

Oak Field School and Sports College

Local Offer for Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)

**The City of Nottingham SEND Local Offer can be viewed at
www.nottinghamcity.gov.uk/localoffer**

**Reviewed September 2016
To be reviewed September 2018**

Introduction

“Teaching is outstanding because staff have high aspirations for all the students, plan and prepare highly imaginative learning and provide extremely worthwhile and relevant experiences for them all.” OFSTED 2104

Oak Field School and Sports College is a Community Special School maintained by the City of Nottingham. It provides for pupils aged 3-19 with severe or profound learning and/or physical disabilities. Many have additional sensory and communication difficulties. All pupils have a Statement of Educational Needs or an Education Health and Care Plan, or are moving through this new statutory process. Admission to Oak Field School is arranged by the Local Authority.

The school, opened in 2009, is purpose-built to cater for the needs of the wide range of pupils. Providing a specialised learning environment, it has a range of facilities to support individual need. There are well-proportioned and airy classrooms together with large event spaces in each phase. The 6th Form event space constitutes the 6th Form common room. The classrooms are well equipped with the latest technology and there is an immersive room. There are specialist rooms for Music, Art and Food Technology. There is also a training flat for independence training. There is a well stocked library and also access to the Library Van. There is a large sports hall, a multi gym and soft play room. There is a large hydrotherapy pool. A mechanical horse allows pupils

to experience the motions of a horse from walk to gallop. There is a café in the school, which is managed by pupils, currently for three mornings a week.

The school grounds are well appointed with separate play areas for each age group. These are well equipped with appropriately adapted equipment. There is a sensory garden sited at one end of the grounds. There a large sports field as well as multi use games areas. There are allotments for the pupils to tend and in 2014 and in 2015 the School was awarded the Nottingham in Bloom Gold Award for School Grounds and was overall winner in both years. In 2016 it was award a Gold Award

Mission Statement

Oak Field School and Sports College is committed to the advancement of inclusive education for all its pupils, through the development of active and creative minds. It supports a broad, balanced, engaging and rich curriculum in core and foundation subjects, such as liberal arts, humanities, physical education and the development of functional and life skills, including Work Related Learning.

Oak Field promotes respect for diversity, promoting our pupils as global citizens. We encourage a sense of compassion and understanding of others, and a deep respect for human worth and dignity. We recognise and respect every member of the school community's ethnicity, cultural and religious values and sexual orientation. We stress the importance of the personal development of each child and young person, with reference to their learning, social, emotional, physical, spiritual and moral education.

The School sees itself as at the heart of education within the City, working closely with other agencies in the City and County to ensure the very best outcomes for the pupils and their families. Its commitment to research and training ensures a healthy relationship with its local Universities and the Redhill Teaching School Alliance.

The School is committed to the tenets of the Every Child Matters Agenda

Our Aim

Our aim is to ensure that all pupils access the very best in educational opportunities, taking their rightful place within their community. We wish to see the school at the very heart of learning within the local and City community. As a Sports College we work closely with a range of partners to ensure that health, fitness and leisure play a vital role not only in the school but also in the community we serve.

We want our pupils to be ambitious, to have a sense that they can achieve and to challenge others' pre-conceptions. Above all we want them to feel safe, confident and ready to take their place in the world. The school is keen that the pupils have a voice in their community, which is respected and listened to.

The School strives to be at the very heart of life within the City, providing a rich diet of opportunities. There are very active links with both local Universities from which our pupils benefit from the very latest in research. We wish to harness the very latest in technologies, which will enhance the skills and learning of the young people. With your support we can make a difference to young lives.

Staffing and partnership working

There is a team of 26 teachers with 40 teaching assistants and 10 care assistants. There are some 24 midday supervisors and additional staff to support in the pool.

All staff, both teachers and support staff, are engaged in comprehensive and ongoing training in meeting the needs of children with severe, profound and complex learning and physical difficulties. A programme of training is supported by mentoring. Teachers observe and review lessons. Support

from senior staff enable staff to enhance their skills. The school works closely with the Education Departments of both local Universities and also with the Redhill Teaching School Alliance. Support from the COBBB group, a consortium of similar schools, gives further support to teaching and learning.

In addition to more specific curriculum training, all staff undertake mandatory annual Safeguarding and Manual Handling and Fire/Risk assessment training. Many staff have also been trained in Makaton, BSL, First Aid, Epilepsy Awareness, Eating and Drinking, National Autism Training, Behaviour Management, Food Hygiene, and Off site and adventurous activities.

Teachers for hearing and visual impairment visit the school weekly.

The school is supported by two educational psychologists.

There is full time Family Support Worker, a Moving and Handling Team, and a Work-Related Learning Trainer. There is also a team which supports outreach work.

The NHS Nottingham City Clinical Commissioning Group commission health services for the pupils and whilst the school does not determine the amount of support, it works closely with health colleagues to ensure that pupils' learning is enhanced. There are nurses and physiotherapists on site; other staff such as speech and language therapists and occupational therapists are part time. Several clinics are held at the school, such as Orthotic Clinics, Continence Clinics, Wheelchair Clinics and Hearing Clinics. There are weekly medical clinics held by community paediatricians. The Dental Service visits school for oral check ups.

Working with Parents

There is a Full Time Family Support Worker, Lindsey Sharpe who is responsible for parental involvement. She is available

to give extra support to parents when it is needed. She organises training for parents, and encourages social events. Other staff are always willing to help.

a) Parent Workshops – these are held regularly to keep parents up to date with their child's individual programme and to discuss any problems. Parents are encouraged to meet together to offer support.

b) Home/School diaries and newsletters are used to keep parents informed and are particularly useful for those parents whose child is pre-verbal. Parents are encouraged to follow the school homework policy.

c) Parents are welcome to visit the school at any time to discuss the progress of their child or any difficulties they may be encountering. We also welcome parents to help with swimming, PE, toy library, equipment making etc.

d) Family Fun Days are held each term on a Saturday to which all families and their children are invited. There is a range of activities for the young people and the family and lunch is provided at small cost.

e) Summer School – Fundays in Nottinghamshire run three weeks of summer school at Oak Field. There are activities for all ages. Many of the staff who run this are staff from the school. There is a cost to the day. The Summer School is very much about providing activities for the young people in the holidays.

f) 'The Friends of Oak Field' is a social and fund raising body consisting of parents, staff and friends of the school. They work tirelessly to support the work of the school. Parents are urged to support them. They can be contacted at the school.

g) Healthy Futures – this is a programme run by Nottingham Forest Community Team, encouraging parents to work alongside their child looking at healthy eating and exercise.

Links with Local Schools

We encourage links with local schools. A few pupils are on dual placements and we work closely with those schools. We also have strong links with Bluecoat Beechdale School, Trinity School, the Boys High School and Nottingham High School for Girls. Students come from a range of schools, colleges and universities to volunteer.

Early Years Foundation Stage and KS1

In the Early Years, the emphasis is initially on the development of the senses and self-awareness before pupils are introduced to the more formal aspects of Pre-Reading, Writing and Maths skills.

As well as education from teachers and teaching assistants there is regular input from Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Speech and Language Therapists.

All pupils are invited on educational residential visits, where appropriate, to help develop independence and self-care skills.

Parents are encouraged to visit the classes to discuss their child's progress with staff, or just to come and join in. A home/school diary keeps parents in touch with the activities of the week.

Curriculum to support pupils with Profound and Complex Needs

Classes for pupils with profound and complex needs provide a highly specialised education designed to take into account learning, visual, hearing and physical needs and related medical conditions. Classes have a high staff-pupil ratio and teachers, teaching assistants and pupil/student assistants have expertise in a large number of specialised methods and approaches to teaching.

After skilled observation each child is assessed precisely to enable individual programmes to be devised to ensure an appropriate and relevant education. The timetable can be adjusted to take into account individual needs due to medical conditions and there is a facility for tired or sick pupils to rest.

Since many of the pupils have difficulties with communication due to hearing, speech and visual disabilities, there are a wide range of 'object and sensory' referenced communication approaches used and the most appropriate is chosen for each pupil. There is also an emphasis on the sensory curriculum in that the senses of taste, sight, smell, touch and learning are developed not only to help pupils understand the environment but also often to compensate for sensory impairment. For pupils with a visual impairment there is a large resource of equipment including light systems, fibre optics, starboards and light and solar visualisation areas.

Similarly, for pupils with a hearing impairment, a resource including sound monitors, sound operated walls and a range of sound effects is available. Education staff in these classes work alongside health staff and ongoing team work takes place with nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and speech therapists.

Physiotherapy is integrated into the curriculum for all the pupils and for specialist approaches such as motor learning, physiotherapists not only advise but also lead therapy sessions and/or join in teaching sessions. The expertise of staff, therapy input and specialised equipment means the classes for these pupils can provide a relevant education for students with learning difficulties and any other sensory or physical disabilities.

The Curriculum

The wide range of ability of the pupils and students means that the curriculum is delivered in an appropriate manner in accordance with individual needs.

Using a spiral curriculum reinforces learning and knowledge. Staff ensure that the education is respectful both of age

appropriateness and levels of ability of individual pupils. As a state maintained school we are bound by the National Curriculum, which forms part of the broader and enriching Curriculum provided for pupils. We honour pupils' entitlement to a full curriculum.

There is a rigorous process of tracking progress of students, using a range of assessment tools. These ensure that each pupil achieves their targets and appropriate interventions are in place to ensure access to learning.

Appropriate accreditation is in place such as OCR, ASDAN, and GCSE.

Areas of the Curriculum

Communication and Language

Pre-Reading and Reading Skills

Pre-Writing and Writing Skills

Pre-Number and Number Skills

Science

Technology – Information Technology

Design Technology

Social Skills

Physical Education

Swimming

Humanities – History and Geography

French

Art

Music

Dance

Drama

Religious Studies

Work Related Learning

Community Living

Food Technology

Sexuality and Relationship Education

Skills Education

Outdoor Education and Pursuits

Environmental Studies

The Sensory Curriculum

Personal Health and Social and Economic Education

The Arts

The Arts within Oak Field School holds a central position in the curriculum. It allows students to work creatively and independently, often setting their own standards and criteria. The Arts is understood to include fine arts – painting, drawing, printing, sculpture, textiles etc. – music, dance, drama and the creative use of language.

These subjects are a valuable means of expression for many students, sometimes allowing them the highest form of expression that they achieve. This is not only worthwhile in its own right but can provide a basis for development in other subjects. Teaching is outstanding because staff have high aspirations for all the students, plan and prepare highly imaginative learning and provide extremely worthwhile and relevant experiences for them all. There is a very popular school choir. Students get to participate in School Christmas Show, Bastille Day celebrations, and Dance and Musical Festivals.

There are plenty of visits to the theatre and art galleries as well visiting companies to school such as Northern Ballet, Propeller and Nottingham Playhouse.

Some students in Sixth Form undertake an OCR in Performance. Other accredited awards are undertaken in the Arts, such as Arts Award.

The school holds the Arts Mark Gold Award.

Sex Education

‘One of the school’s strengths is in sex education for students with physical or learning difficulties’ OFSTED 2014

As part of the School’s health and relationship education, there is a comprehensive sex education programme. This is organised to be age appropriate and sensitive to the needs of individual pupils, after consultation with parents. The Governors oversee the work in this area by parents, teaching staff, and community representatives.

Parents are welcome to discuss any aspects of the programme and there are regular information and discussion

meetings for parents.

The curriculum promotes healthy living and endeavours to give skills to improve self-protection.

For further information please see the Sex and Relationship Policy. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from Sex Education although at KS3 & 4 there are elements that are statutory. As a school we would recommend that all children and young people undertake this education as part of life skills and personal safety

Out of School Activities, Clubs and Residential visits

The School provides a wide range of after school clubs, which are currently free. Oak Field School also provides a range of residential experiences for Outdoor Pursuits and Environmental Education for pupils throughout the school year. Trips to local and national places of interest and theatre visits are offered as evening activities on a regular basis.

PE/Sport Education

Physical Education plays an important role in the School's curriculum. The School's policy is to ensure that all students receive a broad and balanced physical education programme, which is relevant to the individual student's physical, mental, sensory and emotional needs. The whole school follows the guidelines set out in the National Curriculum to encompass the following basic activities:-

Gymnastics

Athletics

Dance

Outdoor and Adventurous Pursuits

Games Swimming

Close liaison with the Leisure Services, Sports for the Disabled and Nottingham Outdoor Education ensures that students are able to participate in a wide variety of sporting activities. These are held either as one-day events or six-week courses and have included such activities as:

Fencing
Short Tennis
Karate
Athletics
Boccia
Sailing
Basketball
Canoeing
Mini Lacrosse
Orienteering

Donkey riding is also a popular activity in the Primary phase. There is a hydrotherapy pool for those with physical needs or younger pupils. Other pupils access Beechdale Baths for weekly swimming sessions. There are also Sports Days and Swimming Galas.

Work Related Learning

Students throughout the school experience and explore work-related learning, from early DT projects and visits to places of work, to participating in and developing mini enterprises such as our 'Welcome Cup' cafe which the students run each Wednesday, to the 6th Form Office Skills Group which supports some of the school office administration (including processing the school's publications orders),

FE Taster courses in a range of vocational skills give many of the 14-19 year-old students the opportunity to explore areas such as Catering, Painting and Decorating, Animal Care Sign-Making, Hair and Beauty and Floristry, and in-house enterprises such as running the 'Welcome Cup' cafe, soap-making and producing jams and pickles give the students the opportunity to explore how to run a business and negotiate how to spend their profits! Some students carry out work experience placements in other areas of the school and recent external placements have included office skills support at the University, Local Authority, hairdressing and helping in various offices and shops.

The school's Futures Personal Advisor works closely with all students aged 14-19, supporting them in their progression

through school and beyond.

post-sixteen and adult learners. The co-operative based in the City Centre offers invaluable work experience and work related learning whilst providing students the opportunity to gain accreditation in gardening and participating in a business model.

Preparing for Transition

The whole of a young person's learning should be working toward the young person entering the adult world with greater confidence and skills. In particular, the curriculum of the Sixth Form at Oak Field is all about preparing the young person for transition. This can be a very anxious time for families and the young person. There are people at hand to help. Clearly there are school staff who are working daily with the young people but there is also the Transition Team with advisers from Futures and Adult Social Care. The Transition Nurse, Louise Payne is there to help with health issues for the school leaver.

Students get the chance to try out college courses, to engage in work experience and develop independence skills such as travel training and household management skills. Support is given to those who can manage to deal with money and time. Great emphasis is given to personal safety and sex and relationship education.

Many 6th Form students especially enjoy the increased opportunity to negotiate their own personalised learning within targeted areas of the curriculum and the sense of student and staff teamwork which supports them to pursue their individual enthusiasms and interests.

They are particularly enthusiastic about the Men's and Women's Health/SRE Groups, ICT and digital media projects and sports leadership courses. Residential visits, and visits in the community during the day and evening help to enhance the young person's confidence.

Community Based Learning

Community Based Learning is an essential element of the 14-19 phase.

A range of opportunities to increase student awareness of the facilities and services within the local community are provided throughout the week, either as part of a modular accredited course or as a discreet activity.

Each student undertakes activities within the community most appropriate to him or her. This might include carrying out tasks within the local community or City of Nottingham, using public transport facilities, visiting public access buildings such as leisure centres, the library, museums, local health centres, other schools and accessing local shopping facilities within the community.

A large number of students are able to take advantage of our broad Work Experience Scheme placements in both the school and the community. Students are encouraged to support local, national and international charities.

This wide and diverse curriculum aims specially at meeting the needs of the students and recognising that the students are now young adults.

If a parent feels the Local Offer is not being delivered or is not meeting their child's need they should talk to the Head Teacher about their concerns. An early Annual Review can also be arranged.