011 , gained a degree part time and now an NQT

xxxxx

“FAW is an amazing school to work for and be a part of. There is a sense of community, caring and commitment that I have not experienced before. They are always working to better themselves and the school provides opportunities to expand and improve our own practice. FAW gives teachers the support, encouragement and motivation to develop yourself, whether that is improving on your own style of teaching, or taking on further role commitments within the school. I've had access to Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, as well as people with expertise in the fields of SCERTS, TEACCH and Makaton to name but a few. Having these resources so readily available means that my teaching and interactions with the students are not only appropriate to their level of need but assist me with developing their next steps. One of the biggest differences I have noted since worked at FAWs compared to my previous experiences is management's level of trust in their teachers. They have confidence in us to know our students and what they need educationally, behaviourally, socially and emotionally. They trust us to be flexible and creative in how we engage and teach our students and to implement the best practices that are appropriate to our students and our staffing teams. There is no expectation that we engage in activities and subjects, such as languages and history that are not relevant or accessible for our students' needs and

futures. FAW values their teachers and staff. I have felt that my voice is heard and I can have an impact not only in my own student's lives but also in the development of the school as a community.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time so far and look forward to spending many more years at Five Acre Wood."

Teacher – joined April 2019

xxxxx

"I personally have had excellent support from the school during my NQT year, including specific support for understanding how FAW works and support that I requested for my professional development. My NQT mentor did everything within her power to make my experience enjoyable and individual to my teaching needs. Further, the progress that I had made by the end of my NQT has since been recognised and valued by members of the Senior Leadership Team. FAW have allowed me the freedom to explore new teaching styles and have allowed me to attend training events that are hosted by other venues in order to do this. Having the freedom to develop my own pedagogy has been so exciting and I cannot thank FAW enough for being so supportive throughout this. Every member of staff has the pupils at the forefront of decisions. Senior Leadership are friendly and extremely approachable which in turn creates an open and welcoming culture within the school."

Teacher, joined as an NQT September 2017

xxxxx

"Working at Five Acre Wood has been a great experience so far, support is available at every corner and staff are happy and friendly. As an NQT, being partnered with 3 separate support staff (NQT mentor, phase lead and buddy) means that I've never had to worry about where to go to ask for support or advice. From the start I noticed the ethos of collective collaboration, teachers opinions about the curriculum, how budgets are spent etc are valued. The reason I have loved teaching at Five Acre Wood the most is that it has allowed me to take ownership for the learning of my class and there is flexibility within the curriculum to allow you to use your initiative and teach in a way that will benefit your class best, I think this is essential when teaching students with complex needs."

NQT, joined September 2019

xxxxx

"Working at Five Acre Wood School feels like you are making a difference to the quality of the lives of young people with complex needs. At Five Acre Wood we feel it's important to focus on the learner's development as a whole, not just their development in curriculum areas, and challenge barriers to enable them to meet their full potential. As one of the largest SEN schools in the country, pupils at Five Acre Wood School present with very different needs. Working at our school is a great opportunity to learn new skills and feel empowered to make a difference. Collaboration and CPD are actively encouraged, as are trying new ideas. No day is the same, but every day in some small way shapes the lives of the pupils that we work with. The Senior Leadership Team are dedicated and take their roles seriously, led by a Principal who is very supportive of her staff. Teachers are valued as people and where you are willing to work hard there will always be someone there to support you at Five Acre Wood School."

Teacher, joined as an NQT September 2013