



Castle Business and Enterprise College

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS REPORT

September 2019

Special Educational Needs

Castle Business and Enterprise College is a LA maintained 7-18 Special School. We have provision to meet the needs of children who have a wide range of learning and physical needs. Pupils may also have additional sensory impairments, complex medical needs and children with autism.

“Castle Business and Enterprise College is a school for pupils with moderate learning difficulties. An increasing number also have more complex needs” OFSTED 2013.

Assessment

Every pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan. These are reviewed annually. Children are base-line assessed when they start at Castle and the smallest gains in their learning/ knowledge and understanding from this point, can be identified, recorded and celebrated.

In addition children are regularly observed/ assessed and their progress noted.

Pupils are assessed against their own prior learning.

Meetings are regularly held within school to monitor progress.

The school works closely with therapists and external agencies to identify the needs of every child. Through the Pupil Premium we have appointed our own Speech, language therapist who works at Castle fulltime (this is in addition to the LA speech and language provision).

Individual Education plans (IEP's) are set termly and progress regularly monitored and reported on.

Provision

The SEND provided for include: cognition and learning needs,

Communication needs,

Autistic spectrum,

and a wide variety of additional needs and conditions

Effectiveness of provision

Provision for pupils with SEND at Castle is Outstanding. This is verified by a local authority school improvement partner and an independent school improvement partner and OFSTED (2018). It is evidenced in School Self Evaluation Document.

We have a robust system of reviewing our provision using the Ofsted self-evaluation framework: this includes looking at:-

- Leadership and Management
- Quality of Education
- Personal development
- Behaviour and attitudes

Governors are involved in this process and receive regular reports at Governor Meetings. Any interventions and additional funding such as Pupil Premium are identified and tracked to ensure the impact is effective. The school was last inspected in (January 2018) and was judged outstanding.

Communication

We communicate regularly via the home school diary system and by telephone. As children become older the diary system is often phased out (when appropriate) as part of developing their independence. In addition to the Annual Review there is an Annual Report during the Summer Term as well as Parents evenings.

Staffing/support

Mrs Solomon (Assistant Headteacher) is our nominated SENCO.

Mrs Lloyd-Brown is our nominated school Governor for SEND.

The average class size at Castle is 8-12 pupils and working with them will be a Teacher and either one or two Teaching Assistants. We try to not employ 1:1 TA's working with pupils as this can often be detrimental to the pupils developing independence. School staff are supported by Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists, School Nurse and specialist teacher advisors when required.

Appraisal / Professional Development.

Annually our staff are part of a robust appraisal cycle which includes a review of teacher's standards and any SEN expertise they have. As part of this senior leaders discuss CPD requirements which can and do include specialist SEND training particularly for staff who are new to the sector. All staff are trained in the team teach behaviour strategy, TEACCH, RML and in levels 1-4 in Makaton. In addition In house CPD addresses changes in practices or policies in relation to this and has trained staff in Autism and dyslexia awareness

Curriculum

We deliver an adapted curriculum that is a broad and balanced, differentiated to meet the needs of pupils in school. There is a focus on communication skills and encouraging independence, and promoting positive learning experiences. For further curriculum information please see school website links.

Additional Provision

At Castle we employ our own on site Speech and Language therapist who works with our children full time. This additional provision ensures that pupils have the hours of Speech and Language Therapy they are entitled to. Our pupils in Key Stage 4 and 5 access Walsall College once a week as part of an extended transition and additional provision. Walsall College is an Outstanding provider, who provide specially adapted courses and resources to meet the needs of our pupils. Pupils also have the opportunity to complete work experience placements when and where these are appropriate. An independent careers advisor is appointment each week to give advice of future destinations.

Educational visits to support learning

At Castle Business and Enterprise College a wide range of Educational visits are used to support our learning experiences. Visits are usually around our curriculum, special times of year or 100% attendance – Wow!!!! Trips. There is usually an Annual residential visit on offer.

Emotional and social development

Within our broad and balanced curriculum pupils learn about social, emotional and mental health. These areas are taught overtly within PHSE, where topics including mental health and wellbeing. Mindfulness, healthy and unhealthy coping strategies, bereavement and relationships are all discussed in detail. They are touched on more discreetly in many other of the topic areas including P.E, ASDAN, Life and Living Skills, RE and many more. In addition to our curriculum we have a robust safeguarding policy and protocol in place. Pupils' health and well-being is paramount. Personal Care is conducted discreetly, with dignity, fostering independence whenever possible. We work closely with on-site medical practitioners to meet the health needs of pupils whilst they are at school. We also work closely with social services and the children with disabilities team. We also work with CAMHS (Child Adolescent Mental Health Services) should pupils need that level of support.

Staff training

Our teachers are qualified teachers with many holding additional specialist qualifications pertaining to children with special educational needs. These include TEACCH, Team Teach, Autism, Visual impairments, Makaton trainers. Our Teaching Assistants have a wide range of expertise with all staff being trained in manual handling, Safeguarding, Prevent, FGM, ASD and a wide range of other curriculum based courses. Ongoing professional development is organised to ensure all staff remain updated and skilled.

Accessibility

Castle Business and Enterprise College is fully accessible with dedicated disabled parking areas. There are Wheel chair lifts to the Primary and Secondary departments. Our school grounds are

inclusive with an extensive range of outdoor equipment and outdoor teaching areas. For further details see accessibility plan

Parents

Parents are shown around the school prior to deciding which school is their preferred choice for their child. Home visits are made upon request. Pupils can start at Castle Business and Enterprise College at any time throughout the academic year. An individual transition is planned for each child.

In September/October of each year we hold a parents evening where parents meet the teacher / form tutor. Parents are encouraged to attend and celebrate their child's start to the year / work. Individual education plans are discussed at this meeting.

At some point throughout the year (usually annually from the date a pupil started at Castle) an Annual Review meeting is held. At this meeting the Education, Health and Care plan is reviewed and discussions/ decisions made about the child's future. As the child gets older Careers advice/ next steps will form part of this meeting.

Throughout the year a wide range of medical clinics are held in school.

Medical clinics are also arranged throughout the year.

We hold a parents evening in the summer term. This is shortly after parents receive the child's Annual Report. This is an opportunity to discuss and celebrate progress and share some wonderful work.

We operate a home /school diary system (where appropriate) and will contact you by telephone should this be necessary.

The children are involved in the running of the school via the School Council.

Pupils

Children and young people are regularly consulted and involved in decision making. This takes the form of being included in annual reviews, helping decide IEP targets alongside staff, questionnaires, school council and generally being consulted with regards to the everyday life of the school. LAC pupils are identified and additional support and resources allocated to them where applicable. Mrs Lloyd-Brown (Assistant Headteacher) has special responsibility for LAC pupils. Mrs Glover is our LAC nominated Governor. For addition LAC support services Mrs Lloyd-Brown should be contacted (in writing) in the first instance.

Patterns in SEND

Castle is traditionally a school for pupils with moderate learning difficulties. Over recent years an influx of pupils who exhibit more severe learning needs to school has been noted. More recently, in the secondary department we have begun to attract some pupils with more social and emotional needs to as their SEND requirement. With these changes in mind we have consulted to change our designation as a school from MLD to Cognition, Communication and Learning.

Concerns

In the first instance we encourage you to contact the child's class teacher. If there are still concerns then contact the Headteacher. In the unlikely event that your concern is not resolved the next step would be to contact the Chair of Governors. Ultimately, parents have recourse to the Secretary of State.

Specialist services

We work closely with the following:-

Community Nurses, Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language, Hearing Impairment, Visual impairment and Educational Psychology, CAMHS, & Children with Disabilities Team.

Life after Castle

Transferring to another school:

Admissions to schools are controlled by Walsall Children's Services, S.E.N.D team. A "no strings" visit may be arranged by the S.E.N .D team for parents to view a new school. At this point Parents will be given basic information about the work of the school and offered a tour. Parents may or may not wish to take their child on this visit. If the school is deemed to be the next appropriate step then Castle staff will support transition (where possible).

Transferring to one of the Colleges

During years 10, 11 and Post 16 pupils attend College one morning per week with Castle staff. They learn about College life as well as following accredited courses there.

Families may decide during years 11, 12 and 13 that the time is right for their young person to move on. The school have a Senior Member of staff who helps support the application / interview process and ensures that next steps begin in a positive manner.