

Special Educational Needs and Disability Information **Report**

About our school

Larkmead School provides for children and young people with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), including those with:

Communication and Interaction Needs

This includes children and young people who have speech, language and communication difficulties including Autistic Spectrum Conditions, Oppositional Defiant Disorder and Attention Deficit Disorders.

Cognition and Learning Needs

This includes children and young people who have learning difficulties and specific learning difficulties such as Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Dyscalculia.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Needs

This includes children and young people who display behaviours that reflect underlying mental health difficulties and have difficulties associated with anxiety.

Sensory and/or Physical Needs

This includes children and young people who have visual or hearing needs, or a physical disability that affects their learning.

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is Philippa Cross. Philippa is currently on maternity leave so, in the interim, please contact the Acting SENCO Annette Morgan on 01235 520141, or amorgan@larkmead.vale-academy.org

Our Governor with responsibility for SEND is Amena Sutton.

The SEND Policy can be found on the school website.

How do we identify and give extra help to children and young people with SEND?

The school uses Oxfordshire County Council's guidance: '*Identifying and supporting Special Educational Needs in Oxfordshire schools and settings*'.

The guidance sets out:

- How we identify if a child or young person has special educational needs.
- How we assess children and plan for their special educational needs, and how we adapt our teaching.
- Ways in which we can adapt our school environment to meet each child's needs.

- How we review progress and agree outcomes and involve you and your child in this.

Click here to see it:

<https://www2.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/childreneducationandfamilies/educationandlearning/specialeducationalneeds/SEND/CompilationSecondarySchoolsGuidance.pdf>

How do we work with parents and children/young people?

We will always contact parents if we have a concern that a child or young person may have a special educational need.

We work closely with children and young people with SEND and their parents to agree targets, outcomes and how we will work towards these, and then to review progress. We do this by; phone and email contact, pupil progress review meetings and parents' evenings.

Adapting the curriculum

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum for all children and young people, including those with SEND. Details are published on the school website. Adaptations for KS3, KS4 and KS5 can be found in the Key Stage Provision Map. Adaptations for disabled students are set out in the School Accessibility Plan, which can be found on the Policies and Procedures page of the school website.

Each student on the SEN register has an individualised learning plan, which is updated 3 times a year and shared with parents, teaching and support staff. For students whereby a need has not previously been identified, we have a clear process by which we are able to identify pupils who require additional support and assess if any intervention is necessary.

What expertise can we offer?

Philippa Cross (BSc Hons, PGCE, PAPAA) is a qualified teacher and SENCO with several years experience of working with students with SEND.

All teaching staff are trained to use adaptive teaching, to be inclusive, deliver quality first teaching and learning, preparing all pupils for their next steps.

We have some staff who have received enhanced training in supporting pupils with literacy needs, social and communication needs and physical needs.

We also have access to a range of specialist support services including;

- Special Educational Needs Support Service (SENS) who support children and young people with communication and language, sensory and physical needs.
- Educational Psychology
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Oxfordshire School Inclusion Team (OxSIT)
- Oxford NHS Therapy service (Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, Speech and Language therapy)
- School Health Nurse
- Children's Social Care

Information about some of these services and what they can offer can be found through the 'Local Offer' on the Oxfordshire County Council web page (link below).

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/education-and-learning/special-educational-needs-and-disability-local-offer>

We always discuss the involvement of specialist services with parents first.

How do we know if SEND provision is effective?

The progress of all students is tracked using school's tracking and reporting system.

In addition, for children and young people with SEND, we regularly review the progress towards agreed outcomes, assessing whether the support in place has been effective.

When we run intervention programmes for groups of students we assess the impact and use that information to decide on how best to run them in the future and whether students require further intervention or not. Interventions are costed and tracked using a provision management system.

How are students with SEND helped to access activities outside of the classroom?

All children and young people are included in activities and trips following risk assessments where needed and in accordance with duties under the Equality Act 2010. We talk to parents and young people when planning trips so that everyone is clear about what will happen.

Oxfordshire's accessibility strategy can be read at:

[OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL](#)

We keep up to date with the latest activities, groups and events for disabled children and those with SEND – further information can be found in the Learning Support Department at school.

What do we do to support the wellbeing of the children and young people with SEND?

All students have the opportunity to share their views through the House Parliament, where each tutor group is represented. We listen to the views of children and young people with SEND through student questionnaires, annual reviews and regular review meetings with staff in the Learning Support department.

We take bullying very seriously. We help to prevent bullying of children and young people with SEND by following the school's behaviour policy.

Joining the school and moving on



Rising Year 6 students

We encourage all children and young people to visit the school and attend open evenings/days before starting their secondary school placement.

Children and young people with SEND are provided with an enhanced programme to enable them to feel confident by the time they join us, if required. This includes additional transition visits, and multiagency transition planning meetings that take place in the summer term.

The SENCO attends the Year 6 transition annual reviews for all pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), as well as visiting pupils with identified SEND at their primary setting prior to them starting at Larkmead in Year 7.

Year 9 upwards

We begin to prepare young people for transition onto the next stage of their education or training by offering them a formal careers interview with *Adviza* who provide our independent, impartial careers advice. Informal support is also offered by our Careers Lead, who is aware students with SEND may require more enhanced and bespoke support. Students also have access to various careers software programmes as well as our comprehensive careers library and resources available in the Careers Resource Centre. All students are invited to the school's annual Careers Fair where they have the opportunity to talk to professionals from different industries.

Students in Year 10 participate in a week's work experience, where they spend a week with an employer gaining an insight to what it is like to work in that industry. We also offer mock interviews, CV writing sessions and supported visits to colleges.

Who to contact

If you are concerned about your child, please contact the Acting SENCO – Annette Morgan.

If you'd like feedback, including compliments and complaints, about SEND provision, please contact the Acting SENCO – Annette Morgan. We will respond to any complaints promptly.

If you'd like impartial advice from Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Services (SENDIASS), formerly known as Parent Partnership, details can be found on the website:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/education-and-learning/special-educational-needs-and-disability-local-offer/information-advice-and-support-parents-and-children-about-sen/sendiaass-oxfordshire>

Oxfordshire's 'Local Offer' contains lots of useful information for parents, please see the website:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/education-and-learning/special-educational-needs-and-disability-local-offer>

Philippa Cross
July 2023