

SEND Information report - Ash Lea School

Ash Lea is an area special school for the Rushcliffe borough that caters for pupils aged 3-19 with severe learning difficulties, complex physical and medical needs and autism with associated learning difficulties

The school is divided into 3 phases; primary, secondary and Post 16. In each phase the pupils work in appropriate peer groups where staff tailor the teaching to individual need.

All pupils at Ash Lea have significant special needs and the school's quality assurance programme monitors provision to ensure that it meets needs. Teaching and learning is monitored at least termly by the senior leadership team and school governing body.

Parents are vital in the education of their child and the school regularly involves them in this process. There are 3 formal meetings e.g. annual review, parents' evenings each year where progress and target setting are discussed. There are also more informal opportunities like open afternoons, daily diaries (where appropriate) termly class newsletters and termly whole school newsletters. Parents have access to class teachers e-mail and phone calls also support the partnership. Parent workshops offering information or training are also available across the school year.

All the classes at Ash Lea are small and have a high staff to pupil ratio. The pupils have the opportunity to work as a whole class, small group and individually. When required some pupils have personalised programmes.

Decisions around provision are made initially at the time of entry into school through consultation with parents and other professionals. Regular review meetings are held to review progress and provision with both the local authority and parents.

All pupils have access to after school clubs, extended school visits and an opportunity to attend a residential visit at the end of each key stage. The school has mini-buses and school cars to enable these visits to happen. Staff are fully trained to support pupils' medical needs and a thorough risk assessment process is undertaken for off-site visits.

Ash Lea School recognises and respects the individual needs of all the pupils. School covers a wide range of ages and abilities and consulting with pupils is based on these factors. Pupil voice is encouraged through offering all the pupils access to a WIKI and pupil centred reviews.

Pupils formally input into their annual review and their views are sought (where appropriate). The school supports pupil centred reviews and undertakes a review of pupils views at least once a year. The school also runs a health and well-being group which supports the well-being of staff and pupils.

All pupils have access to a programme of personal, social and health education which is adapted to ensure it meets the needs of all.

All staff receive training on an annual basis to support pupils' health and safety needs as well as more specialist training around specific conditions. We have trainers for Makaton, Picture Exchange Communication System, safe moving and handling and MAPA. Staff are kept up to date with new developments and continuing professional development (CPD) is a strength of the school with a dedicated working group to monitor its effectiveness.

Effective multi-professional working is the key to successfully supporting the pupils' needs at Ash Lea School. We have weekly access to physiotherapy, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy and an occupational therapist who has a specialism in sensory processing needs. Other professional support in school includes: paediatricians, CAMHS, educational psychology service and transition workers.

Ash Lea School has temporarily moved in to a building in West Bridgford until December 2017. The Ash Lea building in Cotgrave is a single storey building which allows access for all pupils. Access to the building and grounds is through a secure gate and a double door in the main foyer. There are also internal fences which allow the pupils to move freely and safely through the grounds and to the mobile buildings. The school has a range of specialist equipment including sensory areas, a ball pool and soft play area and adapted outdoor play areas. All equipment is modified to meet the needs of pupils.

The school has a formal complaints procedure but in the first instance getting in touch with the school and discussing the issue with the class teacher or the senior leadership team is encouraged. Parents can also get in touch with the Local Authority.

The main responsibility for involving other organisations has been delegated to the head teacher. The governing body regularly monitors all aspects of school life through its two working committees and regular full governing body meetings.

Signposting parents to information is usually undertaken on an individual basis e.g. at review meeting. The school holds some information on targeted support, short break services etc. However if the school is unable to signpost then they will support by setting up multi agency meeting. The school also holds parent workshops and parent drop in sessions to share relevant information. The Nottinghamshire County Council Local Offer / Nottinghamshire Help Yourself web site is also extremely useful <http://www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk/>

Individual transition programmes are prepared which involves visits, spending time in class, transition book with photographs, visual timetable, and phased entry, if needed.

Pupils are supported for transfer between different classes and phases within school through a transition morning where all pupils and staff move to their new classes and further transition time would be arranged if needed by individual pupils. Teachers liaise with the previous teacher to ensure a smooth handover and some staff move classes to ensure appropriate support in a new environment.

Pupils in the Post 16 phase have a tailored independence life skills programme including independent travel programme, functional maths and English, cookery, shopping, cleaning, access to community facilities and work experience. In their final year they will also be offered support into

Other sources of information

Further information can be found on the school web site www.ashlea.notts.sch.uk or through contacting the school office 0115 9892744

Nottinghamshire County Council website – SEND offer

www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk