

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Report

These pages set out information about Larkmead School's provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). They are updated annually.

About our school

Larkmead School provides for children and young people with a wide range of special educational needs including those with:

Communication and interaction needs

This includes children and young people who have speech language and communication difficulties including autistic spectrum conditions.

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 as well as other children and young people who may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.

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.

We are a mainstream school with a Learning Support Centre catering for up to 178 children with a range of needs which fall into the four main categories of need as above (Communication and interaction, Cognition and learning, Sensory and or physical and Social, emotional and mental health.

Our special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) is: Philippa Cross and can be contacted on: 01235 520141.

- Our governor with responsibility for SEN is: Daniel Onion
- Our SEN policy & Equality Scheme and Accessibility Plan can be found on the SEND page of our 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 a special educational need.
- 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 read it:

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

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/default/files/folders/documents/childreducationandfamiliess/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 outcomes and how we will all work towards these, and then to review progress. We do this: *by termly meetings, in line with parent evening meetings, scheduled phone calls, via email E.t.c.*

There are also opportunities for parents and children to contribute to our policies on SEN and Equality. We do this by *parent focus groups, Student Voice, young people's consultation activities, pupil and parental questionnaires E.t.c.*

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. The way we adapt this for children with SEN and disabled children is set out in the School Accessibility Plan, which can be found on the Policies & Procedures page of the school website.

We have a clear process by which we identify pupils who require additional support, which is based on a needs led model. This enables us to identify, map and roll out intervention programmes for pupils in Key stage 3 and 4 which are evidence based and time specific which are monitored and reviewed.

We offer a certified course Foundation Learning for years 8 -11 and a vocational course for years 10 and 11 which build on pupils' literacy and numeracy skills in a functional way.

Where appropriate an extended work experience placement or alternative vocational training may be considered in Years 10 and 11.

What expertise can we offer?

- Our SENCo is a qualified teacher.
- All staff have basic awareness level training in recognising and supporting pupils with communication and interaction difficulties and specific learning difficulties including Dyslexia.
- We have staff who have received enhanced training in supporting pupils literacy needs, social interaction skills and physical needs.
- Teaching assistants are trained to support the particular needs of the children they work with.
- Our SEND Governor has completed the Code of Practice training for Governors.

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

- Special Educational Needs Support Service, who support children with communication and language, sensory and physical needs (SENSS)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- Oxfordshire School Inclusion Team
- Therapy services
- Early Intervention

- Children's Social Care

Information about these services and what they offer can be found on the Oxfordshire County Council SEN web pages:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/special-educational-needs-sen>

We always discuss the involvement of specialist SEN services with parents first. We also work with other services and organisations that are involved with a family (with the family's permission).

How do we know if SEND provision is effective?

The progress of all children/young people is tracked throughout the school through Larkmead's tracking and reporting system.

In addition, for children/young people with SEND we regularly review progress towards agreed outcomes assessing whether the support that's been in place has made a difference and what we need to do next. We evaluate this progress against age related expectations. This occurs through regular Raising Achievement Literacy and Numeracy panel meetings

When we run special intervention programmes for groups of children we assess how successful they have been and use that information to decide on how best to run them in the future. Information about how the Governing Body evaluates the success of the education that is provided for pupils with SEND is contained in the governors' annual SEND report located on the SEND page of the school website.

How are children and young people 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 Equalities Act 2010. We talk to parents and young people when planning trips so that everyone is clear about what will happen.

There is information about activities and events for disabled children and those with SEND in Oxfordshire in the Family Information Directory:

<http://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/fsd/disabilities.page>

Oxfordshire's accessibility strategy can be read at:

http://schools.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/sites/schools/files/folders/folders/documents/SEN/guidance/Schools_Accessibility_Strategy.pdf

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

All children have the opportunity to share their views through Larkmeads school council representatives (Student Voice), Student questionnaires and support and guidance from staff within the Learning Support Centre, Pastoral Support Department and Counselling service

We listen to the views of children/young people with SEND through student questionnaires, during mentoring, during review of SEND student profiles and annual reviews
We take bullying very seriously. We help to prevent bullying of children/young people with SEN by following the school's behaviour policy.

Joining the school and moving on

We encourage all new children to visit the school and attend open evenings/days before starting their secondary school placement. For children/young people with Special Educational Needs and Difficulties we offer an individual tailored transition package.

The SENCo attends the Year 6 transition Annual Reviews for all pupils with an Education and Health Care plan as well as visiting pupils with identified SEND at their primary setting prior to them starting secondary school.

Additional transition visits and multiagency transition planning meetings take place during terms 5 and 6 for some pupils with SEND.

We begin to prepare young people for transition into the next stage of their education or training by offering them a formal careers interview with Adviza who provide our independent impartial careers interviews. Informal support is also offered by our Careers Coordinator. Students 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 our Careers Fair where they will have the opportunity to talk to professionals from different industries.

All students in year 10 participate in a week's work experience, where they spend a week with an employer gaining an insight of what it is like to work in that industry. We also offer mock interviews, CV writing sessions, and various industry talks. For foundation students we are looking at arranging visits to the local FE College to support them in preparing for the next steps.

Who to contact

If you are concerned about your child please contact the school SENCO – Philippa Cross.
If you'd like to feedback, including compliments and complaints about SEND provision. We aim to respond to any complaints within 2 days.

If you'd like impartial advice from Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/contact-sendiass>

If you'd like to know more about opportunities for children and young people with SEND and their families, support groups or information about SEND these are listed in the Family Information Service (Oxon FIS).

[http:// www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-family-information-services-oxonfis](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/content/oxfordshire-family-information-services-oxonfis)

Oxfordshire's Local Offer contains lots of information for parents.

Click here to see it: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/public-site/special-educational-needs-and-disability-local-offer>

Our school has contributed to the county's Local Offer through attendance at a training workshop and through trialling of new guidance and systems.