



GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL ACCESSIBILITY POLICY

Gosden House School recognises and values the contributions that parents, carers, governors and other members of the community can make. We will endeavour to encourage the wider community to understand the aims and vision of the school and to involve them wherever possible.

Provision of information in other formats

We will endeavour, wherever possible, to provide information in alternative formats when required or requested.

Examples of this are by using email, royal mail, enlarged print versions, audio tapes, translations, symbolled text.

Adequate prior notice would be required through the school office.

Accessibility to premises

To continue to ensure that the school building and grounds are accessible to the extended school community, pupils, staff, governors, parents and community members.

GOSDEN HOUSE SCHOOL **SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS POLICY**

Introduction and aims of the school

This policy is in keeping with the school's aims, its' teaching and learning policy and its policy on equality of opportunity. The governing body and staff of the school will ensure that all pupils enjoy a broad and balanced curriculum, which meets individual needs. The statutory elements of the National Curriculum subjects are delivered within the whole school curriculum.

Our Aims / Our Vision

- A reflective and supportive community, committed to enquiry into opportunities and strategies to further our knowledge and understanding of our young people in order that we may challenge expectations and raise outcomes.
- A collaborative team with high expectations of ourselves, our youngsters and all those with whom we engage.
- A community that respect and values the dignity of each individual, celebrating difference and nurturing the development of the whole person.
- An outward looking organisation, focussed on promoting a positive image of our young people, as part of and as active participants in, their own and the wider community.
- A flexible, adaptive and creative community, prioritising personalised learning that is meaningful, relevant, stimulating and fun.

“Solution focused - Achievement without Constraints”

Provision

Gosden House School is a special school catering for children with learning difficulties and with speech, language and communication difficulties. Pupils are mixed from age 4 – 11 and girls from 5 – 16.

At Gosden House we aim to offer a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum to all our pupils. The school aims to enable each pupil to become less dependent upon others for their needs by providing them with experiences and opportunities to cope adequately in the environment in which they find themselves

The school has developed particular expertise in meeting the needs of pupils with language impairment. Their needs are overseen by the Speech & Language Therapy Team.

In addition to their learning difficulties some pupils may have other needs associated with physical disabilities, medical conditions, sensory impairments, diagnosis such as autism or varying degrees of challenging behaviour. All pupils will be operating at development levels considerably delayed in relationship to their peers.

All pupils admitted to Gosden House School will have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education and Health Care Plan. The Local Authority (LA), following a multi disciplinary assessment will have completed this. The County Education Officer through the SEN (special educational needs) department makes placements to the school through forums.

The school buildings are of a high quality and offer a wide range of specialist facilities, which include an ICT suite, computers, interactive whiteboards and iPad in each classroom, a food technology room, a Sensory Room, Soft Play Room, therapy rooms, main hall, and a music classroom with a variety of musical instruments. The site is attractive and spacious with age appropriate play areas, individual class gardens, a walled garden – often used for outdoor productions, a pond, an orchard and separate fenced play area for ball games. Much of the site is wheelchair accessible and there is a continuous programme of refurbishment and plans for enhancing the premises to best meet the needs of pupils.

Gosden House School is active in working with the parents’ group – Gosden Children First - in fundraising and sourcing local sponsorship and funding to further augment, stimulate and enrich the learning experiences of young people with learning disabilities.

Educational provision

At Gosden House School we offer the following specialist provision to meet the needs of the pupils:

- An individualised learning programme across the curriculum
- A differentiated approach to accessing the National Curriculum for all pupils.
- Small teaching groups with a high level of staffing.
- A multi professional input from health services, (including a full time speech therapist), children’s services and educational psychology.
- A Home/School Link Worker
- Access to a range of alternative communication systems
- A strong commitment to a working partnership with parents and carers.
- Accredited courses for KS4.

- High levels of expertise in the management of behaviour.
- Provision of Outreach and opportunities for Inreach from local schools

All pupils are taught in age related classes with a teacher and – an appropriate number of classroom assistants. The class groups contain an average of ten pupils.

A great emphasis is placed on individual and small group work. All the pupils access the whole school curriculum, which encompasses the National Curriculum core and foundation subjects together with religious education and Personal, Social, Health & Emotional Development (PSHE). This is delivered at an appropriate level and followed at a modified rate.

The focus of teaching balances the Individual Education Plans (IEPs), with the wider curriculum, which is delivered through a variety of approaches. All pupils have IEPs generally covering PSHE, numeracy, literacy and communication.

Assessment and reporting to parents

All pupils admitted to the school have been identified as having significant special needs, which have been assessed and monitored over time.

During the first six weeks of a pupil's placement at the school an assessment of their needs will be undertaken by the class teacher, who may be supported by other professionals including, the speech therapist, physiotherapist, occupational therapist etc. This enhances the information supplied at admission.

Within 2 months the parents are invited to a Parent's Evening meeting. This is an opportunity for sharing information and parents to comment on how they feel their child has settled into school. At this meeting key areas for IEPs are discussed and agreed with parents.

Within twelve months of the last annual review, parents are invited into school to discuss the pupil's progress detailed in the IEPs and to review the Statement of Special Educational Need. Other professionals who have worked with the pupil are invited to attend and/or make written contributions to the meeting. The IEP targets are reviewed and in collaboration with parents and professionals, new ones are set for the coming year. The IEP's address potential barriers to learning, identified through a holistic assessment process.

Targets are reviewed termly and parents are encouraged to take part and to be informed of this process.

During the first half of the summer term all pupils are assessed using "P" Levels, and at the end of the summer term these are included in the annual curriculum report, which is sent home to parents. This precedes the parents evening when they are invited to come into school to discuss their child's work through the year with the class teacher. The school use an extended P Level system instead of the former National Curriculum areas.

Parents/carers are welcome to come into school and discuss their child's progress with the teacher or senior staff. They are asked to contact the school first to make an appointment so that arrangements can be made for them to see the relevant member of staff.

Links with other educational establishments and agencies

Gosden House School is an active participant with other similar Surrey special schools. In addition the school has well established links with mainstream schools in the area, local further education colleges and relevant Children's Service and Health providers/services.

The complex needs of the pupils and families at Gosden House School require the support and intervention of a range of associated professionals. The Home/School Link Worker provides a focus for families and ensures “joined-up” working by professionals working with families. The school has a long tradition of working collaboratively with the Welfare Officer of Special Education, Educational Psychologists, health visitors and support workers. It is well placed to refer pupils and their families to appropriate professionals/agencies when needed and provide outreach provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs attending mainstream schools.

Staff development

Through the aims of the school the Governing Body recognises the need for ongoing high levels of commitment to staff recruitment retention and development.

Whole school and individual training needs are identified through the Strategic Plan. These training needs are then placed alongside the established rolling programme of essential staff training that includes positive approaches to behaviour management and moving and handling.

Roles and responsibilities of staff and the identification of personal training needs are reviewed and agreed on an annual basis. This is done through the established means of Performance Management Reviews for teachers and Development Reviews for all support staff. The resultant action plans from these systems of review are monitored over the year, providing a framework for evaluation and celebration of successes. Action plans are further informed through the existing Induction Programme for new and internally promoted staff.

The Governors and Head teacher are committed to ensuring staff receive the development and training necessary to enable them to carry out their jobs effectively, within a climate of educational change. This is reflected in the high level of staff experience and qualifications and the ongoing support offered to people to gain advanced levels of qualifications.

Parental involvement

The principle of working in close partnership with parents and carers is well established and supported by the whole school community, and in particular by the work of the Home/School Link Worker. A variety of communication systems are in place to share day to day information. These include varieties of home/school books, emails and telephone calls.

Each term there is a parents evening which gives opportunities for parents to talk through IEPs and curriculum targets with teachers and be kept up to date with school initiatives. During the year there are other opportunities for parents to attend specifically focused evenings, curriculum weeks, options/careers evenings, school productions and other events organised by Gosden Children First.

The school also runs various training/support events that parents/carers are encouraged to attend.

The school welcomes the valuable support from parents and friends who work alongside staff in classes to enrich the education provided.

Governors

The Governing Body reviews the Development Plan through committees and full governing body meetings each term.

The curriculum committee reviews the Special Educational Needs Policy annually and reports back to the full governing body.

Governors will monitor and evaluate the SEN Policy throughout the year, by sampling some of the following:

- IEP targets monitored on a termly basis by the head teacher.
- Selected pupils will have up to date physiotherapy/occupational therapy /speech therapy programmes in place.
- Pupils will have termly targets in all curriculum areas.
- "P" level data will be made available to governors at the last meeting of the autumn term.
- Information will be gathered regarding the number of parents attending annual review meetings.
- An annual questionnaire will be circulated to all parents regarding parental satisfaction.
- Pupil surveys are carried out annually.
- The head teacher will report annually on mainstream and college links.
- The CPD Leader will present the annual staff training plan to governors.
- Governors undertake training to enable them to carry out their responsibilities

Specific targets for monitoring will be decided at a Curriculum Committee meeting and reported to the full Governing Body.

Person responsible: **Head of School**

Updated: October 2015