

SEND Information Report

School Offer Statement

The positive development of our young people is our overwhelming priority as they grow through into adulthood and we believe that strength of character is the most valuable 'qualification' that we can help them to achieve. We are also committed to giving all our students every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards, regardless of their specific needs. We want to ensure that despite our students requiring a different diet from some of their peers that they still have the same choices and chances to succeed.

Local Offer

Oldham's Local Offer is an online resource that details services, support and guidance available to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) aged 0-25 and their families. You can find this information at the following website:

https://www.oldham.gov.uk/info/200368/children_and_young_people_with_special_educational_needs_and_disabilities

Introduction

At Oasis Academy Oldham we work together to support and challenge our young people to ensure that they are able to make progress and become “outstanding” young people who have the personal qualities, knowledge and skills that will be demanded of them in a rapidly changing world. Therefore, we hold strongly to our Vision and Values in all our work.

Vision and Values

At Oasis Academy Oldham, we are proud to serve a truly diverse community. We are committed to working in collaboration with our wider community by demonstrating kindness, compassion and a relentless positivity building a strong ethos of inclusion.

As well as excellent behaviour and high academic standards, we are committed to our school community being about more. Our Just Cause is what we do to make our school the best it can possibly be.

We are focused on “Creating a community of choices and chances”.

9 Habits

At Oasis Academy Oldham, as part of Oasis Community Learning, we are committed to developing the character and competence of every student in line with our Oasis 9 Habits. Oasis believe that continually developing our character to become the best version of ourselves is important for every student and staff member alike. Therefore, we actively promote and practice the Oasis 9 Habits throughout Pastoral Curriculum, assemblies, and whole school PSHE programme



Professionals who support students with SEND at Oasis Academy Oldham

There are experienced professionals working to support students at Oasis Academy Oldham. We always recommend that you speak to your child's subject teacher first. If needed they will signpost you to the SEND team. Should you wish to contact any professional about the support available to your child please telephone 0161 620 5859 or email zara.obeng@oasisoldham.org

Who are the best people to talk to at Oasis Academy Oldham about my child's difficulties with learning / SEND?

Pastoral Tutor

Responsible for:

- Ensuring that all students have access to good / outstanding teaching and that the curriculum is adapted to meet your child's needs
- Ensuring that your child receives the correct guidance and pastoral support to make academic progress.

Assistant Principal for Inclusion

Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo),

Ms Zara Obeng

Responsible for:

- The management of all aspects of the SEND and Inclusion department, including the support for students with SEND
- Ensuring that all staff working with your child in school are supported in delivering the planned work /
- programme
- Ensuring that the school's SEND Policy is followed in the classroom
- Coordinating all the support for students with SEND and developing the school's SEND policy.

Assistant SENCo

Mrs Kim Whittaker

Responsible for:

- Ensuring that all members of staff working with your child are aware of their individual needs and that they understand what specific adjustments are required
- Ensuring that all pupils with SEND are regularly tested and access arrangements are in place.
- Ensuring that interventions are highly tailored to meet the needs of those pupils with SEND.
- Ensuring a robust transition occurs from Y6 to Y7 and Y11 to a young person's post-16 provision.

Faculty Intervention Leads

Faculty Intervention Leads work with the SENCo and subject teachers to identify areas of support for students with SEND. They attend all training opportunities related to SEND and differentiation. Faculty Intervention Leads are part of the SEND Department and are responsible for supporting students who have EHC Plans. Their role includes supporting students to access the curriculum; empowering students to develop effective strategies that enable them to become independent learners; and supporting the implementation of differentiation and specialist support strategies in and out of the classroom.

Vice Principal with responsibility for SEND and Inclusion

Mrs A Mitchell

Responsible for:

- Ensuring the SENCo role is delivered in line with the school policy
- Ensuring that the Governing Body is kept up to date about any issues in the school relating to SEND.

Principal

Miss D Gobbi

Responsible

for:

- The management of all aspects of the school, including the support for students with SEND
- She will give responsibility to the SENCo and subject teachers yet is still responsible for ensuring that your child's needs are met.

SEND Link for the Academy

Ms Jane Hughes

Responsible for:

- Ensuring that the school has an up to date SEND policy
- Ensuring that the school has appropriate provision and has made necessary adaptations to meet the needs of all students
- Ensuring that the necessary support is made for any child who attends the school who has SEND
- Arranging visits to understand and monitor the support given to students with SEND and being part of the process to ensure your child achieves their full potential.

What are the different types of support available for children with SEND at Oasis Academy Oldham?

Students at Oasis Academy Oldham will get support that is specific to their individual needs. This may be provided by the subject teacher or may involve:

- Other staff in the school
- Staff who will visit the school from the Local Authority central services
- Staff who visit from outside agencies.
- Support from Oldham Council via the Oldham local offer <http://iassoldham.co.uk/local-offer/>

You can contact Oldham SENDIAS Service in the following ways:

- Telephone: 0161 503 1540
- Email: iassoldham@point-send.co.uk

Types of support available	What would this mean for your child?	Who can get this kind of
Subject teacher input via good/outstanding classroom teaching, known as Quality First Teaching.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The teacher will have the highest possible expectations for all students in their class. • All teaching is based on building on what the student already knows can do and can understand. • Putting in place different ways of teaching so that all students are fully involved in learning in class. This may involve things like using more practical learning or providing resources adapted for each student. • Putting in place specific strategies (which may be suggested by the SENCO or staff from outside agencies) to enable all students to access the learning task. 	All students
Specific small group work / interventions.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The subject teacher and SENCO monitor the progress of students. Where gaps in understanding or learning are identified, additional support is assigned where necessary to help the student make better progress. • Targeted interventions can reduce the barriers to learning and support the student to make faster progress. • Support is offered in the classroom, in small withdrawal groups or on a one to one basis. 	Students who have specific gaps in their learning. Student in need of social and emotional support and communication and interaction.

Types of support available	What would this mean for your child?	Who can get this kind of support?
<p>Advice from external agencies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a student has been identified as needing more specialist input instead of, or in addition to, good and outstanding classroom teaching and intervention groups, referrals will be made to external agencies to advise and support the school in enabling the student to make progress. • If it is agreed that the support of an external agency is a way forward, parents will be asked to give their permission for the school to make the referral. <p>The specialist professional will work with staff and your child in order to understand their needs and will make recommendations, which may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Making changes to the way the student is supported in class e.g. changing some aspects of teaching to support them better • Support to set specific targets • Involvement in a group run by school staff using resources recommended by the outside professional, e.g. a social skills group or Speech and Language Therapy generalisation programme 	<p>Students with specific barriers to learning for which school requires the advice of an external professional.</p>
<p>Individual support for students entitled to additional adult support in school via an Educational and Health Care Plan (EHC Plan).</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school (or parents) can request that the Local Authority carry out a statutory assessment of a student's needs. • Upon making the request, the Local Authority EHC Panel will decide whether they think the student's needs are complex enough, on the evidence provided, to require a statutory assessment. If this is the case, they will ask parents and all professionals involved with the student to write a report outlining their needs. If they do not think the student's needs warrant statutory assessment, they will ask the school to continue with the support at 'SEN Support' level. • The Local Authority will then decide if the student's needs are severe, complex and lifelong and that they need additional adult support in school to make good progress. If so, they will write an EHC Plan. • The EHC Plan will outline the number of hours of individual / small group support the student will be funded to receive from the LA, and will indicate how the support should be used and what strategies must be put in place. 	<p>Students whose learning needs are severe, complex and lifelong or need more than 15 hours of support in school.</p>

Monitoring and evaluation of SEND

We regularly monitor and evaluate the quality of provision on offer all pupils and that this informs future developments and improvements. This is done by:

- Drop ins
- Learning walks
- Observations
- Visits
- Monitoring of pupil progress and attainment
- Student voice
- Book scrutiny
- Programme area and school Self-evaluation
- School and programme area development planning
- Any external audits e.g. SEND Monitoring visits by Oasis Trust and OFSTED inspections
- Developing best practice e.g. moderation of student progress through SENCO networks and local partnerships
- Close monitoring of finances to ensure value for money
- Termly meetings between the SENCO, ALT Link and the SEND governor.



Other people/agencies providing services to students with SEND at Waterhead Academy

Paid for centrally by the Local Authority and delivered by the Academy:

- Sensory Service for children with visual or hearing needs
- Speech and Language Therapy (provided by Health but paid for by the Local Authority)
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Professional training for school staff to deliver medical interventions
- Parent Partnership Service (POINT)



Directly funded by the Academy:

- Additional Speech and Language
- Additional interventions
- Additional Educational Psychology
- QEST advisory support
- KS2-3 Transition Support
- KS4-5 Transition support
- Faculty Intervention Leads
- Individual Literacy Support
- Place 2 Be
- Oasis Hub

Provided and paid for by the Health Service, but delivered within the academy:

- School Nurse
- OASIS (Drugs and alcohol)
- Health Young Minds (Mental Health)
- Diabetic and epilepsy specialist nurses
- Nurse Consultants

The Personalised Pathway Provision and SEND base plays a vital role in the life of Oasis Academy Oldham, lending support to colleagues and students throughout the school.

A team of highly qualified and experienced staff provide specialist support via a range of alternative and complimentary interventions. This provision includes support in the form of 1:1 or group work interventions, including:

- Social Skills teaching
- Life Skills/ASDAN
- Advice to subject specialist staff on teaching and learning strategies
- Emotional regulation techniques
- Quiet supervised areas for unstructured times (before school, break and lunch)
- Homework clubs
- Mentoring and tracking of students
- Close liaison with parents and outside agencies.
- Nurture provision
- Cooking interventions
- Literacy Intervention
- Numeracy Intervention
- Build up programme
- Change maker programme

Staff Training: How are staff at Oasis Academy Oldham helped to work with a student with SEND and what training do they have?

The SENCO's job is to support subject teachers in planning for students with SEND. The SENCO has additional postgraduate qualifications in Autism Spectrum disorders and has the National Award for SENCOs (NASENCO).

Oasis Academy Oldham has an Academy Improvement Plan, including identified training needs for all staff to improve the teaching and learning of students, including those with SEND. This may include whole school training on SEND issues or to support identified groups of learners in school, such as ASD, dyslexia, differentiation, etc.

Individual teachers and support staff attend training courses run by outside agencies which are relevant to the needs of specific students in their class e.g. from), HYM (Mental Health), the Educational Psychology Service and the Hearing-Impaired team.

Professional development takes place on a regular basis. If you would like to hear about the training which is currently taking place for the staff at Oasis Academy Oldham, please speak to the SENCO.

Monitoring student progress

How do we measure the progress of our students and keep parents informed?

- Student progress is continually monitored by the subject teacher.
- Their progress is reviewed formally every term. GCSE grades indicate the students' current and predicted level. End of term reports provide information regarding the student's attendance, classwork, homework and behaviour.
- The progress of students with an EHC Plan is formally reviewed at an annual Person-Centred Planning Meeting with parents and the student present.
- The SENCO will monitor students' progress within any individual or group provisions that they take part in. The SENCO may also use reading age and spelling age tests.
- Parents will also be invited to parent evenings calendared throughout the academic year.

How does the academy let parents know if they have any concerns about their child's learning in school?

When classroom teaching is not meeting the needs of a student, the teacher will raise this with the SENCO who will gather information from all subject teachers across the curriculum. If the student is then identified as not making progress, the school will decide whether to monitor this or set up an intervention group (at this point parents will be informed).

If they are still not making expected progress the following will be discussed with parents and student in a person-centred review: -

- Making sure that we are truly considering the experiences of the person, their family and those supporting them when reviewing how well things are going.
- Creating an environment where people are made to feel comfortable in expressing themselves honestly.
- Developing actions that are based on experiences and learning, leading to an environment where we're constantly improving our support.

Moving a pupil on or off the SEND Register:

The following sources inform a decision to place pupils on the SEND register and movement off the register.

- Information from previous school
- Staff concerns
- Information from the parent/carer
- Specialist teacher /professionals' reports
- Internal Assessments
- Reading and spelling quotients
- Medical reports
- Advice from QEST
- Progress monitoring
- KS2 attainment levels

This includes:

- Assessment data and provision management outcomes which indicate progress.

When pupils have higher levels of need, we refer to specific specialist professional agencies to assess for example, Educational Psychologists (EP), Physical and Sensory support service, or Speech and Language support service.

Differentiation: How will the teaching be adapted for students with learning needs or SEND?

Planning and teaching will be adapted daily if needed to meet the students' learning needs and increase their access to what is on offer. Subject teachers plan lessons according to the specific needs of all groups of students in their class and will ensure that learning tasks are adjusted in order to enable them to access their learning as independently as possible. Specific resources and strategies will also be used to support students individually and in groups.

How the Academy support students when they are new to the academy, moving classes or leaving the academy:

How will the Academy support students with identified special needs starting at the Academy?

- We will first invite parents and students to visit the school to look around and speak to staff.
- If other professionals are involved, an additional meeting will be held to discuss the students' needs; share strategies used; and ensure provision is put in place before they start.
- We will provide key transition information to the student and their family

For students moving to Oasis Academy Oldham from Primary School

The Assistant SENCO will attend the feeder primary schools to discuss the specific needs of all students with additional needs.

- Parents will be invited to visit us on Year 6 Open evening, held in the first term.
- We will arrange additional visits to the Academy for students who need extra support with looking around the building, perhaps at a quieter time. This will be discussed with parents.
- The Academy transition team may visit students in their primary school on several occasions. Where students are 'Looked After' or have an EHC Plan, a member of staff will attend the year 6 Annual Review.
- We will provide student who need additional transition support with a booklet and activities to help them get to know the school and alleviate any anxieties
- All students will be involved on transition days; however, students with additional needs who may struggle with transition will also be invited to additional transition days.

For students moving classes or year groups

- The SENCO will pass information on to the new subject teachers and tutors.
- Student's details and recommended strategies to support them are shared with staff in a secure staff area.
- Staff access the school database to gather appropriate information to aid classroom support.

For students moving into college or 6th Form

- All students will be supported by the Careers service when moving on to college or sixth form. Students with additional needs will have access to additional transition visits.
- All information regarding the students' needs will be passed on to colleges or sixth forms.
- All further education providers will be invited into the academy to speak with the SENCO and other key staff prior to the transition.

For students moving from Oasis Academy Oldham into new schools or colleges or universities

- The Academy can be contacted by the new school for discussions about specific support. Academy staff may also be able to attend the admission meetings at the new school.
- All records on students are passed on to the new school as soon as possible.
- The Academy will provide evidence of additional classroom or exam-based support.

What support does Oasis Academy Oldham have for parents of students with SEND?

The Assistant SENCO or SENCO are available to meet with parents to discuss their child's progress or any concerns / worries they may have.

All information from outside professionals will be shared with parents in person or via a written report. The SENCO will share the results of any new assessments and support strategies suggested by outside agencies with parents. Parents will be notified when new support measures are implemented and are invited to discuss these with the SENCO.

The Academy asks that all parents keep us informed about effective strategies which support their child in the home. This can support the Academy to help the student transfer appropriate effective strategies into the classroom.

How is the academy physically accessible to children with SEND?

The academy ensures that equipment used is accessible to all students regardless of their needs. We undertake a standard accessibility plan which is reviewed annually or whenever a student with specific needs joins the academy.

Adaptions are made to classrooms to ensure that students can participate in all lessons. Adaptions may include height adjustable sinks and workstations. The school is accessible to students with physical disability via ramps and a lift. Please see the Disability Equality Policy/Accessibility Plan on the school website under school policies.

How does the Academy support the emotional wellbeing of students with SEND?

The Academy staff are committed to ensuring emotional support for the wellbeing of students. Those identified as particularly vulnerable are provided with a daily meet and greet, during which mood is assessed and support offered. Support is available via staff from the SEND base or Personal Pathways Provision who may, if appropriate, refer students to Tog MIND and Place 2 Be offering specialist support within school hours. In addition, staff offer interventions for students with social, emotional and mental health difficulties as part of individualised packages of support.

In addition, Head of Years and key SEN staff ensure that issues relating to students' wellbeing are discussed with parents and carers on a regular basis to ensure the best packages of care.

How does the Academy support students with SEND who are vulnerable or feel bullied?

Students with SEND have named key workers who they can go to with any concerns; for example, if they are experiencing exam stress, are worried about bullying from other students or need to discuss how their individual needs affect their day to day lives in school. Students can speak with the Faculty Intervention Lead who supports them in class or with Pastoral Leaders:

Mrs Hinchcliffe
Mrs Sheridan
Ms Rose
Mrs Steenson
Ms Hallam
Mrs Brown

In addition, the SENCo, Ms Obeng is available to talk to in confidence. Students can also ask to speak with their Head of Year about any worries. Students at the academy are encouraged to speak to any member of staff if they are worried or concerned.

As a school, we are aware that students with SEND may be particularly vulnerable to bullying or difficulties with peer relationships and that they may wish to discuss these concerns with parents in the first instance rather than approaching school staff. Parents are encouraged to contact the Year of Year, Pastoral Leaders, Assistant SENCo and/or SENCo to report any issues.

Raising a Concern

How can I let the academy know I am concerned about my child's progress?

If parents have concerns about their child's progress, they should speak to their child's Pastoral Tutor or Head of Year.

If parents are concerned that their child is still not making progress, they should speak to the Assistant SENCO or SENCO.

If parents are still not happy, they can request to meet with the Principal by contacting the Principal's PA on 0161 624 9630. The Principal's PA is also able to help you make a formal complaint in accordance with the Complaints Procedure.

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: My child is having problems with learning. How do I find out what his/her particular difficulties are?

A: We recommend that you discuss the difficulties with the Head of Year in the first instance. Alternatively, you can contact the Assistant SENCO or the SENCO directly.

Q: What tests do you administer on entry in Year 7?

A: Students in Year 7 take the NGRT (New Group Reading Test), No More Marking (creative writing task) and the CEM MIDYIS cognitive test shortly after joining the Academy. This data helps the Academy to identify students who may experience difficulties with a secondary school curriculum. The Assistant SENCO will also administer the WRAT 5 which measures an individual's ability to read words, comprehend sentences, spell, and compute solutions to math problems.

Q: My child is not dyslexic, but has trouble reading and writing. What can the SEN department do?

A: We will provide advice on strategies and resources for each subject teacher to use in the classroom. We will monitor academic progress and assign further support if sufficient progress has not been achieved. The Assistant SENCO is qualified to screen your child for dyslexic traits.

Q: My child has been diagnosed with dyslexia. What can the SEN department provide?

A: A students with mild dyslexia receive support in the class via differentiation from subject teachers. Their progress is monitored and additional strategies/resources may be provided to the subject teachers.

Students with moderate or severe dyslexia will be offered additional literacy support outside of the classroom, such as the Toe by Toe programme. Staff receive guidance from the SENCO via training on the best ways to support students with dyslexia.

Q: My child has an Educational Health and Care Plan. How will the school ensure that s/he gets the support to which s/he is entitled?

A: The school has a responsibility to ensure that your child's needs are met as outlined in the EHC Plan. Support is provided to the student in line with the recommendations of the Statement, as well as any additional advice which is provided from external professionals at the request of school.

Staff receive specific advice and guidance for each student and are expected to deliver differentiated work during lesson times. Reasonable adjustments are made when applying school policies, in particular the behaviour policy.