

APPLEFIELDS SCHOOL

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS POLICY STATEMENT



Introduction

Applefields School is the City of York local authority's maintained day special school for secondary aged students, aged from 11 - 19 years. All of the students who attend Applefields School have a learning difficulty and some of our students have additional special educational needs as a result of their physical or sensory needs. We support children with moderate, severe and profound learning difficulties and a significant number of children with complex autism as an additional need. All students have a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Applefields School is located in the city of York and makes provision for children from York and the surrounding areas of North Yorkshire and the East Riding of Yorkshire.

School Vision

Our school vision places students at the centre of everything that we do. Working together we will prepare students for adult life by providing them with a personalised education, promote their communication and independence and help everyone achieve the best they whilst respecting the dignity of all.

"Communication, Personalisation, Preparation, Independence"

Equal Opportunities

Applefields School is committed to meeting the diverse needs of all of our students, with due regard to their ethnic origin, religion, gender, disability, sexual orientation and social background. Within our school community we recognise the importance of combating racism and promoting cultural diversity and equality of opportunity for pupils, families and staff.

At Applefields School we will meet the needs of all of our learners so that they thrive, make good progress and achieve high standards of attainment and behaviour. The aim of this policy is to ensure that the students with Special Educational Needs that attend Applefields School are included, treated fairly and without discrimination and given access to an appropriate curriculum and high quality teaching and learning.

OUR SEND OFFER

Accessibility

The specialist design and development of Applefields School enables all parts of the building to be accessible for students and their families. The school has specialist changing and toilet facilities to meet the needs of students with complex students.

School Facilities and Resources

Applefields School was opened in September 2004. The school occupies a large, modern building that in part is based on one of the previous special schools that was substantially extended and refurbished. As pupil numbers have grown the school was extended again in 2012. The accommodation includes 19 classrooms, specialist resources for pupils with profound and complex needs, specialist teaching rooms for Science and Food Technology, an Art Room, a Hydrotherapy Pool, Library & IT room, 2 dining halls, 2 multi-sensory rooms and facilities for Nursing, Physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy.

The school has made a substantial investment in Information Technology - all classrooms, teaching areas and meeting rooms have networked IT facilities and the school's local area network is connected to a managed broadband internet service. Interactive whiteboards are installed throughout the school. Staff are developing the use of iPads and specialist access devices. We have 4 school minibuses, 3 of which are wheelchair accessible and have been provided by the Variety Club.

Support from Other Professionals

Staff from the York NHS Hospital Trust are based on the school site. This multi-professional team includes Nurses, a Speech and Language Therapist, Physiotherapist and Physiotherapy Assistant and an Occupational Therapist. Some of these staff work part time. Each child has a named nurse who will act a first point of contact for parents and carers and will coordinate each student's health care. However, any member of the nursing team will be available to talk to parents and carers. Paediatric Consultant clinics are held on site most weeks.

The local authority provides Educational Psychology support and peripatetic support for students with sensory impairments and autism as an additional need. We employ a part time student counsellor for half day each week who works with a small number of students on a one to one basis.

Members of the local authority's Transition Team of Children and Adult Social Workers, Transition Care Managers and specialist Connexions Advisors are based on the school site and work closely with students and their families. These staff are on hand throughout the week to support students from York. Specialist support staff for students living in North Yorkshire or the East Riding visit school regularly.

A number of students use the local authority's respite facility The Glen Family Resource Centre. Staff from The Glen visit school regularly to observe students in class, discuss support for students and to attend review and planning meetings.

Curriculum

Students access a broad and relevant curriculum which in Key Stages 3 & 4 includes the subjects of the National Curriculum differentiated in the context of the students' special educational needs. A particular emphasis is placed on the development of students' skills in Communication, Literacy and Numeracy with a focus on the development of students' personal and social independence skills, health and well-being and the use of Information Technology. Applefields School is part of a

local sports partnership working alongside other special schools across the North Yorkshire region.

Those students who experience the most significant communication difficulties are supported through a variety of augmentative communication systems including Makaton, British Sign Language, PECS and the use of electronic communication aids. The development of students' communication skills is coordinated by the Speech and Language Therapist and the teacher with responsibility for Communication and Literacy and students work in timetabled small Communication groups regularly during the week. The school is developing the use of iPads to support students' communication skills and general access to the curriculum.

The school offers an extensive programme of post 16 provision and all of students choose to continue to attend school for post 16 provision with the overwhelming majority of students attending until the end of Year 14. The aim of Post 16 curriculum is to prepare students for leaving school and life as a young adult. Students are supported with the continuing development of their communication skills, functional Literacy and Numeracy skills, practical independence skills as well as the opportunity to take part in learning away from the school in the local community. These opportunities may include work related learning, work experience, independent travel training and the opportunity to attend link courses at the 2 local further education colleges; York College and Askham Bryan College and at the Danesgate Skills Centre where students undertake a 2 year City and Guilds Entry Level course in personal development and preparation for employment.

Satellite Provision

Two groups of Applefields students are based full time in the school's Satellite provision at Manor CE Academy, in Nether Poppleton. The Satellite provision comprises of 2 classes one for Key Stage 3 students and the other for Key Stage 4 students. Each student has a personalised timetable with opportunities for supported inclusion in either Manor Excel (the host school's SEN provision) or in mainstream lessons. In addition students access a variety of informal social activities within Manor CE Academy such as the use of the school diner, attending Year assemblies and access to school resources and playgrounds alongside their mainstream peers.

Students who attend the Satellite are supported by Applefields staff who work exclusively at the Satellite. The Satellite provides access to a specialist curriculum and social experience for students who would benefit from supported mainstream opportunities. The provision aims to develop each young person's literacy and numeracy skills, their personal and social independence skills, organisational skills and their emotional development as adolescents.

Other Inclusion Opportunities

A small number of students that attend the main school site are involved in part time inclusion placements in their local mainstream secondary school. These placements enable students to have the opportunity to spend part of the week working alongside mainstream students in different areas of the curriculum.

Post 16 students will have the opportunity to access mainstream settings such as the local FE Colleges and inclusion opportunities will be sought for all students through project and partnership work with other schools and organisations.

Education Health and Care Plans

Every child who attends Applefields School will have an Education Health and Care Plan. Parents

and carers will be formally consulted at least once each year about their views about their child's needs and the content of their child's statement or EHCP. Review meetings will be held in school and these are chaired by a member of the Senior Leadership Team and attended by parents, the class teacher and other professionals that are involved with the child. Wherever possible, students take an active part in their review meeting to present their views.

Assessment and Accreditation

We believe that it is important that all of our students have the opportunity to have their learning accredited. Students in Key Stage 3 follow work in Personal Progress and Stepping Stones and Key Stage 4 and Post 16 students have their achievements accredited through the use of a range of externally accredited unit awards. Students work towards Entry Level certificates in English, Maths and Science, and unit awards in Food Technology, Information Technology and other areas of the curriculum. In addition, the Post 16 curriculum is based on the ASDAN 'Towards Independence' curriculum and students have the opportunity to take courses in Adult Literacy and Numeracy.

Pupil progress is under continuous assessment through analysis of P scale and National Curriculum data using BSquared, MAPP assessments for students with complex needs, teachers' records and through individual pupil progress files.

Regular pupil progress meetings where students' attainment in Math and English are monitored by a member of the Senior Leadership Team in conjunction with the subject leaders for Maths and English.

Post School Provision

On leaving Applefields School, students transfer to a variety of local and regional post school provision. Students may transfer to a personalised learning programme with part time access to a local further education college with opportunities for work-based learning. Others students may have the opportunity to transfer to a regional specialist residential further educational college to continue with the development of their life skills and undertake vocational training. Some students choose to transfer to one of the local further educational colleges in York to follow specialist vocational training courses. Other students may transfer to adult services provision provided by the student's home local authority. Students and their parents or carers are supported in making these decisions by the Transition Team and specialist Connexions Personal Advisors who work are based on the school site and work closely with students, their families and school staff. All of our students transfer to continuing education, employment or training.

Pastoral Care and Parental Involvement

The involvement of parents and carers is an important element of every child's education. Class teachers will make every effort to ensure that parents and carers are kept fully informed about their child's progress and achievement at school. This will be achieved through school reports, parents' evenings, coffee mornings, informal newsletters and home- school diaries.

The success of the school is dependent upon the continuing goodwill and co-operation between parents, governors and staff. Parent Governors make an invaluable contribution to the work of the governing body and life of the school and their opinions on proposed developments and current issues are a crucial part of the decision making process.

Communication with Parents

The school has developed a comprehensive policy and procedures to support effective communication with parents and carers. Details of these are on the school website (Home / School Policies and Information / School Policies / Communication with Parents Policy).

Parents Support Groups

Support for parents and carers is facilitated through a Parent to Parent support group which aims to guide and help parents and carers as they plan and prepare for their son or daughter leaving school. The group meets regularly throughout the year and there is an open invitation for all parents to attend.

School Performance

The school's performance is monitored regularly by the Governing Body and annually by the York Challenge Partner by the local authority's advisory staff and school improvement consultants. The school's performance will be monitored by Ofsted and an inspection report published. The last inspection took place in March 2015. A copy of the inspection report is available from school or can be downloaded from the school website (Home / Ofsted / Ofsted Report).

Admission Arrangements

Admissions to Applefields School are controlled by the City of York local authority in consultation with the Headteacher and the Governing Body. Details of the admission arrangements, including those for the Satellite provision, are described in detail on the school website (Home / About Us / Admissions).

The Governing Body

The school's Governing Body receive regular reports from the Head teacher and other members of staff on School Development and aspects of the curriculum. The Governors Curriculum and Standards Committee receive reports from subject leaders on progress and developments within their area of the curriculum. Members of the Governing Body have established links to specific subject areas or aspects of school development. Governors are encouraged to visit school regularly to meet with the member of staff responsible for that area and to report back to the full governing body.

Complaints Procedure

A copy of the school's Complaints Procedure is available from the school office or to download from the school website (Home / School Policies and Information / School Policies / Complaints Policy and Procedure).

City of York Local Offer

Where can I find information about what the local authority has to offer? York's local offer website enables parents and young people to see what SEND services are available in their area and how to access them. The link below will allow you to access the website directly:

<http://www.yor-ok.org.uk/families/Local%20Offer/local-offer-original.htm>