

Special School Provision Specifications

Northgate School Arts College (Academy Trust)

Queens Park Parade, Kingsthorpe, Northampton, NN2 6LR

Type of Provision

The school is designated to offer 200 places across two sites. The school primarily serves the areas of Northampton,, and South West Northamptonshire.

Northgate provides education for pupils with learning difficulties of a moderate to severe nature. All pupils will have additional needs that may include: Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Physical Disability, Hearing Impairment (HI), or Visual Impairment (VI).

Admission Criteria and Arrangements

- Admission to the provision normally follows completion of a statutory assessment and students will have an Education Health Care Plan.
- The Local Authority determines admission to the provision, considering parental preference and following consultation with the governing body and executive head teacher
- The majority of admissions will take place at the start of the academic year
- Should further admissions be required, these are considered carefully by the Local Authority and the school to ensure the placement would not be incompatible with the efficient education of the other pupils with whom the pupils would be educated or with the efficient use of resources.

School Characteristics

At the Northgate School site the school is organized into year groups and key stages with discreet provision for ASD and SLD pupils in KS3 and KS4. The site has specialist rooms for the delivery of Science, ICT, Food Technology, Design Technology, PE/Sports and Performing Arts.

The school aims to develop all pupils' full potential through access to a broad based curriculum in line with national guidelines with appropriate modification and differentiation. This is achieved through accurate assessment of individual pupil levels and consistent monitoring and recording of progress. The curriculum reflects the individual needs of pupils and incorporates the development of a wide range of life-skills in preparation for adulthood. These include personalized learning programmes, access to vocational skills training and work related learning. There is an emphasis on helping pupils to learn self-respect, confidence and communication skills alongside a sense of responsibility towards others and the environment.

Pupils are actively encouraged to develop individual learning skills and skills for life. In KS4 pupils have access to a range of externally accredited courses including GCSE's, Entry Level qualifications, ASDAN and Functional Skills.

Northgate Post-16 units, The Bee Hive and Sweet Bee, are separate learning environments for young people with learning difficulties with an emphasis on the development of employability skills. The Bee Hive is on a separate site and is a 6th form education provision alongside a community business and operates a café, catering kitchen, retail outlets and well-being centre. Young people have the opportunity to access enterprise and vocational activities alongside real-life work- related learning. AIM Awards and B.Tech courses are some of the methods used to accredit learning between Entry Level 1 and Level 3.

The majority of young people will have transferred from Northgate School but places are available for young people from other schools who have an appropriate EHCP. The unit is unable to make suitable arrangements for those students who require constant medical care/intervention facilities.

The Sweet Bee is an independent shop based in a local shopping area that sells sweets and sweet based gifts. It offers work experience places to young people following the employability pathway and opportunities to develop entrepreneurial skills. The school is part of the Special School consortium of post 16 provision. The post 16 curriculum provides learning packages that are individually tailored to facilitate successful transition to either further education, supported internships, work based training or apprenticeships.

The structure and principles of TEACCH are followed across the whole school for pupils with ASD. This is of particular relevance within the discreet provision.

The school works with a wide range of support services and staff within the school work closely with these professionals.

Review

Role of the school:

Reviews arrangements for pupils with EHC Plans are set out in the relevant SEN Codes of Practice. Northgate School Arts College will adhere to these, ensuring that due process is followed and that relevant time frames are adhered to.

Role of the Local Authority:

Northamptonshire Local Authority will review a pupil's EHC Plan in accordance with the relevant 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 students:

- Accurate and on-going assessment of pupils individual needs and levels of working forms an essential part of the schools recording and reporting process. Detailed records are kept of pupils' learning to indicate progress and inform planning. This is supported by the use of Baseline Assessment tests. Annual reports which outline achievements over the year are collated and distributed in the Summer Term.
- In line with statutory procedures every pupil has an Annual Review of their EHCP. This includes parents/carers, school staff and other professionals. The school works closely with parents/carers, the professional support services and LA to ensure continuity of provision.

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 is currently Outstanding

Exit Criteria and Arrangements

The needs of individual students are paramount. It should not be assumed that all students attending Northgate requiring specialist provision at a particular time will do so permanently. The presumption of mainstreaming is based on the premise that there is benefit to students when their inclusion with their mainstream peers is properly prepared, well supported and takes place in mainstream schools, colleges or academies which demonstrate a positive ethos towards SEN inclusion.

Future Plans

- Build on the partnership with the Teaching Schools Alliance
- Premises development to build capacity on both sites
- Development of the 19 to 24 provision
- Development of additional work based learning opportunities (Sweet Bee – sweet shop)

Staffing Details

The school has experienced specialist staff who deliver a secondary style curriculum. The teaching team includes staff that has both subject expertise and specialist skills in teaching pupils with special educational needs (including specialist ASD)

A team of Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) that includes Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HTLAs) support learning across the school. Cover Supervisors and Specialist support personnel ensure all pupils have the opportunity to access all aspects of school life. A number of LSAs are trained to support and deliver programmes set by external therapists.

For more information, please visit the school's website:

<http://www.northgate.northants.sch.uk>