



Cedars Academy

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND)

INFORMATION FOR PARENTS

Responsibility for document: SLG T&L

Date document reviewed: October 2019

Next review: September 2020

Cedars Trust aims to be a vital resource for Special Educational Needs provision in Gateshead, a centre of excellence and, primarily, a provider of learning, training and employment pathways for people with disabilities or learning difficulties

Our Mission

Ours is a community of learning, where secure partnerships create opportunities for students, staff, governors, parents and carers alike to participate and grow to become intellectually, emotionally and socially *fit for life*.

We Believe

Community engagement changes schools for the better; schools can help to change communities for the better; schools and communities working together can radically transform the futures of young people

Our Purpose

We provide a wide range of high quality, specialist and personalised education, training, care and support to young people and their families

Key Questions our Parents ask us about SEND

What are the kinds of special educational needs for which provision is made at Cedars Academy?

Cedars Academy is a specialist day school, with a separate Post 16 college, for young people aged 3 to 19 years with physical, sensory and medical needs, speech, language and communication disorders, autism, and a wide range of other complex needs often associated with emotional vulnerability.

The majority of pupils have a moderate learning difficulty combined with specific communication difficulties, and many of our pupils have associated difficulties such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Dyslexia, or other specific Learning Difficulties.

What does the current school population look like?

(Updated October 2019)

Out of the 194 pupils on roll, 79 in KS1&2, 93 in KS3&4, and 22 in KS5; approx. 28% of school population are girls.

Currently we have:

- seven classes in KS1&2, average class sizes of 11 children

- eight classes in KS3&4, average class sizes of 11 children
- Four groups in KS4/5, based at Walker Terrace, average group size eight students

School population by banding/barrier to learning: Primary Need (Banding)

- 39% ASD (7%A2; 23%A3; 7%A4)
- 44% Cognition & Learning (2%D1; 5%D2; 26%D3; 13%D4)
- 17% Social, Emotional and Mental Health (8%B2; 9%B3)

What is the entitlement for SEND Pupils?

‘Quality of Education First’ is the core philosophy of our provision; teaching sessions, resources, groups and timetables are differentiated and organised as such to ensure that they are accessible for all.

We work closely with outside agencies and medical staff to support pupils’ individual needs. This can include speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, counsellors, careers/transition specialists, psychiatrists or other mental health professionals, social care teams, educational and clinical psychologists and specialist medics. We also draw on expertise from the local authority SEND team and our partner schools, thus ensuring that barriers to learning are identified and responded to. Referrals into specialist services can be made by teaching staff and we can also signpost families to services and organisations which may offer appropriate support or advice via the local offer.

All our staff have experience and training relevant to their specialist roles across the school. As part of our holistic approach, pupils have SEND or pastoral targets as appropriate, these are planned, assessed and reviewed as part of a termly cycle and progress is monitored and reported. The views of pupils and parents are valued and they are involved in writing and reviewing Education, Health and Care plans (EHCPs).

Pupils are admitted at any time during the school year, referred via a range of routes. We work closely with all involved professionals to ensure pupils are correctly placed and that they receive appropriate provision for their needs.

What is the provision for SEND at Cedars and how is it evaluated?

Our Academy is a place where everyone is treated with dignity, with respect and is of equal worth. We believe that all staff have a responsibility to meet the needs of all the pupils/students. Underlying the vision are strong values which have been compiled by the staff with input from governors and also parents through the governing body and our parents support group, ‘Cedars Parents’.

Our key purpose is the construction, delivery and constant improvement of quality learning experiences appropriate to the needs of all our pupils/students.

To achieve our vision we aim to:

- Create a happy and secure learning environment where all pupils’/students’ needs are met and where achievements and success are recognised and praised.
- Ensure that all the National Curriculum/statutory curriculum guidance is delivered to all pupils/students.
- Provide all staff with training and development opportunities to enable effective practice.

- Promote the pupils/students spiritual, physical and emotional well-being so that they are secure, confident and well-motivated.
- Help pupils/students acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence which enable them to lead as full, constructive and independent lives as possible.
- Develop in pupils/students personal responsibility and encourage decision making and choice, communicating through whatever means appropriate.
- Provide a wide range of age-appropriate learning experiences, which are both exciting and challenging.
- Offer opportunities of working co-operatively alongside others, developing friendships and respect for others.
- Ensure that ICT is an essential vehicle to access and enhance the curriculum and communication for pupils
- Ensure that e-safeguarding is paramount in keeping all members of the school community safe
- Provide pupils/students with experiences of their own and other religious and cultural backgrounds and values.
- Foster relationships with parents and other professionals.

What are the schools staffing levels and what the links with other professionals?

Staffing levels are enhanced so that pupils are usually taught in classes of up to 11/12 children with a teacher and at least one Level 3 teaching assistant and an appropriate number of additional Level 3/2 teaching assistants to meet the needs of the class group.

School staff details are on the website. The school contact details are also on the website where you will be able to access senior leadership, your class teacher or Key Person.

Links with professionals from outside Cedars Academy form an essential part of planning and implementing activities to identify and meet the needs of students. The school receives advice from a range of health professionals in order to meet the needs of the students as assessed by the appropriate professionals. We also work closely with our health and social care colleagues to implement the new SEN Code of Practice. We meet with the managers of the services to ensure that joint working practices are consistent.

How do you support SEND Pupils with Communication and Interaction specific needs?

We have many pupils with communication/interaction needs; this may include; Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC) Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

We offer for all:

Small nurturing educational environment; quality teaching and differentiation within teaching sessions; flexibility within sessions/lessons to meet changing needs; engaging resources; visual timetables; fully qualified specialist trained staff who can provide advice and guidance to colleagues; staff have completed and will continue to receive on-going training in relation to meeting pupils needs; support staff utilised to support pupil progress and promote independence; support is offered to families through multidisciplinary team.

For those pupils with more needs:

Individual timetables; symbols/objects of reference; access to expert services to support or provide strategies/programmes; support and advice sought from outside agencies; ICT/ switch technology is used to reduce barriers to learning; access to support from family support worker; planning, assessment and review through learning/pastoral targets or review of Education, Health and Care Plan.

For those with more acute needs:

Access to specialised speech and language, social skills and communication programmes; exam access arrangements as appropriate.

How does Cedars support SEND Pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties?

Many of our pupils experience Social and Emotional Mental Health issues, sometimes for prolonged time, others at critical points in their development.

For all:

Clear guidance to offer pupils structure and routine; Risk assessments are used and action is taken to increase safety and inclusion; Liaising with pupils home local authorities; Whole school system for gathering information on baseline and changes to social and emotional learning through Emotional Literacy; Use of a range of strategies to reduce anxiety and promote well-being; Staff are experienced in working with young people with SEMH needs, and will continue to receive on-going training; Staff work very closely with clinical and therapeutic professionals; Access to information and support is available within school; flexibility within sessions to meet changing needs.

For those pupils with more acute needs:

Small group or 1:1 targeted programmes are delivered e.g. community teaching, counselling, educational psychology interventions; referrals to specialist outside agencies where appropriate; individualised therapy input to provide pupils with strategies for long term resilience; Individual timetables; specific support re transition if appropriate; Alternative curriculum options, where appropriate to provide a different approach to the curriculum, and support pupils with social, emotional and behavioural needs; exam access arrangements as appropriate.

How does Cedars support SEND Pupils with Cognition and Learning specific needs?

We have many pupils with Cognition & Learning difficulties; these may include; Learning Difficulties Specific Learning difficulties (SpLD) e.g. Dyslexia Medical needs.

We offer for all:

Small class sizes; Assess pupils for access arrangements for external examinations; Planning, assessment, and review through SEND/ pastoral targets or review EHC plan; Engaging resources; Visual timetables; Symbols; Objects of reference; ICT/ switch technology where appropriate; Assess pupils regularly and monitor progress; Qualified, specialist trained staff who can provide advice and guidance for colleagues; Multi agency involvement; Advice and support from outside agencies; Support and advice sought from outside agencies to ensure any barriers to success are fully identified and responded to; a responsive to need curriculum; an emphasis on developing programmes of learning that support independence, preparation for adulthood and work/life skills development.

For those pupils with more acute needs:

Specific interventions to promote/ develop literacy and numeracy; individual timetables; one to one learning opportunities and personal tutorials to help pupils to stay motivated to achieve; individualised psychology and therapy input to provide them strategies for long term resilience; opportunities for repetition of key learning; advice, support and assessments from outside agencies; specific support re transition if appropriate; Alternative curriculum options, where appropriate to provide a different approach to the curriculum

How does Cedars support SEND Pupils with Sensory and/or Physical needs?

For all pupils:

Engaging resources; all staff receive training to ensure they understand the impact of a sensory need upon teaching and learning; access to expert services to support or provide strategies/programmes to support pupils with additional sensory or physical needs; support offered to families, signposting to services; provisions made assessable as possible e.g. lifts, disabled toilet facilities; Designated first aid trained staff are assigned to trips etc; advice in relation to meeting pupils needs; Fully qualified and trained specialist staff who can provide advice and guidance to colleagues.

For those with more acute needs:

Access to medical interventions / specialist medical teams; adapt teaching spaces to meet sensory needs; Access to Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy support; specific support re transition; Adapted equipment / 1;1 support; exam access arrangements as appropriate

What were the main findings from Cedars last OFSTED Inspection?

Cedars Academy had a full, 2 day Ofsted inspection on 13th and 14th September 2017; cedars was judged to be a 'Good' school with some many outstanding features. Below is a summary of key findings from the inspection that we believe parents and carers will be most interested in:

The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is OUTSTANDING.

The behaviour of pupils is OUTSTANDING. Pupils typically manage themselves with assured good manners, showing consistently deep consideration for others, both pupils and staff. On the rare occasions when pupils' individual needs make it very difficult for them to manage themselves properly, they use effectively the techniques staff have taught them.

Staff are highly skilled at knowing when to intervene with additional support at an early stage to help pupils, when needed, to re-establish their positive behaviours. As a consequence, instances of low-level disruption are rare.

Pupils are open, welcoming and accepting of others from backgrounds different from their own. They know how to lead healthy lives and keep themselves safe.

Pupils enjoy coming to school. They feel safe and secure at school, and all groups of pupils attend very well. This enables them to learn well. Pupils behave well in lessons and around the school.

The successful partnership between pupils and staff is underpinned by thoroughly relevant learning and detailed planning to develop all pupils' potential, whatever their starting points. As a consequence, pupils grow in confidence, both as individuals and in their learning skills. They value their education, and are ambitious and enthusiastic about their future in training or education and as young adults in society.

The support and encouragement that staff provide spur pupils on to achieve very well. As a consequence, pupils are rightly proud of their many achievements, whether reading much more fluently, taking part in school drama productions performed in an entirely different setting, or representing their region or the country in sport.

The progress that pupils make in English and mathematics is particularly strong. The highly effective curriculum, coupled with effective teaching, ensure that pupils develop basic skills very well, often from very low starting points. The vast majority of pupils meet the school's demanding targets, and a large proportion of pupils exceed them.

REVIEW

This information will be reviewed by the Pupil & Curriculum Committee on a yearly basis:

Next review: September 2020

UNCRC Reference: Article 23