

Commissioning Brief for The Heart of the Forest Community Special School for Implementation from September 2017 - August 2018

This document sets out the LA requirements of the provision to be made by the school. It will be used by the LA in its decision making process when placing CYP in Special Schools. Specific details of the school's provision/facilities are available from the website: www.heartoftheforest.org.uk and may also be found in the prospectus if available.

1. Number and range of places

Co-education day places for boys and girls aged between 3 and 19. In exceptional circumstances, assessment places for 2 year olds may be provided when agreed by all parties on a case by case basis.

For the year commencing September 2017, the school will receive funding for a total of 100 places, including funding for post 16 learners.

However, allocation of the overall number of places across these age ranges may vary from this to meet demand. In exceptional circumstances, where the Local Authority requires an additional placement at the school above the funded placement number, the terms for admitting the additional placement will be agreed between the Local Authority and the school on a case by case basis.

2. Geographical area covered

Primarily the Forest of Dean. The school also provides placements for pupils across the county and some out of county pupils.

3. Special Needs of children attending

The school is for pupils whose special needs have been identified as having:

- Severe learning difficulties (SLD)
- Profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD)
- There is also limited capacity to meet the needs of pupils with Moderate and Additional Learning Difficulties (MALD) dependent on the specialist need.

Pupils may also have associated complex learning difficulties and disabilities (i.e they may have conditions that overlap and interlock, e.g. mental health, behavioural, physical, medical, sensory, communication & interaction).

The school will consider whether they can meet the needs of all referrals that fit the above criteria and these will be assessed on a case by case basis.

The school will not be required to support children and young people whose main presenting category of need is Social, Emotional and Mental Health. However, the school will consider whether they can meet the needs of all referrals and these will be assessed on a case by case basis.

Post 16 provision

The school's post 16 provision offers places to meet the complex needs of children and young people (16-19) with SLD, PMLD and challenging behaviour most commonly associated with autistic spectrum conditions.

4. Early Years/Assessment placements

Each request for a place will be dependent upon the individual's needs and will be based on the following principles:

Wherever possible our aim is to meet the needs of children with SEN D, to enable them to enjoy the same range of experiences and opportunities as children with no additional needs.

Early Years Placements will be made for children where there is evidence that further multi-agency assessment is required to understand their learning/development needs and to plan the next steps in their education. In this case a review date will be set to follow the initial agreed assessment period and the assessment placement will be delivered in accordance with the agreed guidance. In some cases children will be supported to access other early years provision in their own locality, as part of the 15 hours of EY education that they are entitled to.

If it is clear that this additional level of provision or a special school is required in the longer term, a request for statutory (EHC) needs assessment should be submitted.

All assessments for placement must include input and collaboration with parents/carers and specialists from the school prior to the placement being agreed.

5. Local Authority Admissions Procedure

The indicators for admissions to special schools are attached as Appendix A to this commissioning brief. Admission is based on the needs of the individual child or young person and may take place at any point in the year, normally at the start of one of the six terms.

We aim to place all pupils in their chronological year group when entering our school.

All issues regarding a pre-school placement to support the assessment process of a child aged 2 – 5 are discussed and decided by the Local Authority's multi-agency Special Needs Resource Panel, in conjunction with parents and/or carers. or where the referral meets the criteria it will be considered at officer level

All other pupils at the school will have a statement of special educational needs or an EHCP, or are in the process of getting one.

Admission may be requested in advance of completion of an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP), especially where this may assist in determining the level of support required.

Requests for a placement in the post 16 centre will be considered by the Local Authority's multi agency Special Needs Resource Panel.

6. Partnership provision for the school

NHS Gloucestershire Care Services is responsible for provision of:

- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)
- Occupational Therapy
- Public Health Nurse (school nurse) service
- Physiotherapy
- Other community nursing services

for pupils attending the school, when it is identified as appropriate.

The Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust is responsible for provision of the community paediatrician service.

The 2gether Foundation NHS Trust Children and Young People Service is responsible for:

- Support to individual students referred to the service
- Practitioner advice and training
- Referrals under their vulnerable children service when it is appropriate.
- Community Learning Disability Team (CLDT)

GCC Children & Young People Targeted Support Teams are available to support:

- Holistic planning and assessment
- Advice & support on individual students

Note: Educational psychology support is now being provided by GCC Educational Psychology Service.

7. Annual Reviews of Statement of SEN or EHCP

Pupils' continuing needs will be monitored through the subsequent process of the Annual Review of Statement of SEN or EHCP. Where appropriate, this process will support reintegration into mainstream school with transitional support.

Transition reviews, for pupils aged 14 – 16, will be held annually to plan for the most appropriate post 16 placement. This will include consideration of Further Education (FE) and employment provision. Reviews for post 19 transitions will also be held.

In any case/circumstance where a change in provision is being considered, the school will call a Review meeting.

All reviews should involve attendance by parents/carers with support from Parent Partnership and/or the School Family Liaison Officer where requested and any other professionals who may be key to the pupils development.

8. Review of Commissioning Brief

The commissioning brief is due for review annually.

APPENDIX A

Indicators for admissions at Special Schools

1. The child/young person has an EHCP or in exceptional cases is currently undergoing EHC statutory needs assessment.
2. The child/young person requires a highly differentiated curriculum and /or learning environment which would not normally be available in mainstream settings. The child/young person's needs will have already been supported through a high level of additional resources through the Gloucestershire graduated pathway.
3. The young person/parent has expressed a preference for a special school placement which is agreed by the local authority's multi-agency Special Educational Needs and/or Disability (SEND) panel
Or
The parent/young person expresses preference for mainstream school but evidence indicates that no reasonable steps could be taken by the school or local authority to overcome the 'incompatibility with the efficient education of other pupils. (Education Act 2006 and January 2015 SEND Code of Practice: 0-25 years)
4. The child/young person has complex and significant needs in one or more of:
 - a) Communication and interaction
 - b) Cognition and learning
 - c) Social, emotional and mental health
 - d) Sensory and/or physicalAs evidenced in reports from Educational Psychologists, Advisory Teachers, Speech and Language Therapists, School/college reports and reports from other practitioners or agencies involved with the child /young person, and as indicated by The Resource Allocation System (RAS)
5. The child/young person has persistent, complex long-term learning needs as evidenced by standardised assessments and/or attainments significantly below expected levels in most areas of the curriculum, despite appropriate interventions.
6. Additional indicators may include:
 - a) Multi-agency interventions from both health and social care
 - b) A predicted high level of dependency throughout life
 - c) A history of poor attendance and/or exclusions
 - d) A history of not accessing mainstream classes with teaching and learning provision in isolation.