

The Park School

LOCAL OFFER



Local offer for The Park School

The Park School is a Surrey County maintained Special School offering day provision for 100 secondary age students. Students all have learning difficulties and most students have additional medical, communication, emotional or social complexities. All students have a statement or Education, Health and Care Plan. At The Park School we believe that by working together and always expecting the best we achieve the highest possible standards.

How will The Park School staff support my child?

On entry to The Park School your child will be in a small tutor group of up to 10 students. They will immediately be looked after by a teaching assistant as well as their tutor. Either of these key staff will keep in regular contact with you, often by phone. Key stage managers monitor the pastoral needs to the students. Subject coordinators and the school leadership monitor the academic progress of each student, particularly progress in English and Maths.

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

The curriculum at The Park School motivates and engages students. Work is differentiated to match individual needs and teaching assistants support students throughout their lessons. The school uses an adapted version of the National Curriculum that supports the development of key academic, learning and life skills. Detailed information on our curriculum offer can be found on The Park School website.

How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

Your child will have different teachers for each subject who will soon get to know them. You will gradually get to meet a range of staff and you will be invited to meetings and a termly parent's evening to discuss your child's progress. We invite parents to

regular events and assemblies and there are many social opportunities throughout the year.

Student's academic progress is recorded and tracked over time. The assessment levels will be explained to you at annual review meetings. We are also keen to support your child's emotional and social development and keep records of their progress and developing maturity. We use diaries as a way of communicating messages between home and school. Parents can also contact the school on a daily basis via the school office.

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

At The Park School we support students in all aspects of their development including their emotional needs. This happens in lessons, through a strong pastoral system and daily tutor group time. Staff are trained in first aid, the administration of medication and discretely support aspects of personal care. Students' medical needs are described in a care plan that is shared with all relevant staff. Our SENCo works closely with parents and professionals to co-produce care plans.

We have strong behaviour management systems with expertly trained staff. If any student is behaving in an inappropriate way they are supported by senior members of staff. We have a "Focus Room" and "Chill Zone" that students learn to use if they are angry or upset. They are always helped to "get back on track". We pride ourselves on always providing fresh starts. If a student cannot manage a lesson they are expected to get into the next one.

"Student Voice" is an important aspect of life at The Park School. We seek student opinion and evaluate findings on a regular basis. Students are taught to assess their own work, effort and attitude at the end of every lesson. We have a strong Student Council with representatives from each class who meet regularly with senior members of staff and Governors.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by The Park School?

Our school SENCo liaises with multi-agency professionals to enable joined up working. We have a speech and language therapy team, employed by the health

service, based in school. Relevant professionals, such as Occupational Therapists and Education Psychologists work throughout the year and are invited to attend student's annual review meetings.

What training are the staff supporting children and young people with SEND had or are having?

As a special school, we ensure that training for all our staff is regular and up to date. Staff are updated regularly on all relevant medical information, safeguarding, research and teaching methods. As a school, we strive for continuous improvement and pride ourselves on the quality of continuing professional development. We also train staff from other schools.

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

Students regularly learn off site. We explain this to you when your child joins our school. Because of our location we are able to visit the town centre or station within a lesson to teach life skills. There are also regular trips that all students' access in turn related to sport, music and the arts. All activities are risk assessed to ensure individual pupil needs are met.

How accessible is The Park School's environment?

The entire building is fully wheelchair accessible on one level with a disabled toilet area. We have strong links with the Traveller's home-school worker and English as a second language service, both of whom support us in providing parents with information that they can understand. We will employ an interpreter for meetings if needed.

How will The Park School prepare and support my child to join the school, transfer to a new setting or the next stage of education and life?

Once a student has been placed at The Park School in Y6 staff attend the Y6 annual review and liaise with the primary school and parents about transition. Students attend a taster morning in July of Y6 and are invited with their parents to attend the summer fete. At the start of Y7 we hold a new parents information evening.

Once your child gets to Y9 we will invite you to start a plan for the future with us. We want to enable students to go on to the most suitable post-16 placement to continue

their learning. We will advise you of the available options and a member of staff will take you on visits if you would like.

In Y10 all students start a link with our local college. They are escorted from school and supported in the college environment by our staff. They learn to access the college canteen and experience taster courses that they may choose to follow up when they leave school. In Y11 we support students to have a direct weekly link with the placement that they are applying to go to the following year.

Post 16 providers, such as local colleges and post 16 units based in special schools, join us for an annual parents evening to provide you with the opportunity to speak to them about your child's needs. They will then make appointments for you and your child to visit and then apply if you find the environment and curriculum offered suitable.

How are The Park School's resources allocated and matched to children's/ young people's special educational needs?

The Governors and Leadership team ensure that the largest proportion of the school budget is spent on staffing to ensure that students are well supported in small teaching groups. They also employ specialist therapists and assistants to provide students with additional emotional and social support across the week.

Our Pupil Premium Grant is used:

- To support access to activities, events and residential trips that students might not otherwise be able to access due to financial disadvantage
- To narrow the attainment gap and improve reading skills
- To develop independence skills
- To develop social communication skills
- To provide breakfast and healthy tuck shop items for disadvantaged students which creates a more receptive frame of mind for learning

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

All students at The Park School are statemented and will have Education Health and Care plans in the future. All decisions about the types of additional support are made in consultation with parents. The process starts when the students are placed at the

school in Y6 and continues during the transition to Y7 and beyond. Once a student is at The Park School decisions about additional provision are made in consultation with parents, often at annual reviews.

How are parents involved in The Park School?

Parents all have different expectations for the degree of work they would like their child to do at home. We have an easy homework system that is explained when your child joins us and there are opportunities for you to attend information sessions to help your child with specific aspects of learning. We emphasise the importance of reading and would like all students to practice this at home whenever possible.

We have a strong partnership approach in working with parents, involving them in many aspects of learning and school life. We have an active parents association that organises coffee mornings, family evening events and termly fairs.

Who can I contact for further information?

The first point of contact is the school admin staff, student's tutor and teaching assistant.

The Surrey local offer can be found at <http://new.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/special-educational-needs-and-disability-send/our-local-offer-support-and-advice-for-children-and-young-people-with-send>