



The Orchard School SEN Information 2025-26

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

The Orchard School is a special school for children aged 4 to 11 years of age. We have planned places for 173 pupils.

The school provides educational opportunities for children with a wide range of complex learning difficulties. All children admitted to the school will have a profound or severe learning difficulty, provision for which is identified within their EHCP. However, in addition to their difficulties in the areas of cognition and learning and speech, language and communication, many children may also have a range of additional needs within aspects of social and emotional, mental health and wellbeing, physical and sensory and independence as identified in the SEN Code of Practice 2014.

Admissions to Orchard School are determined by the Local Authority in consultation with the school and further information can be found on our website in the admission policy.

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

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 and 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 children's progress each term alongside the class teacher. In addition, the school is supported and challenged by a School Improvement Partner (SIP) and Governors.

How does the school meet the needs of its pupils?

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

Each child has an individually tailored curriculum which meets their needs, fulfils statutory requirements and is developmental in nature. A bespoke individual learning programme is identified for each child. Each area of the EHCP is matched to subject content and broken down into small steps to ensure success for all pupils.

Full details can be found in the Curriculum Intent document.

Records will be kept in line with the school's protocols and Data Protection Regulations, 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 same-day appointments are available regarding specific issues). A further parents evening occurs in the Summer term.

As part of the annual review of your child's Education Health and 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.

We share your child's progress through the 'Evidence for Learning' family app.

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 EHCP and individual core learning plans for each child. School staff are supported by members of the Children's Community Nursing team, Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists, Occupational therapists, Educational Psychologist, Consultant Paediatricians, Child and Adolescence Mental Health Service, Learning disability nurses and psychiatrist.

What additional support for learning is available?

Agencies we work with include:

- Children's Community Nurses
- The community paediatricians hold regular clinics at the school so that pupils can be seen for medical reviews within school
- Health care assistants- support pupils who need medication and gastrostomy feeding across the day
- Specialist staff from the sensory support services will be available to support pupils in the school with visual and hearing impairment
- NHS Speech and Language Therapists
- NHS Physiotherapist and Physiotherapy assistants
- Educational Psychologist
- NHS Dietician
- NHS Occupational Therapists for postural support
- CAMHS – learning difficulty nurses + psychiatrist
- Our Pastoral team work closely with early help and social care where appropriate
- The school hosts regular Wheelchair services, Motor management clinics, Orthotics and Ophthalmic clinics
- The school purchases specialist Music support. It also sources additional Speech and language therapy
- The school purchases sensory integration occupational therapy support

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

Pupils across the school have opportunities to take part in offsite activities and some pupils are offered a residential opportunity.

Additional activities often include:

- Park, shop, soft play, farm and local community visits
- Rock Climbing
- Animal visits
- Rebound therapy
- Dance and music performances

What training is provided to develop staff expertise?

The school has a comprehensive training programme for all staff, which includes Safeguarding, Moving and handling, Crisis Preventative Institute (CPI), Makaton, and supporting the development of language and communication skills with children with complex needs.

Staff Training packages are 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 processing, Intensive Interaction, Attention Autism - depending on needs of the pupils.

Training consists of training days, meetings after school, in-house support, visiting other schools, external training and online 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
- Multi-sensory white studio
- Multi-sensory dark studio
- Drama and music studio with omni beam technology
- Specialised and secure outdoor play areas with safety surfacing
- Sensory Integration room
- Disabled toileting / changing facilities
- Access to specialised seating for children with physical difficulties
- Access to specialised and alternative seating for children with sensory integration difficulties
- Adapted food technology room
- Two school minibuses with tail lifts for offsite activities
- Sensory garden with a variety of fragrant flowers and herbs
- Forest Garden with planters, water wall and outdoor learning space
- Trim trail and adapted swing and roundabout for wheelchair users
- Outdoor gym and sunken trampoline
- Outdoor sensory trail, including a willow tunnel
- Touch screen computers, White boards and iPads accessible for all children
- Magic carpet
- Library
- Food technology room
- Adapted software and hardware
- Eye Gaze technology
- Infra-red switching technology

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
 - Photos and videos being shared via parent the EFL App app
 - Daily home diary to exchange and share information
 - Twice yearly parent evenings
 - Annual Review of an EHCP meeting
 - Parent workshops and training
 - Coffee mornings
 - Questionnaires to feedback views
 - Parental Representation on Governing Body
 - Regular newsletter and text updates
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- Parents, families, and carers are welcome to make an appointment to come and see the class teacher or Head Teacher regarding any issues or concerns they may have at any point within the school year.

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. 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. Parents also have 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 independently.

What are the School's 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 school 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 school and LA 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.

Prior to starting at The Orchard professionals involved in the pupil's education and health will have a joint meeting with The Orchard staff and professionals in order to handover all information. Staff will visit the pupil in their current setting (where applicable) and also visit them at home. Parents and carers will meet with a member from the class team and complete paperwork to support the transition process. Open mornings are held at school to support documentation completion and a garden party takes place in the summer term giving families the opportunity to meet staff, other new and existing parents and to see the school environment again.

On reaching year 6 pupils will start to be prepared for transfer to secondary provision either at our partner secondary school for children with severe and complex needs, 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 prior to this.

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 prior to their September start.

Where can I get further information and support?

Please see the 'About Us' and 'Families' sections on our website.

Where can I get information about the LA local SEND offer?

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

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