

SEN Provision Specifications

Malcolm Arnold Academy

Trinity Avenue, Northampton, NN2 6JW

Type of Provision

This is a Resourced Provision providing education, support and facilities for 15 children with a hearing impairment who have a statement/EHC Plan.



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, if the pupil has an EHC plan or in accordance with the 'SEN Code of Practice', November 2001, if the pupil has a statement of SEN. Consultation with the school will be in accordance with these documents, before the Local Authority makes a decision about placement.

Characteristics of the School

Malcolm Arnold Academy was established in September 2010, to broaden the horizons of its students by offering 'a world-class education and outstanding academic and co-curricular opportunities'. The academy aims to provide an innovative curriculum which aims to develop a culture of achievement.

The academy has a capacity of 1200 students in Years 7-11 and a sixth form which is growing to 250 students. Malcolm Arnold Academy is situated in the Abington suburb of Northampton, near the Racecourse public park and University of Northampton's St George's Avenue campus. The academy serves an expansive and diverse local community in the heart of Northampton, with students coming from schools across the town, especially Abington, Kingsthorpe, Dallington, Headlands, Queen's Park, St James and Kingsley Park.

The academy campus has extensive grounds and sports facilities, including floodlit 3G astroturf pitches. The academy has benefited from significant capital investment in developing new facilities for sixth form, art, music, learning resources and a major redevelopment of its atrium space which provides the main social hub for the academy as well as supporting an array of informal teaching and learning outside the classroom. Malcolm Arnold Academy has also invested heavily in ICT, replacing and renewing all classroom and office ICT and developing campus-wide wifi connectivity, delivering state of the art facilities to support the development of teaching and learning across the academy.

Description of the Provision

Malcolm Arnold Academy (MAA) provides 15 places for students with a moderate, severe or profound permanent bilateral hearing loss. It follows a Total Communication approach as defined by the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS).



There is a suite of two rooms. Both rooms are acoustically treated providing an excellent acoustic environment within which individual and group work can be carried out when required.

A British Sign Language Tutor visits the academy on a weekly basis to work with those students whose first language is BSL to support their continuing sign language development. Signing students will be supported to achieve their BSL level 1 and level 2 qualifications grade accredited through Signature, the national body for BSL training and exams. BSL level 1 is equivalent to ½ a GCSE grade, while BSL level 2 is equivalent to a 'B' grade at GCSE.

Arrangements for Including Students in Mainstream

Students attend mainstream classes and are fully included in all aspects of academy life. They will be expected and supported to take a range of GCSE courses during years 10 and 11. For those students who

may find some of their GCSEs challenging alternative assessments such as the Entry Level qualifications will be offered.

Review arrangements

Role of School:

Review arrangements for students with EHC plans and for students with statements of SEN are set out in the relevant SEN Codes of Practice. Malcolm Arnold Academy will adhere to these, ensuring that due process is followed and that relevant timeframes are adhered to.

Role of the Local Authority:

The Local Authority will review a student's EHC plan and statement of SEN in accordance with the relevant SEN Codes of Practice. The Local Authority will ensure that due process is followed and that relevant timeframes are adhered to.

Monitoring and Evaluation

For students:

Students all have a permanent hearing loss and have been issued with a Statement of Educational Need/Education or Education Health Care Plan. These are reviewed with the students and parents on a termly basis, as well as a formal Annual Review. Any alterations to provision are made as soon as possible.

For the provision:

The performance of the specialist provision is monitored annually by a representative from NCC School Effectiveness team and as part of any of the Academy's Ofsted inspection.

Exit Arrangements

Should it be decided at an Annual Review process that a student with a hearing impairment no longer requires support, they can continue at the Academy or apply to another school.

Future Development of the Provision

Any planned changes will be the outcome of discussions with the Local Authority, according to the numbers of children with a hearing impairment and the needs of those children and this will be linked to the Academy development and improvement planning.

Staffing Details

The SEN Unit is managed by a qualified Teacher of the Deaf, working alongside a team of Communication Support Workers (CSWs) and Teaching Assistants (TAs). Communication Support Workers are qualified to a minimum of level 2 working towards level 3 or higher in British Sign Language (BSL). All members of the team are trained in deaf awareness. Where students have Speech and Language Therapy identified on their statement, advice from the appropriate therapist will be sought.

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

www.malcolmarnoldacademy.co.uk