

# Special School Provision Specifications



## Fairfields School

Trinity Avenue, Northampton, Northamptonshire, NN2 6JN

### Type of Provision

Fairfields is a community day special school for pupils aged 3 years to 11 years. The school caters for a total of 90 pupils.



The school meets the needs of pupils who:

- Have significant or severe or profound learning difficulties.
- Have attainments well below the expected range of their peers with additional difficulties that may include physical difficulties, speech and language delay, low self-esteem, sensory impairment and under developed social skills.
- Have a diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Disorder that requires structured teaching.

### Admission Criteria and Arrangements

- All admissions will be determined by the Local Authority in accordance with the 'SEN and Disability Code of Practice', July 2014 the pupil has an EHC plan
- Consultation with the school will be in accordance with these documents, before the Local Authority makes a decision about placement.

### School Characteristics

The school moved from a model of pupils being grouped according to their need, to more inclusive, mixed ability grouping based upon chronological age. Small classes and high staffing ratios enables Fairfields School to meet the learning needs of their pupils on an individual basis or in a very small group teaching basis. Fairfields provides a balanced curriculum based on clearly defined individual teaching programmes, appropriately targeted group work and carefully planned opportunities for pupils to consolidate and extend their knowledge, skills and understanding. A skills based, thematic curriculum approach is used to promote learning and thinking skills, personal social and emotional skills as well as transferrable English, Maths and ICT skills. The school uses adapted content of the national curriculum as the context within which they teach.

Conductive Education, or Movement Education is a specialism of the school. Movement Education encourages pupils to learn to control their movements and to use these movements to assist daily living skills. The school provides either movement groups or class based programmes based on the principles of Conductive Education. In addition the school runs a 'School for Parents' which enables children from 10 months to 4 years to join them weekly for half a day to work with one of the teacher/conductors and parents to begin to develop their physical skills as early as possible.

Specific approaches and programmes e.g. conductive education, intensive interaction, TEACCH, speech and language programmes are embedded into everyday practice, so that they have a real-life, functional significance.



Classroom environments are organised and presented to communicate clearly to pupils. Structure and routine, visual timetabling, PECs systems and use of British Sign Language are a consistent offer to those pupils who require them.

Specialist facilities at Fairfields include a hydrotherapy pool, a large soft play room, a multi-sensory room and a music room. There is also a library and dedicated movement, PE and ICT facilities. Outside areas include class play areas, a music garden and a covered play area for Foundation Stage pupils.

If a pupil has a medical need then a detailed Health Care Plan is compiled by the school nurse in partnership with parents/carers and if appropriate the pupil themselves. Staff who provide medicine administration complete training that is overseen by the school nurse and follow the LA policy/DfE guidelines included within 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England February 2014.

### **Review**

Role of the school:

Review arrangements for pupils with EHC Plans are set out in the SEN Code of Practice. Fairfield's School will adhere to these, ensuring that due process is followed and that relevant timeframes are adhered to.

Role of the Local Authority:

Northamptonshire Local Authority will review a pupil's EHC Plan in accordance with the SEN Code of Practice. The Local Authority will ensure that due process is followed and that relevant time frames are adhered to.

### **Assessment and Monitoring**

For pupils:

- Continuous assessment and recording of each pupil's achievements enables teachers to monitor pupil progress and identify the next steps in the pupil's learning journey. Pupil attainment is tracked and progress measured at the end of each term.
- In addition to Fairfield's internal assessments, review and monitoring, each pupil has a statutory review of their EHCP. This offers a formal setting for the discussion and review of the progress and provision of the EHC plan.
- Pupils have an ECHP provision sheet detailing objectives and intended outcomes which are reviewed three times a year.

For the school:

- The school is included within the Local Authority's monitoring cycle. A report is written and the school incorporates recommendations within the whole school development plan.
- The school is inspected by OFSTED, and was judged as Outstanding in March 2014.

### **Exit Criteria and Arrangements**

The needs of individual pupils are paramount. If reintegration into mainstream school is appropriate, at whatever age, this will be discussed in full with parents/carers at the Annual Review, and a plan drawn up. If reintegration into mainstream school is not appropriate, pupils usually transfer to secondary special schools at 11+.

### **Staffing Details**

- The staff includes Teachers, Higher Level Teaching Assistants, Cover Supervisors, and Learning Support Assistants; all of whom are highly trained and well supported to meet the needs of the pupils.
- There are appropriate numbers of staff for each group of pupils.
- The Leadership and Management structure comprises of: the Headteacher, the Deputy Headteacher, the Teaching School Manager, the Assistant Headteacher, the School Business Manager and two phase leaders.
- A Home-School liaison worker offers support to parents and carers.
- Office and site staff work hard to support the smooth running of the school.

### **Future Plans**

The school aims to:

- Maintain the current high standards of achievement and attainment.
- Further develop its skills based, thematic curriculum and assessment approaches.
- Develop the learning environment, both indoor and outdoor to facilitate high quality learning.

Fairfields is the lead school of the Fairfield's Teaching School Alliance and prioritises working in a creative way to support learning and inclusion.

**For more information, please visit the school's website:** <http://fairfields.northants.sch.uk>