

Meet our inclusion and Pastoral team at Howden Juniors & Howden Infant School



Chan Amor

Hi there, my name is Chan Amor and I have worked in education for 20 years. I gained my teaching degree at Leeds Beckett University.

I began my career as a teacher in North Lincolnshire, one of my biggest accomplishments whilst working there was to lead on improving multi-cultural links. This included creating a partnership with the school I worked at and a school in China. I later moved to a small primary school in East Yorkshire and it was there I began to follow my passion for SEND and went on to study and gain my Diploma in Inclusion, at Hull University. In 2012, I joined the HJS family, as a Year 6 teacher.

During my time at HJS, I have taught across all year groups and have led a variety of subjects and have always considered myself as someone who can 'turn my hand to anything'.

My current roles include being the Head of Inclusion, Safeguarding, Wellbeing and SENDCO (gained the NSENDSCO award in 2021) and have recently been appointed as Primary Lead for SEND and Inclusion across our academy.

Part of my roles include, seeking advice and support from the Local Authority and other outside agencies for our pupils and families who need specialist support. In school, I work alongside key members of staff so that quality first teaching is available to all and TAs have the skills and knowledge to deliver targeted interventions for those pupils who require additional support.

I feel incredibly privileged and proud to work as part of such a hardworking and caring team. Howden will always hold a special place in my heart, as I was brought up here so to hold such an important role within our local community is truly an honour.



Kate Barber

I joined Howden Junior School in 2017. My roles at Howden Junior School are ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Advisor), Pastoral and Family support, Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead and Higher Level Teaching Assistant. I have worked in primary education for 25 years supporting and delivery pastoral, wellbeing and behaviour support. Previously I worked in a large primary school in York and I am an experienced member of the support staff team. I am passionate about emotional wellbeing and inclusion in school and strive to make sure all pupils, are well supported and happy whilst here. I work with children one to one and their families to enrich experiences and support areas of school life, which may be a barrier to learning, as well as working one to one with children I work with children in small social group interventions around their current wellbeing and emotional needs.

As an ELSA I can support with, Loss & Bereavement, Self- Esteem, Social Skills, Emotions, Friendship Issues, Relationships, Anger Management, Behaviour, Anxiety, Bullying, Conflict and Relaxation Techniques.

I always have an open door policy and children can come and check in with me if they have a worry or wobble. Parents are also very welcome to 'drop in' or make an appointment through the school office if they would like help, advice or support. I work closely with Chan Amor our Deputy Head, SENDCo and Designated Safeguarding Lead, making sure Social and Emotional Mental Health needs are supported, for all of our children and our families in school and in the community.

Carrie Dower



Hello there! I am Carrie Dower and have been the SENDCo for Howden C of E Infant School for more years than I can count! As I have been teaching since 1994, firstly in Goole and then at Howden Infants from 2004, I am now having the strange experience of teaching children of the children from my first years of teaching! I've not yet been called 'grandma' by mistake but there's time yet I guess!

Prior to training to be a teacher in 1990, I qualified and worked as a nursery nurse at a local special school as well as a nearby primary school, which fuelled my interest in learning more about the educational provision for children with SEND. It was whilst working alongside some very knowledgeable staff in Goole, that I broadened my own understanding and gained further SEND qualifications.

The children of Howden Infants are fortunate to be taught and cared for by a skilled and dedicated team who ensure that every child is valued and encouraged to flourish. I am proud to work with such a wonderful group of people who recognise the possibilities, not the difficulties of each child and strive to provide a learning experience they deserve.

Having the privilege to be part of the Howden community for so many years means I have seen children grow, move on and continue to be the best they can be. It brings me great joy to hear about the achievements of past pupils when I meet them or their families in or around Howden.

Although I am a teaching SENDCo, I do have release time each week for all matters SEND related, so if you would like a catch up and a chat, just give me a call, and I'll get the kettle on!



Helen

My role is to deliver Mental Health workshops to Primary children as well as signposting them, their parents and any other adults to other agencies if needed. Mind in Education also provide 1:1 wellbeing drop off sessions for children to discuss any worries or concerns they may have about their mental health, but I must stress that I am not a counsellor. The aim of these sessions is to provide a safe environment where children can discuss any worries they may have. We need parental consent for these and other workshops which may take the children out of their existing timetable.

The main aim of the programme is to encourage children and adults to recognise signs of mental ill health, enable them to build resilience and find ways to feel confident and mentally well. We want children feel comfortable talking about their mental health, to normalise this rather than it being a stigma.

I was a primary teacher for over 16 years and I am a parent to two children.

It would be appropriate for all children and staff to use my first name only.

big or how small and I feel privileged that I can play a part in their early development.



Rachel Robinson

My name is Rachel Robinson and I've been a part of the HJS team since 2019. My current roles are lunchtime supervisor, play leader and teaching assistant. My lunchtime role includes working with a group of our older children to organise activities on the playground and encourage others to join in a variety of games and extend friendships. It makes me extremely proud to see our amazing children working together and using their own time to help give their peers a happy and enriched lunch break. As a TA with a passion for inclusion and social, emotional and mental health, I have supported children both on a 1:1 level and within small groups. I am currently completing ELSA training and already work closely with Mrs Barber and Miss Amor across this area.

I enjoy helping the children with their daily learning and offer support in the classroom where needed. I am able to build good, positive relationships quickly with children of all ages and the other members of our team. I have more recently been given the opportunity to use my experience and knowledge to begin delivering 3 new and exciting interventions to pupils across the school- Lego Club, Positive Art Club and ELEVATE. These groups are part of our whole school approach towards building social and emotional well-being skills. It is my hope that every child will access at least one type of intervention during their time at HJS.



Lucy Peet

Hi, I'm Lucy - I graduated from York St John University in 2014 and later worked as an Education Support Worker, supporting students with additional learning needs at the University of York. I joined Howden Infants in 2020 for my Level 2 TA placement, and have gone on to be a TA in Key Stage 1. I work with Year 2 (but often appear in other year groups!), supporting in class as well as delivering interventions to support children with their phonics, writing, maths and speech and language. I can also be found on the front gate most mornings, ready to collect children from the bus!

I have always been passionate about mental health awareness and emotional wellbeing, and previously volunteered for the mental health charity, Mind. In 2023, I completed the ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) course, and now deliver emotional wellbeing interventions for children across school, both 1:1 and in group settings. In my role, I support children in a range of areas including self-esteem, anxiety, anger management, bereavement and social skills. The most rewarding part of my job is seeing children I have supported overcome challenges, grow in confidence and the pride they take from this.