



Castledon School and College SEND Information Report

What kind of Special Educational needs does Castledon make provisions for?

Castledon School is an academy with a sixth form college. We cater for pupils from year 1 to year 14. We have provision to meet the needs of children with moderate learning difficulties and other complex needs who have an EHCP. Pupils may also have ASD, SCLN or ADHD.

How would Castledon identify and assess my child's Special Educational Needs?

Every pupil has an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). These are reviewed annually. In addition, children are constantly observed and progress noted.

Pupils are assessed against national standards from EYFS through to A levels for our most able college cohort. These targets relate to the outcomes section of the EHCP, section 'F'.

A formal meeting is held 4 times a year with teachers and senior leaders to monitor progress. The school works closely with therapists and external agencies to identify the holistic needs of every child whose views feed into these meetings where relevant. Appropriate interventions are discussed at these meetings.

How does the academy evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs?

The effectiveness of our provision is evaluated in line with OFSTED requirements, through external monitoring visits by the LA, moderation of pupils work alongside staff from the local area and other special schools. External support to ensure pupils needs are met is offered from OT and S and LT and a behaviour consultant where needed.

Any interventions and use of additional funding such as Pupil Premium are identified and tracked to ensure the impact is effective.

Governors are involved in the process through monitoring visits with the SLT and receive regular reports from the Principal.

All of our monitoring ensures that our work meets the needs of our individual pupils and is in line with our school motto 'learn to live' and our college motto 'unlocking potential for adulthood'.

How do you/I know how well my child is doing at Castledon?

We meet with you as parents each autumn term to hold the Annual Review and then we have a pupil progress meeting (PPM) in the spring term. The PPM is an opportunity to also look at pupils books. Parents are also invited to meet with teachers in the summer term on a more informal basis but still with the opportunity to discuss progress, any concerns and see pupils work.

We communicate with you regularly through our online learning journal from year 1 through to year 11, which also enables you to comment and add achievements from home. We also use email or phone correspondence where necessary.

In addition to the Annual Review, you will also receive an Annual Report from us each July.

How will staff support my child? How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Every child has their own pupil passport, which identifies and outlines its needs. The staffing ratio ranges in classes from 8:3 to 14:2 dependent on need. Children may also receive interventions in small groups.

All planning, both medium and short term is highly differentiated within each class. Each class has a full time equivalent teacher and at least 1 Learning Facilitator, sometimes more. School staff are supported by a Speech and Language Therapists to ensure communication needs are met. Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapist and the nursing team also support where appropriate.



How do you adapt the curriculum?

Our aim is to provide a curriculum that is predominantly based on developing pupils' literacy, mathematical and personal, social skills. A relevant and broad curriculum is in place that helps children to become as functionally literate, numerate, communicative and as independent as possible in an environment that promotes positive learning experiences. Some pupils have the opportunity to work within their local secondary school or at alternative provisions to develop areas of interest or aptitude. Keystage 4 & 5 learners are given the opportunity to undertake work experience.

How is the decision made about the levels of support my child will receive?

Your child will initially have their needs identified through their EHCP. We constantly review this and using our expertise and experience will identify when and where additional support may be needed. Our Family Inclusion Transition Team (FIT) team will also offer support where needs related to autism or behaviour are identified that are over and above the general classroom provision.

How will my child be included in activities outside the school curriculum including class trips?

At Castledon, every child will have the opportunity to access trips including residential if parents/carers wish. Provision is again highly differentiated and if for example an activity is not deemed appropriate an alternative activity will be organised.

What support is there for my child's overall well-being?

We have a robust Safeguarding policy and protocol in place. Pupil's health and well-being is paramount. Any care needs are met

Discreetly and with dignity; fostering independence whenever possible.

The cross-curricular and broad curriculum on offer ensures the pupils experience a range of activities ranging from physical, cultural and religious to ensure they receive a holistic experience.

We work closely with medical practitioners if your child has a health need and will discuss with you a Health Care Plan and administration of prescribed medication.

Our FIT team, autism lead and S and LT also offer advice and support when needed to staff to help pupils needs be met as fully as possible within the classroom.

We also refer pupils for support by EWMHS if your child needs that level of support.

What training is provided for staff supporting children and young people with SEN?

All of our class-based staff have undertaken specialist further professional development. Examples of training given includes ASD specific training, training in sensory processing, Essex Steps and communication.

This is not an exhaustive list and ongoing professional development is key to ensuring staff of all grades remain updated and skilled.

How accessible is Castledon?

Our school is fully accessible with dedicated disabled parking bays and a one-storey building. The college is two floors with the specialist teaching areas on the ground floor. Ramps give access to demountables. All classrooms and communal areas of the school have disabled access to outside areas.

We have both a hoist at the swimming pool and a disabled changing area and toilet in both the school and the college.



How are parents involved in the school and college? How can you get involved and whom should I contact?

Our FIT team meet new parents at their home prior to a placement starting. Through this discussion, an agreed plan can be implemented with visuals to support with transition. Once a placement is agreed parents/carers and pupils are also shown around to familiarise yourself with the environment and give you an opportunity to discuss individual needs.

There are various parent coffee mornings throughout the year to enable you to network and gain invaluable support from school staff and outside agencies.

Primary parents are invited to a variety of events within the year and secondary parents can attend sports day.

What do I do if I have concerns about the provisions?

In the first instance, we encourage you to contact your child's class teacher ideally via a phone call. Staff may invite you to come in to be able to discuss the matter face to face.

Should a face-to-face meeting not alleviate your concerns then you should contact the senior leader for your child's phase, our receptionist can help you if you are unsure whom to contact.

If you still have concerns then please contact the Principal.

In the unlikely event that your concern is not resolved then please, contact our Chair of Governors, via the school or college office.

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

We work closely with the following to support your child's needs.

All children's therapy services, including

Physiotherapist

Occupational Therapy

Speech and Language Therapy

EWMHS

Educational Psychology

At times, we are able to offer other therapies such as dance and music.

How do you prepare my child for joining Castledon or transferring from another school?

We offer a meeting with the FIT team in your home, a tour of the school, a transition morning and visuals to support with transition. Social stories may also be used if necessary.

When the time comes for your child to move on, we will liaise with the receiving school and follow their transition process. We will enhance this with social stories if necessary. For college we invite learners to a transition day.

Where can I get further information about services for my child?

The information in this report forms part of Essex's Local Offer which can be found at www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk