

SEND Information Report 2020/21

This forms part of the Worcestershire LA Local Offer. The Local Offer lists and describes all provision offered by Worcestershire County Council for children and young people (up to the age of 25) in the county which you can access here:

<http://www.worcestershire.gov.uk/sendlocaloffer>

The Vale of Evesham school is a generic, special academy school for pupils aged 2 - 19 and has a residential provision for 15 pupils who board Monday – Friday. We support children with severe, profound and moderate learning difficulties with a wide range of additional needs including:

- Autism,
- Sensory loss
- Physical disabilities
- Communication difficulties
- Social, emotional and mental health needs

SEND Provision

Cognition and learning

The school has a curriculum modified to meet the needs of pupils who face a wide range of barriers to their learning. Classrooms are equipped with a range of specialist and adapted equipment to meet pupils' needs, for example hoists and bathroom management areas. As well as small group learning, supported by a high staff to pupil ratio, individual interventions/timetables are used where necessary. We offer all pupils Quality first Teaching. Staff are experienced in developing appropriate adaptations in order to enable all pupils to access the curriculum, and, for older pupils, exam board qualifications. For those pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, progress is monitored rigorously through the use of experiential learning based on tiny steps of progress or progress through breadth of experiences at the same level (lateral progress).

Communication and interaction

The school adopts a Total Communication approach and uses a wide range of carefully tailored support strategies including sign; use of key word language; visual cues, objects of reference and on body signing. Our staff are skilled and experienced in meeting communication needs. All staff are Signalong trained, and many staff have undertaken a range of communication training including tassels on body

signing, use of eye gaze and intensive interaction. We have a close working relationship with Speech and language therapy (SaLT).

Social, emotional and mental health

At Vale of Evesham school, we see meeting the emotional needs of all pupils as central to our work. Staff are also skilled and experienced in meeting the needs of pupils with attachment difficulties. All staff are trained in Team-Teach and are skilled in de-escalating potentially challenging situations. The school has regular input from educational psychology and works closely with the learning disability CAMHS service. We also value our outdoor curriculum which enables pupils to take part in a wide range of activities. This not only supports their academic learning but their emotional wellbeing and social development.

Sensory and/or physical needs

Vale of Evesham school has a range of specialist equipment to support the learning of pupils with physical and sensory needs and works closely with a range of professionals – physiotherapy, occupational therapy, specialist sensory occupational therapy, hearing impairment (HI), visual impairment (VI) and multi-sensory impairment (MSI) specialist teachers.

Teaching approach

The school is phased in 3 departments. In First school pupils are taught by a class teacher and have regular opportunities for child-initiated learning. In middle school the young people are taught by some subject specialist teachers, in upper school all pupils follow accredited programmes and are taught by specialist teachers.

Vale of Evesham school adopts a quality first teaching model and has its own curriculum devised to meet the specific needs of our pupils. The curriculum provides opportunities for active learning and encourages independence. There is a wide range of technological support to enable pupils to learn effectively such as Eye Gaze, Switches, and a wide range of programmes and apps for various subjects. Equipment specifically to help those pupils with physical disabilities includes hoists and minibuses with tail lifts. Vale of Evesham school has a sensory room and here are several adaptations in rooms to support learning, e.g. cookers and sinks that lift up and down and tables that are height adjustable in the science laboratory. There is also a Pastoral Support intervention room for pupils that require significant emotional support programmes.

Staff expertise

Many of the staff have additional qualifications in relevant areas such as PMLD, multi-sensory, autism and visual impairment. Staff are trained in a wide range of health and safety techniques such as Manual Handling so that they are able to lift and assist children to move safely. The Communication Team run a wide range of training; including Signalong and also support staff in developing the use of PECS, communication books and other strategies to ensure we are a communication friendly school. Staff are all trained in the use of positive handling techniques (Team Teach). Specialist teachers deliver subjects up to BTEC level and the school has a qualified swimming teacher. Where an individual need is identified staff receive the relevant training, e.g. Eye Gaze.

Pupil contribution

Pupils are asked to contribute their views, where possible, to their Annual Review. Pupils are regularly asked to self-assess their learning to decide if they should move on or keep practising a particular skill. The School Council is regularly consulted on a range of relevant matters and is involved in the appointment of new staff. Older pupils are involved in co-constructing their curriculum where needs allow.

Inclusivity in activities

The school environment is wheelchair friendly and accessible to all pupils with all pupils being fully included in the life of the school. It is a purposefully calm environment with minimum distraction. The School Council is asked to contribute to decisions about extra equipment or activities to ensure a high level of pupil interest. The school has well- equipped classrooms and specialist facilities which include a Food Technology room, Science laboratory, music and dance studio and Sensory room. Specialist equipment, such as hoists, are available to ensure, for example, that pupils can access all lessons. A high level of staff support is always available to support pupils in a range of activities. The pastoral team supports pupils in order to engage with learning. Home-School Diaries are used to inform parents about school activities and vice-versa

Assessing pupils with SEND

All pupils attending Vale of Evesham school have an education, health and care plan (EHCP). These are reviewed annually to ensure their needs are assessed and accurately met. Parent and pupil voice are an integral part of the review cycle.

Pupils' academic work is marked regularly with work scrutiny carried out by senior management team (SMT) on a regular basis in order to ensure that all pupils are making appropriate progress and teacher assessment tasks are moderated termly. Pupil progress meetings are held termly to discuss every pupil in the school and pupil progress is tracked and recorded using assessment tools. We discuss targets with parents and send a copy home.

Various strategies are used to assess the progress of those pupils with Severe or Profound Multiple Learning Difficulties including Routes for Learning. As well as small group learning, supported by a high staff to pupil ratio, individual interventions are also used where necessary.

Consulting with pupils and parents

Teachers and Senior Leadership Team members will often make a telephone call home if they wish to consult quickly with a parent/carer or may use the text messaging system. There is regular written and email contact between school staff and parents, alongside the use of social media to keep in touch with parents.

For more routine matters, there are Parents' Evenings three times a year, Annual Reviews, Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) meetings and for older children, a 'Moving On' event where parents, carers and pupils can access information about possible destinations after Vale of Evesham. Where necessary, Team Around the Child or Child in Need meetings are also facilitated to support multidisciplinary team working and promote the health, wellbeing and education of individual pupils. Parents are also consulted through questionnaires.

Informal activities for parents include coffee mornings, concerts and productions and end of term activities. A family training programme and calendar of events for families and their siblings are also available. The school has an active PTA.

Involving key stakeholders

The Governing Body are supportive of the involvement of all other agencies including: paediatricians, school nurse, physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapists (SaLT), Occupational Therapists (OT's), Learning Disability social care team and NHS colleagues who contribute to meeting the needs of its pupils. We work closely with our Early Intervention Family Support Worker.

Vale of Evesham school are keen to continue to offer facilities for professionals to work on-site and our policy and practice is to invite all relevant agencies to contribute to pupils' EHCP's. Vale of Evesham school is fortunate to have close and supportive links with local businesses and charities.

Evaluating effectiveness

The Governors and Senior Leadership Team use a number of different approaches to ensure that the education and care provided for Vale of Evesham pupils is effective. The school has a school development plan that the whole school community contributes to.

The school carries out rigorous evaluation of teaching and learning, whole school pupil progress, personal development and welfare, and leadership and management annually. This is reported on in the School's Self-Evaluation Framework document. The evaluation is carried out in consultation with the Governing Body and considers the views of parents, Ofsted and any external consultant views.

Transition support

All admissions are led by Worcestershire Local Authority. For further detailed information please see the Admissions section of our school website.

Pupils may join Vale of Evesham school during an academic year and plans are made for phased induction visits, where possible. It is usual that all professionals involved with a child would be consulted about the child's needs with regards to specialist equipment, etc. When transferring between phases at Vale of Evesham, pupils have regular visits to their new classrooms and class teacher before the full-time transfer; there is very close liaison between class staff. Careers education features in the curriculum of all pupils in middle and upper school.

If staff felt that the needs of a pupil could be better met elsewhere, they will do everything possible to support parents/carers in accessing more appropriate provision. Equally, if a parent wished to move their child to a different organisation, Vale of Evesham staff will do all they can to facilitate a move.

The curriculum at Post-16 is devised to enable all young people in Key Stage 5 to experience life in the community, take part in work experience and, where appropriate, to access mainstream college in a supported way. There are established, weekly links with local colleges. Our Independent Living Skills such as cooking and going shopping are developed as appropriate alongside skills such as travel training and functional Maths and English. Vale of Evesham school have two Careers Advisors who work closely with families to develop transition plans and appropriate next steps for pupils.

Handling complaints

If parents/carers are unhappy with any aspect of provision at Vale of Evesham school they should follow the Advance Trust's complaints procedure, available on the school website, or consult the Chair of Governors.