

## Riverside Community Special School Local Offer

### **Introduction**

Riverside Community Special School is a Local Authority maintained special school for 105 primary aged pupils. All the children have Statements of Special Educational Needs identifying Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) as their primary Special Educational Need. Under the new SEN Code of Practice pupil's areas of need related to 'cognition and learning', 'sensory or physical needs' and 'communication and interaction' will be supported within the school.

### **How are children's need identified?**

Pupils are referred to the school following a multi professional assessment through Hampshire Local Authority via a Statement of Special Education Need or an Education, Health and Care Plan which identify the special needs of the pupil. Additional needs, are identified through regular assessment and, if requiring additional input from outside the school, raised at an Annual Review meeting.

### **How will the school support my child?**

All Riverside staff will support all pupils. The class teacher and teaching assistants will have day to day responsibility, coordinated by the Leadership and Management Teams, for ensuring that academic, social and emotional support is given to your child. This will happen through giving pupils clear expectations and boundaries, time to think, differentiated work in lessons with staff who promote independence, proactive plans to support skills development, time to communicate and discuss issues that are worrying them, structures and systems to ensure clarity in the class and around the school.

Pupils will be regularly discussed at Team meetings and those identified as not achieving either academically or behaviourally will have additional interventions put in place to support them. Parents and stakeholders will have the opportunity to meet with the staff twice a year in a formal setting and have an annual report at the end of the academic year. In addition to this, a report and meeting will be convened for the annual review of your child's statement/EHCP. If the school has any concerns in between these times you will be contacted either by the class teacher or the Head.

Progress data for all pupils is held centrally by the Management Team who support teachers in the analysis and review of pupil progress.

Pupils also have a daily Home/School link diary, which records success and areas of learning, helping both pupils and parents understand how successful a pupil's

day has been. Weekly celebration assembly enables pupils to celebrate and share their work. Monthly "Be Proud" assemblies enable pupils to celebrate success in making good behavioural choices.

### **How will the curriculum be adapted to support my child's needs?**

We will ensure that all staff have the highest possible expectations for all pupils in the school. We will ensure that all teaching is based on building upon what your child already knows, can do and can understand. Class teams will use different ways of teaching so that every pupil is fully involved in learning in class. This may involve using a more practical learning approach, or putting in place specific strategies to support each child to learn. Class Teachers plan lessons according to the specific needs of all groups of pupils in their class, and will ensure that each child's needs are met. Trained support staff in each class provide additional provision for every child at the necessary level. Specific resources and strategies will be used to support pupils individually and in groups.

We follow the National Curriculum, adapted to make it accessible and enjoyable through topics each half term. Pupils are taught in their class groups for all subjects. Parent/carers will be given an outline of the curriculum and offered ways to support their child's learning through half termly Class newsletters. All newsletters include ideas to aid supporting the literacy development of our pupils. Reading record books also carry relevant information about reading and spelling work undertaken in class, and then for parents to record any reading done in the home.

In addition to high quality teaching, delivered to all pupils by teachers with considerable experience of special education, pupil learning and progress is further supported by individualised interventions targeted at pupils with clearly identified additional and specific needs. Targeted interventions might involve support for language and communication, or a programme of physical and sensory input to enable pupils to more successfully access their learning.

Pupils additional needs are identified by class teams raising questions with the class team and management team.

The pupil premium is a sum of money allocated to improving the achievement of those pupils who have free school meals or are disadvantaged. This year all of this is allocated to provide additional support sessions outside of the classroom through extra small group and individual interventions provided by the Higher Level Teaching Assistant Team.

### How will you help me to support my child's learning?

Each class sends home a class newsletter every half term outlining main areas of learning, ideas for working at home including places to visit, relevant websites and apps and any curriculum changes. The home/school book and Reading record book also include ideas and tips for learning. Your child's teacher is available after school for further discussion as necessary.

The school runs regular parents workshops on learning, social and health issues.

Early Bird training is available for parents of children with ASCs.

### What support is there for behaviour, attendance and exclusion

As a special school, academic, emotional and social development is at the heart of our practice and reflected within the vision and values of the school. The school behaviour policy encourages reflective practice and all staff are trained and have regular refresher sessions on positive behaviour management techniques. Each half term starts with a day focused on making Green Choices through our "Be Proud" system which encourages pupils to make choices about their behaviour. Classroom circle times are used to encourage pupils to discuss difficulties.

The Home School Link Worker (Gill Stoll) will work with parents to improve attendance and to ensure positive planning for pupils who are excluded.

### What training do the staff have?

All staff are experienced in working with pupils with a range of complex needs and we continually train and develop our workforce to ensure that we offer the best for all our pupils and their families. All staff have ongoing training in a range of special educational needs. Most staff are trained in the use of Team Teach (Positive Handling), and all have regular behaviour management and safeguarding training. Current whole school training is focusing on reading and phonics skills, meeting the needs of pupils with more severe learning difficulties and ensuring we make secure judgements on the levels at which pupils are working. Staff are also trained in supporting pupils with social and communication difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Conditions (ASCs) with many staff having attended the Hampshire PAATHs course and THOMAS training.

### What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

We have a fully qualified SENCo.

Our school works closely with external agencies that we feel are relevant to individual children's needs including: Health Professionals, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Social Services, Educational Psychology Service, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), School nurse, Portage Service, Physiotherapy Service. This list is by no means exhaustive, and how children's needs are met, is considered on an individual basis in consultation with parents.

### How accessible is the school Environment?

The school is laid across a single floor, allowing accessibility throughout the whole building. We have accessible toileting facilities including a hoist and changing bed. Staff work hard to ensure that all activities are as accessible as possible to all pupils.

### How does the school manage the administration of medicines?

The school has a policy regarding the administration and managing of medicines on the school site. Parents need to contact the Deputy Head (Anne Hallitt) if medication is recommended by a Health Professional to be taken during the school day. We have qualified first aiders onsite to ensure the oversight of medication and other medical interventions, including the management of pupils with epilepsy. The Deputy Head liaises with the school nurse to ensure that protocols and procedures, as directed by Health Professionals, are followed.

### How will I know how my child is doing?

You will be invited to an Annual Review each academic year, when plans for meeting your child's needs will be discussed and decisions made. A copy of the decisions and plans agreed at the annual review will be sent to you. There are also 2 Open Evenings each year, when you can book an appointment to discuss your child's progress. You will receive an Annual Report in the summer term.

Teachers are available for discussion as needed, and regularly communicate with parents through the Home School Book, class newsletter and the sending home of IEP and reading targets. The class teacher is responsible for monitoring and checking the progress of your child and identifying, planning and delivering any additional help your child may need.

### How do the pupils contribute their views about the school?

Y6 pupils run the School Council and are also linked to the local area School Council. Each pupil makes a contribution to their Annual Review through photographs and comments. Circle times and assemblies ensure that pupils are given opportunity to talk about their school experience.

### How are the Governors involved and what are their responsibilities?

Governors meet as a whole group each term. Each Governor is a member of a committee which supports the monitoring and development of the school. Each Governor is linked to a class in the school and receives the class newsletter and is encouraged to visit the class as often as possible. The Head teacher reports to the Governors each term. The Governors agree priorities for spending and development each year with the Head teacher.

### What happens if I have a concern about my child?

If you have concerns about your child's progress or welfare you should contact your child's class team either by phone, the Home School book or email to the school office on [office.riverside@riverside-school.org](mailto:office.riverside@riverside-school.org).

If you are not happy that the concerns are being managed and think that your child is still not making progress you should contact the Head teacher (Catherine Marsh).

### How will the school prepare and support my child when joining the school and transferring to a new school?

Arrangements to support pupil transition into the school are supported by the Home School Link Worker or the Outreach Team. Each transition is personalised and reflects the needs of the pupil.

Pupils moving on to secondary school are supported through a transition programme centred on individual need and based on established working relationships with partner schools. Pupils moving to schools at other times are supported through individual plans in partnership with the destination placement.

### Further information

Please contact the school office for further information. Maureen Phillips or Karen Usher will ensure that information or questions are passed on to the most appropriate person.

Further information on the Hampshire County Council Local Offer can be found at: [www.hampshirelocaloffer.info](http://www.hampshirelocaloffer.info)

*Disclaimer: provision set out in this SEN Report have been the subject of consultation with stakeholders. The list of services are not final and we will consider provision on an individual basis.*

*Report completed July 2014*