

  
Ofsted  
Outstanding  
Provider



Learn, grow and flourish

 **Frank Barnes**  
School for Deaf Children

“Frank Barnes is a fantastic school where my child has developed very well, educationally, socially and emotionally.”

Parent



# A welcome from the headteacher

---

Our work at Frank Barnes starts from one essential insight: we all have a simple wish for our children – that they live safe and happy lives in which they have the chance to make the most of their talents, abilities and skills, as well as maximise their learning potential.

In a society that sometimes doesn't recognise the potential of deaf children, that ambition can seem challenging and distant. That's where Frank Barnes School comes in, believing that every child does have unique potential. We will help your children achieve the academic and personal skills to grasp every opportunity the world holds for them. Hence our mission statement: **Learn, Grow and Flourish**.

Our bilingual philosophy – recognising both English and British Sign Language – and our investment in each child's individual learning has led to our international reputation as a centre of excellence for the education of deaf children. We have repeatedly been recognised as 'outstanding' by Ofsted.

We are now located in a state of the art facility in King's Cross, sharing our premises with the new Kings Cross Academy. Light and airy, the building has been specifically designed to be an innovative learning environment that meets the needs of our children. No detail has been too small, from the layout of the classrooms to setting up central display areas that celebrate both the collaborative project work of all our children, as well as colourful, interactive displays from individual schools.

We hope that once you have read more about our school, you will consider us to play an important role in your child's future.

With best wishes,

**Dani Sive**  
Headteacher



Passion

Collaboration

Five core values

Integrity

Creativity

Curiosity

# Our vision for your child's education



We are proud that many of our parents describe Frank Barnes as a home away from home – where their children are part of a community in which they are supported, valued and nurtured.

We believe every child should:

- Have the chance to reach their individual potential;
- Feel part of a rich and diverse community;
- Have the right to feel confident and valued;
- Enjoy learning and expanding their horizons.

Guided by these core beliefs, we are academically and personally ambitious for our children. We teach them to act independently, with integrity and encourage them to always strive for excellence.

We do so in an environment that is built on five core values that we encourage and expect in how we communicate, interact and work with each other:

## Passion

We are relentless in our positive enthusiasm.

## Creativity

We look at things from every angle and use our imagination to create something new.

## Curiosity

We have an endless appetite to learn and understand.

## Integrity

We act with honesty and transparency, to do what is right.

## Collaboration

Being able to work together is the strongest sign of our independence.

With a culture underpinned by these beliefs and values, we develop happy and confident children who, knowing their boundaries, can see the world with great optimism.

# Our bilingual philosophy

---

A fundamental part of a child's development is the ability to communicate, giving full expression to their thoughts, opinions and imagination. That's why at the heart of our curriculum is our bilingual philosophy: we teach our children to have a high-level of competence in both BSL and English.

Bilingualism is widely recognised as having an extraordinarily positive educational, social and developmental impact on children. We encourage our parents to participate in our language development programmes as much as possible so they continuously improve their communication with their children.

## British Sign Language (BSL) – the foundation of communication

Our children in the Early Years Foundation Stage start using BSL naturally at a very early age. Our deaf staff play a crucial role in developing our children's understanding of the uses and models of BSL. They are excellent language models and excel in both BSL and English, creating a rich bilingual language environment.

Learning BSL as a foundation language helps our children to both progress through the national curriculum and learn English as their second language. It also goes beyond academic development to becoming a key part of our children's deaf identity and how they communicate with adults.



“Frank Barnes is an outstanding school. Pupils’ achievements are excellent because of very high quality teaching”

Ofsted

## Continuously developing English as a second language

Building on BSL, we provide regular opportunities for children to develop their English skills delivered by our specialist teachers and speech and language therapists. They use a variety of techniques in small groups, including:

- Developing communication and language through play;
- ‘Live English’, where deaf children learn skills and strategies to communicate successfully with hearing people.

## Making the most of the hearing you have

Most of our children have some residual hearing and use different types of hearing aids and cochlear implants. Ensuring that they wear, use and maintain their aids and implants properly enables them to develop their listening skills as quickly as possible. That's why the school maintains strong links to audiology clinics and is supported by an Educational Audiologist to help the children make the most of the hearing they have.

We have been  
able to build  
an international  
reputation for  
excellence  
because we  
are ambitious  
for our children





# A curriculum that develops confident and skilled children

We have been able to build an international reputation for excellence because we are ambitious for our children – working with them to stretch their potential as far as it may go. Our curriculum is designed to enable every child to learn, develop their individual skills and be an active partner in their development.

## Individualised learning plans

Every child has unique strengths, weaknesses and potential. Some of our children have needs additional to their deafness. Through rigorous and continuous assessment, we make sure we understand each of our children’s individual needs and what type of activities will be most effective for their development.

From this understanding, we create an individual learning plan for every child that comes to Frank Barnes, throughout their time with us. This includes their educational, social, emotional, communication and physical development, with individualised programmes for speech and language therapy.

## An engaging education from Early Years Foundation Stage to Key Stage 2

We believe that learning should be fun and energising for all children. Frank Barnes follows the Early Years Foundation Stage 0-5 curriculum, which supports learning through play, encouraging children to develop communication skills, imagination and a willingness to explore their environment.

As our children move into Key Stages 1 and 2, we maintain our interactive, enjoyable and visual approach. Our small class sizes guarantee individual attention. All our children are taught the national curriculum subjects through a bilingual approach.

Each child has access to laptops and iPads to support their learning, homework and home-school communication.



“I love coming to school and playing with my friends outside. I love maths, geography and history”  
Student

## Developing their Deaf identity

Our unique Deaf Studies Curriculum supports children in developing their Deaf identity and their pride in being a member of the Deaf community. It gives our children the opportunity to learn about their culture, history and sign language. Each year, we celebrate Deaf Festival Week and BSL celebration days with a range of activities and welcome children from other deaf schools from across the country.



# Learning in school and in the world

---

The point of an education is to help children thrive in the world as they grow. That's why we place a great emphasis on enriching our children's education and learning experience. We do this in school through lunchtime clubs and activities, as well as inviting visitors and role models into the school.

Every year, we also put on a pantomime production chosen by our children. In preparation, there are prop-and costume-making, face painting and drama workshops. Without fail, the children produce a joyous spectacle of entertainment.

We also take our children on educational day trips across London. Every two years, our Year 5 or 6 children go on a 5 day residential journey, which is always a highlight of the children's school career.



# Our learning community

---

Our record of excellence is built on the partnerships that we build in educating our children. Developing confident and independent children requires all of us to work together in advancing their education.

## Parents, carers and families

Parents and carers are our children's most important providers of care and education. We aim to involve parents in all areas of their child's education and maintain strong links via a home-school agreement, regular newsletters and an open-door policy for parents and carers to come and speak with us.

We run:

- weekly drop-in "Stay and Play" mornings for parents of children in the Early Years Foundation Stage and their siblings;
- parents' workshops and coffee mornings;
- a broad range of accredited BSL courses;
- sign language classes and group sessions for pre-school deaf children;
- a programme of home visits that can be arranged to support parents and carers.



We encourage parents to support school activities from parents' evenings to the Christmas show and many other social events in between.

We also work in partnership with the Royal Association for Deaf people (RAD) with whom we have contracted a Family Liaison Officer. The FLO works closely with families to run the Home School Communication Project by allocating Family Communication Support Workers to some families to develop parents' BSL and communication skills with their Deaf children at home.

## Specialised and experienced staff

We have a strong and diverse team of deaf and hearing professionals who work closely together to meet our children's needs. These include qualified Teachers of the Deaf, Teaching Assistants, Sign Language Interpreters, SENCO, an Educational Audiologist, Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists and Occupational Therapists. We also work closely with other professionals to ensure every child's needs are fully met. We closely follow best practice with the recruitment of trusted and qualified staff.

### Deaf and hearing communities

We believe that the ability to interact confidently with all cultures and communities will enrich the lives of our children and help them develop their own strong, unique identities.

Therefore we organise for members of the Deaf community to visit Frank Barnes and for our own children to visit mainstream schools to provide Deaf Awareness sessions. Where appropriate, some children are supported to take part in learning in a mainstream school environment.

We work very closely with the Deaf community and organisations including the National Deaf Children's Society, the British Deaf Association and the British Sign Language Broadcasting Trust. We also host seminars and conferences for Teachers of the Deaf, Audiologists and other health and education professionals.

### Partnerships

We are very proud to share the state of the art site with the King's Cross Academy, which will give our children even more opportunities to communicate and build friendships with hearing children. All the KCA children and staff are learning BSL and developing their Deaf awareness. The partnership is a successful collaboration between two schools and two communities working together and learning from each other.

Frank Barnes is located right in the centre of an amazing, vibrant community for learning, with prestigious local organisations including the Crick Institute, the Waitrose Cookery School, Nike, Central St Martins and Google, to name just a few.

"Parents and carers are seen as partners in their child's education and the school works with them very well"

Ofsted



# Apply now

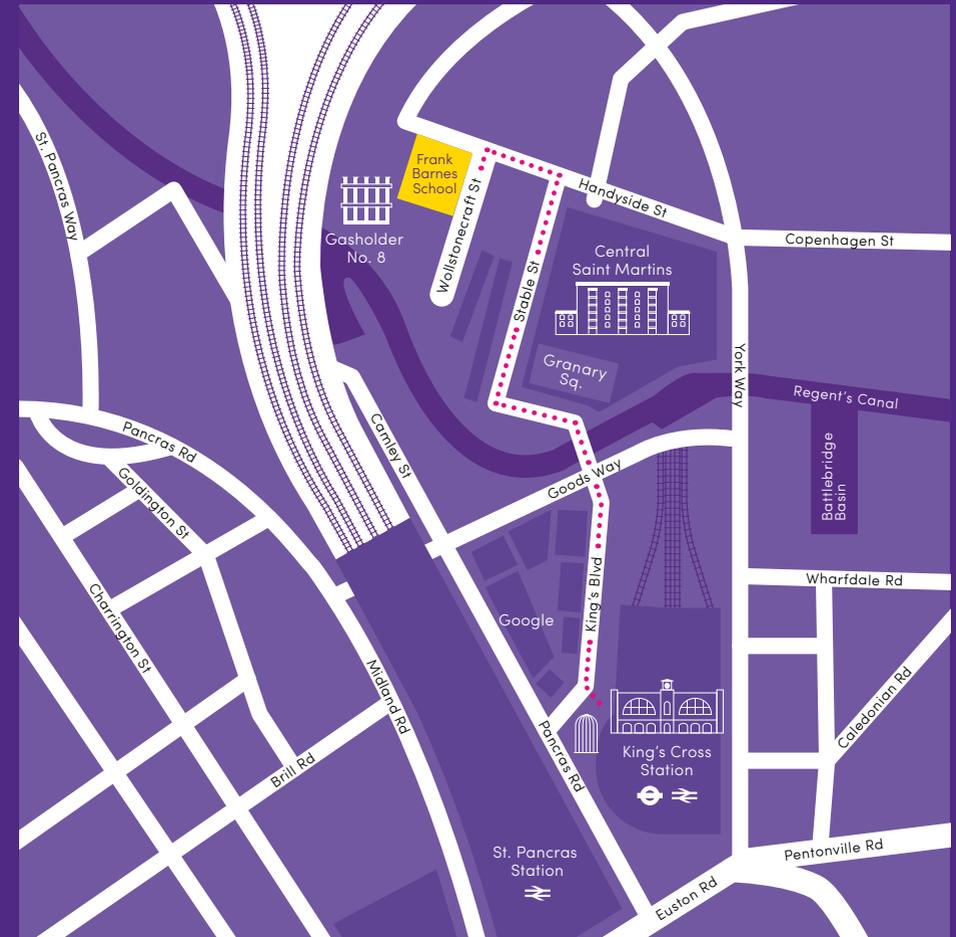
We recognise and respect that choosing a school for your child is an incredibly important decision. After reading about our vision and record of excellence, we hope you will consider us as the place your child can and will flourish.

Admissions for Frank Barnes School must be made through your local authority's Special Educational Needs Team. You can find out exactly what's required on their website. However, to see if we are the right school for you – please do come and visit!

If you have any questions about the school or would like to book an appointment to visit us, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

We look forward to welcoming you.

[www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](http://www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)  
E: [admissions@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admissions@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)  
T: 020 7391 7040



Frank Barnes  
School for Deaf Children  
4 Wollstonecraft Street  
London  
NIC 4BT  
[www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](http://www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)

Tel: 020 7391 7040  
SMS: 07970 626 197  
Fax: 020 7391 7048  
Facetime: [facetime@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](mailto:facetime@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)  
Skype: [frankbarnes2003](https://www.skype.com/user/frankbarnes2003)  
[admin@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)

**Frank Barnes  
School for Deaf Children**

4 Wollstonecraft Street  
London  
NIC 4BT  
[www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](http://www.fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)

Tel: 020 7391 7040  
SMS: 07970 626 197  
Fax: 020 7391 7048  
FaceTime: [facetime@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](mailto:facetime@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)  
Skype: [frankbarnes2003](https://www.skype.com/people/frankbarnes2003)  
[admin@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk](mailto:admin@fbarnes.camden.sch.uk)