

SEN Information Report

SEN Information Report 2018/19

The Orchard School is special school for children aged 2 ½ to 11 years of age. We have planned places for up to 140 pupils, with 146 currently on role

The Orchard School provides educational opportunities for children with a wide range of complex difficulties. All children admitted to the school will have a severe learning difficulty however in addition to their difficulties with learning many children may also have a range of additional problems, these may include:

- Autism
- Sensory impairments, including visual and or hearing impairment
- Physical impairments
- Epilepsy
- Challenging behaviour.
- Speech, language and communication difficulties
- Complex medical needs.

What kind of SEN provision is available at The Orchard School?

Children may, of course, fall into more than one of the above categories. It is important, therefore, that the school is clear about its specific approaches to each of the categories and is able to respond to individual needs in a structured and cohesive manner

At The Orchard School – the pupils' identified needs will be complex including: severe learning difficulties, and profound and multiple learning difficulties. These may include pupils with sensory or physical difficulties. Autistic spectrum conditions or challenging behaviour or a combination of these difficulties. The admission arrangements for our pupils can be found on our website within the admission policy.

How will The Orchard School identify and assess my child's special needs?

Pupils are admitted to the Orchard school following consideration of all multi-agency evidence by the provision panel of the LA. On admission the LA will provide a copy of all assessments previously undertaken with the child from the relevant agencies.

All children have an Education , Health and Care Plan (EHCP) on entry to The Orchard School. The plan details the required provision for each child. The plan is reviewed on an annual basis with all agencies involved with the child and families.

How does The Orchard School evaluate the effectiveness of our provision?

We have robust procedures for self evaluation and monitoring of our work. Members of the senior leadership monitor all teachers on a termly basis. In addition the school is supported and challenged by a LA adviser for SEND

How does our school meet the needs of its pupils

Following the assessment the school will be able to place the child on the relevant level of the school curriculum.

The school provides a curriculum of opportunity, which meets the needs of individual children and fulfils statutory requirements, including The National Curriculum and the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. Full details can be found in the Curriculum Statement

Records will be kept in line with the schools Assessment, Recording and Reporting policy and these records will be used to monitor the progress of children across the school.

How do I know how well my child is doing at The Orchard School

We inform you of your child's activities and learning through a home school diary each day. Early in the autumn term you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher and class team at a parents evening (or if applicable some day appointments are available) .and again in the summer term As part of the annual review and new Education Health Care plan (EHCP) you will be invited into school to share and contribute towards a report which outlines the progress your child is making. In addition to this you are welcome to discuss your child's progress with us at any time. Your child's individual educational plan (IEP) is sent home each term, accept during the term when progress is sent to families via the EHCP or annual review.

How will the staff support my child and how will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

All planning is highly differentiated for each child and the support provided for each individual child is outlined in the statement/ EHCP/ care plan and individual core learning plans for each child. School staff are supported by members of the community nursing team, speech and language therapist, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, educational psychologists and the community paediatrician and psychiatrist.

What additional support for learning is available?

Agencies we work with include:
Children's Community Nurses. There is a nurse on site during the course of the day. The community paediatrician holds regular clinics at the school so that pupils can be seen annually for a medical within school. Specialist staff from the support services will be available to support pupils in the school with visual and hearing impairment. Peripatetic teacher for music. Speech and Language Therapist. Physiotherapist and Physiotherapy assistants. Educational Psychologist Occupational Therapist CAMHS

What further activities are available in addition to the curriculum activities?

The Orchard School runs an after school and holiday clubs, Pupils across the school have opportunities to take part in offsite activities and for some pupils, they are offered a residential opportunity

What training is provided to develop staff expertise?

The school are committed to a comprehensive training programme for all staff, which includes moving and handling, Team Teach, Makaton, and supporting the development of language and communication skills with children with complex needs. Training packages and bespoke to the needs of each individual learner. And may include additional training needs such as support from the visual impairment team, attachment and trauma, sensory massage depending on needs of the pupils. All staff undertake level 1 safeguarding training

What equipment and facilities are there to support young people with special needs?

The Orchard School is a fully equipped, modern special school.

Physical resources include

- Swimming pool heated to hydrotherapy temperatures which is accessible to all pupils
- Hoists for children who require manual handling and access to the swimming pool.
- Multi-sensory white studio
- Multi sensory dark studio
- Drama and music studio
- Specialised and secure outdoor play areas with safety surfacing
- Disabled toilet facilities.
- Access to specialised seating for children with physical difficulties.
- Soft Play room for safe active play.
- Adapted food technology room
- Two school minibuses with tail lifts for offsite activities
- Sensory garden with a variety of fragrant flowers and herbs
- Outdoor sensory trail, including a willow tunnel
- Computer , smart boards and iPads accessible for all children
- Library area
- Food technology room
- Adapted software and hardware , such as eye gaze system

How are families involved in the education of their children?

At The Orchard School – parents and families are fully included in the process of working with their children.
This includes:

- visits to school
 - home visits
 - Daily home diary to exchange and share information
 - Twice a year parent evenings
 - Annual Review of an EHCP meeting
 - Parent workshops and training
 - Coffee mornings
 - Access to parent room in school
 - Parental Representation on Governing Body
 - Regular newsletter and text updates.
 - Parents, families and carers are welcome to make an appointment to come and see the class teacher or Head Teacher regarding any issues or
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concerns they may have at any point within the school year.

In addition to this, there is a Friends of The Orchard School, an organisation run by friend and families of children at The Orchard School that promotes our work and helps to raise much needed funds.

What do I do if I have a concern about the provision at The Orchard School?

In the first instance please contact your child's class teacher. If you still have a concern then please contact the Head teacher, Diane Ellingham. There is a complaints policy available on our website.

How does the school governing body deal with any complaint by a parent?

Any complaint that cannot be resolved by the child's class teacher or the head teacher is always referred to the chair of governors. A parent also has the right to take a complaint directly to any member of the governing body. Governors take an impartial view when investigating any complaint and will always respond to the parent in writing. If the complaint is still not resolved it will be taken by the school to the local authority who will review it impartially.

What are the Schools arrangements for supporting pupils in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for secondary education?

Pupils within the Orchard school will have opportunities for inclusive activities either within our own setting or within a mainstream environment

The inclusion team assesses the needs of individual children to match the inclusion opportunity to the need of each child; this may be a social or a functional inclusion programme.

Children attend The Orchard School from across Sandwell LA, so local schools to The Orchard, may not be the child's local school. The inclusion team will decide on the most appropriate mainstream school to host the inclusion opportunity depending on the needs of the individual child and the resources and facilities of the mainstream provision.

On reaching year 6 pupils will start to be prepared for transfer to secondary provision either at our sister school, The Meadows or at alternative appropriate facilities. The

transition to the secondary school is organised and managed by the Head of department for Upper School who will liaise closely with the receiving school. The transition programme takes place during the summer term although parents and families have the opportunity to visit the secondary school and meet the staff and Head Teacher throughout the year. On some occasions children may transfer schools before year 6. This decision will be discussed and made through the annual review of EHCP process. Transition arrangements will be organised by the phase leader and the appropriate school.

Pupils moving at the end year 6 will have the opportunity to have a number of taster visits to their secondary placement before spending a full day prior to their September start.

Where can I get further information and support?

Click here and this will take you to our parental information page on our website.

Where can I get information about the LA local offer?

<http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/send>
