

## **Derrymount School's Local Offer.**

### **What kinds of special educational needs does the school/setting make provision for?**

Derrymount School is a generic special school which delivers provision for a wide range of needs. We have a particular focus on pupils who have ASC, ADHD and Attachment Order. We have two sites, our Churchmoor Lane site caters for pupils in Primary and Keystage 3 and our Sherbrook Rd site caters for pupils in KS4 and P16. There is some overlap between KS3 and KS4 as some Y9 pupils may occasionally be based on the Sherbrook site depending on their needs.

### **How does the school/setting evaluate the effectiveness of its provision for pupils with special educational needs?**

We continually evaluate our provision through a structured and rigorous monitoring programme. We consult with all stakeholders and pupils have a voice through the student council, by contributing to their EHC and LAC reviews and through pupil questionnaires. We work closely with our Educational Psychologist and other professionals involved with the pupils.

### **How will both the school/setting and I know how my child/young person is doing and how will the school/setting help me to support their learning?**

All pupils have a baseline assessment on entry to the school and we have a clear, structured approach to ensure we know exactly where each pupil is working and where they need to be. We currently use Age Related Expectations for academic subjects as well as AET assessments to assess our pupils' areas of SEN including the development of their Independence and Resilience. We are developing digital portfolios to capture evidence of progress in the AETs. We share these with professionals, parents and carers. We share them with pupils which helps to build their self esteem, confidence and to celebrate their achievements. Progress is shared with parents/carers at EHC Review meetings, parents' evenings and through annual reports. Parents /carers are helped to support their CYP's learning through discussion with their class team. Parents/ carers are helped to support their child's reading through the use of Integrated Reading Targets and guidance within the children's reading diaries. We carry out a sensory audit for some of our pupils in collaboration with parents and carers.

### **What is the school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs?**

Our school's mission statement is "Determination, Motivation, Success" and everyone at Derrymount is totally committed to working within this ethos. We focus on developing pupils' independence, resilience and confidence and supporting them to manage their emotions and behaviour as well as working on academic subjects.

### **How will the curriculum and learning be matched to my child/young person's needs?**

Pupils' needs are assessed on an individual basis and the curriculum is tailored to the needs of each pupil. We have a formal curriculum for the NC academic subjects which leads to qualifications. There is a focus on the development of reading in the Primary and KS3. All of our pupils achieve qualifications before they leave school at a level appropriate to them including in English and Maths.

We have an informal curriculum ("Activity Afternoons" at Churchmoor and "Strands" at Sherbrook) which focusses on the development of cognitive skills, communication, social and emotional development, physical, resilience, independence and preparing for adulthood.

Some pupils may take Entry Level Science in Y9 as preparation for them moving on to GCSE Science so that they are able to choose Science as an Option in KS4. Pupils take their Options in KS4 and are able to study a variety of subjects at GCSE, Functional Skills or Entry Level as appropriate to their needs. We also offer some subjects as AIM Awards and the Duke of Edinburgh Award for P16 pupils.

Targets are set for academic subjects alongside lifeskills and behaviour where appropriate.

### **How are decisions made about the type and amount of support my child/young person will receive?**

The needs of each individual pupil are taken into account on entry to the school. During the consultation process with the LA we consider if we can meet the pupil's needs based on several aspects. When creating our classes we look at the level of staffing and specialist input each child or young person will require. Funding is received from the LA based on the needs of our pupils and this is moderated on an annual basis to ensure consistency across the county.

### **How will my child/young person be included in activities outside the classroom, including school trips?**

Accessing the local community and participating in other offsite trips are seen as an extremely important part of our curriculum at Derrymount. We plan a wide range of activities in the community as part of our Activity Afternoons and Strands Curriculum as well as trips for specific NC subjects. We have a strong commitment to outdoor education and run Forest School at our Churchmoor site and Adventure School at our Sherbrook site. Each activity is risk assessed to ensure its suitability for the pupils and we take time to plan activities which enable full participation for everyone. We aim to give each pupil an opportunity to experience a residential trip during their time with us.

### **What support will there be for my child/young person's overall well-being?**

The wellbeing and happiness for our pupils is of paramount importance. We work closely with home and other agencies to ensure this. As a small school our staff know the pupils well and class teams form good relationships with their pupils. This enables them to identify issues very quickly enabling us to address any concerns in a timely manner. Pupils know who they can go to if they need help. For those pupils who require further support, we also work closely with CAMHS, the Educational

Psychology service and other agencies who may be involved with the pupils. We have therapeutic sessions available in school such as Lego Therapy and Elsa.

**What training have staff supporting special educational needs had and what is planned?**

All staff receive annual training on Coping with Risky Behaviours and as the majority of our pupils have ASC all staff are expected to access training in Autism. This training ranges from basic awareness courses to MEd Level qualifications. Our professional development is matched to the needs of our pupils, therefore we send individuals or small groups to a range of training including Attachment Training, ADHD, Elsa, sensory, and Dyslexia. We also support their Literacy through training on Phonics and Switch On to Reading and Writing and other programmes we may be using in schools. Our training is in line with our School Improvement Plan and may vary over time depending on emerging needs.

**What specialist services and expertise are available or accessed by the setting/school?**

We work closely with a range of professionals such as Educational Psychologists, Speech & Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Specialist Mental Health Nurses, paediatricians and CAMHS, Youth Justice and the police. We have an Early Intervention Police Officer who works closely with the school.

**How will equipment and facilities to support pupils with special educational needs secured? How accessible is the school/setting?**

We ensure that specialist equipment is in place for our pupils if needed and we work closely with Occupational Therapists who advise us on this. Our pupils have a range of sensory needs and equipment such as Fidget Toys, Wobble Cushions, Peanuts are widely available in school. We have a Sensory Room and Soft Play Room at our Churchmoor site. We have various individual rooms which are available as quiet spaces for pupils on both sites as well as outdoor spaces which pupils can access for movement breaks or as calming spaces. All areas of our Sherbrook site are accessible, however the Churchmoor site has some rooms which are only accessible from outside.

**What are the arrangements for consulting parents of pupils with special educational needs? How will be I involved in the education of my child/young person?**

We have formal consultation with parents at EHC review meetings as well as Parent's evenings and in an end of year report. We have an Options afternoon for our KS4 and KS5 pupils. Less formally we have home/school diaries and the school Dojo, telephone contact, email, school events and links to parent support groups. We are always happy to speak at a mutually agreed time.

**What are the arrangements for consulting young people with SEN and involving them in their education?**

We have a proactive school council who consult with the leadership team on a regular basis. We carry out pupil questionnaires about a variety of issues. Our staff know the pupils well and they have good relationships with them so any concerns can be dealt with promptly. Our pupils are encouraged to attend their EHC reviews or

LAC reviews or if they don't wish to participate in person we capture their views on paper / digitally.

**What do I do if I have a concern or complaint about the SEN provision made by the school/setting?**

Our complaints policy is on our website which outlines how to make a complaint. We would always welcome parents/carers to contact any member of the senior leadership team first to see if any concerns can be sorted out as quickly as possible.

**How does the governing body involve other organisations and services (e.g. health, social care, local authority support services and voluntary organisations) in the meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and supporting the families of such pupils?**

The governing body works with the leadership team to ensure that the school works closely with other agencies. They are aware of the policies and procedures which are in place and are made aware through Governor meetings about any current concerns and issues in school.

**How does the school/setting seek to signpost organisations, services etc who can provide additional support to parents/carers/young people.**

The school signposts information from local support groups and organisations on our website including community events that may be happening in the local area. The school also works in partnership with the Family SENCO and provides support to mainstream schools where appropriate.

**How will the school/setting prepare my child/young person to:**

- **Join the school/setting?**
- **Transfer between phases of education (e.g. early years to primary, primary to secondary etc)?**
- **Prepare for adulthood and independent living?**

On gaining a place at the school which is allocated by the LA a transition programme is planned for each individual depending on their needs. Most pupils have a programme of transition where they build up from an initial half day visit at the beginning of July to several whole day visits if appropriate. These will be supported by their current placement. We will liaise closely with their current school and gather relevant information from them and may attend meetings before they start. If a pupil has been out of school for some time and is not yet school ready the transition may begin earlier over a longer period of time. These transitions are supported by their alternative provider. All transitions within school are planned carefully whether they are a to a new class or to the Sherbrook Site. Pupils transitioning to the Sherbrook

site will have a number of visits throughout the Spring or Summer term and their staff may teach them for particular lessons whilst they are still at the Churchmoor site.

Preparing for Adulthood and independence skills are taught throughout the school with particular emphasis on independent living in our P16 department.

Independence skills are taught within activities in our Activity Afternoons at Churchmoor and our Strands Curriculum at Sherbrook. We offer work experience to pupils during Y11 or in P16 which is tailored to their interests and career choices. We work closely with parents/carers when it is time to move on and seek relevant advice from other agencies when looking for suitable college placements.

**Where can I access further information?**

Further information can be found on our school

website: [www.derrymount.notts.sch.uk](http://www.derrymount.notts.sch.uk) Visits to the school are welcomed by appointment so please feel free to telephone the school:

Churchmoor Lower School Site 0115 9534015 or Sherbrook Upper School Site 0115 9675020