

School of the Year



For families, nothing is more rewarding than seeing your child thrive beyond expectations, something Kennel Lane School achieves every day. A beacon of inclusive excellence in Bracknell Forest, the school supports people with diverse learning, medical, and emotional needs with dignity and care. Through its tailored TALENTS curriculum and enriching opportunities like horse riding and outdoor learning, pupils gain confidence, independence, and skills that continually exceed expectations.

A special needs school where inclusion isn't just a principle, it is a promise. Children with complex medical, sensory and learning needs are supported to thrive, grow and achieve more than anyone thought possible. What sets this school apart is its people, it always takes someone special to be a teacher but superheroes work in this type of setting and that is what these educators are. Preparing learners for the next stage in life, they leave capable, independent citizens with care, dedication and opportunities that open up the world. Learners are empowered to navigate Bracknell with confidence using banks, libraries and shops to gain the autonomy they need for future independence.





Teacher of the Year – Sam Casella



Our Teacher of the Year is an outstanding educator who goes above and beyond every day. Working with children with often complex needs, he has the incredible ability to make children feel safe, valued and understood. His patience, skill and care create an environment where children thrive and families seeing real improvements in confidence, communication and engagement. As head of the Early Years Foundation and Key Stage 1, his impact reaches beyond the classroom, building trust in children, supporting them to reach their potential and being a constant reassuring presence as they go through the school. For parents, he's a trusted partner, communicating honestly with a passion for putting children first, reassuring families they can feel heard and confident their children are in the very best hands.

For parents, he's a trusted partner, communicating honestly with a passion for putting children first, reassuring families they can feel heard and confident their children are in the very best hands. Sam is an exceptional teacher at Kennel Lane School who has a strong ability to understand children with additional needs, seeing them as individuals and adapting his approach with patience and genuine care. He supports smooth transitions into full-time school, helping pupils settle through consistent routines and close communications with parents, including regular updates and responsiveness to concerns. He is a reassuring presence creating a safe and positive start to the day for every child.

