

SEN Information Report

SEN Information Report 2020/21

The Orchard School is special school for children aged 2 ½ to 11 years of age with 147 pupils currently on role. The school is regarded to currently be full beyond capacity. The Orchard School provides educational opportunities for children with a wide range of complex difficulties. All children on roll have an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) which identifies The Orchard School as the educational provider. The school caters for pupils with complex and profound needs and these may include:

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

- Severe or profound learning difficulties
- Autism
- Sensory impairments
- Physical impairments
- Challenging behaviour
- Speech, language and communication difficulties
- Complex medical needs

Children may, of course, have multiple needs. It is important, therefore, that the school is clear about its specific approaches to each of the identified needs and is able to respond to these individual in a structured and cohesive manner as identified within the provision agreement of the EHCP

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 placed by the Local Authority at 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 and will formally consult with the school.

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 across all aspects of provision. Members of the senior leadership monitor all teachers on a termly basis. The Governing body play a key role in holding the School to account for performance. In addition the school is supported and challenged by a LA adviser for SEND. Ofsted conducted a full inspection in June 2017 and judged the school to be outstanding.

How does our school meet the needs of its pupils

Following initial assessment on entry to the school, plans for learning are created and monitored. This will enable pupils to access bespoke learning provision and will be supported through multiagency working where identified ie. through Speech and Language or Occupational therapy support for example.

The school provides a curriculum of opportunity, which meets the needs of individual children and fulfils statutory requirements and follows a developmental approach to learning. Full details can be found in the Curriculum Statement.

Records and evidence of progress are 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 and to inform the annual review of EHCP.

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 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.

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 care plan and individual 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 clinical psychologist. Sandwell Inclusion support provide advice and support for pupils with hearing and / or visual impairment.

What additional support for learning is available?

Agencies we work with include:
Children's Community Nurses. There is generally a nurse on site during the course of the day, but this cannot be guaranteed. 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. Speech and Language Therapist. Physiotherapist and Physiotherapy assistants. Educational Psychologist Occupational Therapist CAMHS

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

Pupils across the school have opportunities to take part in offsite activities to enhance social and learning experiences, 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 staff member and may include additional training depending on needs of the pupils or career enhancement opportunities.

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

- Hoists for children who require manual handling, including access to the swimming pool.
- Multi-sensory studios
- 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 & sensory trail, including a willow tunnel
- Computers, smart boards and iPads accessible for all children
- Adapted software and hardware, such as eye gaze system
- Library
- Food technology room

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 sharing 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.
- Informative website
- 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. 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. This often takes the form of pupils from other settings visiting school for a series of activities. On reaching year 6, pupils will start to be prepared for transfer to secondary provision either Sandwell's specialist secondary provision The Meadows School or at alternative appropriate provision within Sandwell or neighbouring local Authority. 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 usually takes place during the summer term and is developed based on individual pupil needs. Parents and families often have the opportunity to visit the secondary school and meet the staff and Head Teacher.

Where can I get further information and support?

See our website.

Where can I get information about the LA local offer?

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