

Hazel Court School

Local Offer



Name and contact details of person submitting this offer:

Sophie Gurney Headteacher

From the parent carer's point of view:

1. How does the school know if learner/young people need extra help and what should I do if I think my child/young person may have special educational needs?

Hazel Court School is on two sites and caters for secondary and further education (FE) age learners (age 11 – 19) with a range of special educational needs (SEN) including severe learning difficulties (SLD), moderate learning difficulties (MLD), autistic spectrum disorder (ASD), profound learning difficulties (PLD) and complex needs.

All learners who attend Hazel Court School will have either a Statement of Special Educational Need or one of the new Education, Health and Care Plans. A baseline assessment is carried out for all new learners to the school. Learners transfer to Hazel Court from primary school, mainly from The South Downs Special School, but some admissions may come from mainstream schools. The learners have a full transition programme and staff liaise across the schools during Year 6.

2. How will early years school staff support my child/young person?

The school groups the learner according to their needs. Currently the school is set up as follows - six class groups at the secondary department which includes two specialist PLD and one specialist ASD group and five class groups at the FE department which includes one specialist PLD group and one specialist ASD group. Each class group has a staff team, comprising of a teacher and two or more teaching assistants.

The Governing Body has representatives from many different sectors and fully includes parent governors. The Governing Body is divided into sub-committees to look at various aspects of the running of the school.

Parents are invited to an open morning in the summer term where information about the school is relayed and a new pupil pack given to each family.

3. How will the curriculum be matched to my child's/young person's needs?

Learning is key to everything that happens at Hazel Court. We offer an individual approach to teaching and recording/analysis of attainment and progress. The school has the long term goals for each child very much in mind e.g. independence and communication being key to successful adult engagement.

Hazel Court works very closely in partnership with parents and carers in setting targets that are specific for the individual's needs and circumstances, with small step teaching across the school.

Topic work adds breadth, and enrichment activities support all of the learning.

4. How will both you and I know how my child/young person is doing and how will you help me to support my child's/young person's learning?

All learners are assessed using B-Squared and APP (Assessing Pupil Progress) and other measures as necessary. Progress is clearly tracked and monitored three times a year. Each learner has a home/school diary or record sheet for daily contact.

Parents are encouraged to be involved in the setting of their child's individual learning outcomes in conjunction with the class team and therapy team. Targets are set three times a year and when they are finalised these are sent home to be signed by the parents/carers.

Parents/carers are encouraged to work with the school on behaviour programmes and the school will, as necessary, provide advice and support for methods to use at home.

5. What support will there be for my child's/young person's overall well being?

Hazel Court is a safe environment and must comply with the East Sussex Local Safeguarding Board guidance for safeguarding Hazel Court pupils and students

The school is a total communication environment

We use 'Pupil Voice' and have a pupil/student charter that promotes the ethos and culture of the school.

6. What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

Hazel Court works in a multidisciplinary way involving all therapists in the CITS (Childrens Integrated Therapy Service) team to work alongside the class teams.

We also employ our own SALTAs (Speech and Language Therapy Assistants) to enhance the work on communication throughout the school. Hazel Court is co-located with both The Causeway School and Sussex Downs College further education department and this provides opportunities for the learners to access other facilities and educational opportunities.

7. What training are the staff supporting learners and young people with SEND had or are having?

Hazel Court provides a rolling programme of training for all staff on statutory requirements such as safeguarding and behaviour management. Staff will also receive training suitable to the individual needs of the young people they work with.

8. How will my child/young person be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

Educational visits are an important part of the curriculum and the school has four minibuses used to enable learners to get out into the community. Key Stage 4 learners and FE leavers have the opportunity to experience residential visits in the summer term.

9. How accessible is the school environment?

Hazel Court is a purpose built school for young people with severe learning difficulties and complex needs, and the building is fully wheelchair accessible. Advice is sought from the Sensory Needs Advisory Service to ensure the school environment meets the needs of those with visual or auditory impairments.

The school works closely with the CITS (Childrens Integrated Therapy Service) to provide a range of therapies and advice on specialist equipment for individuals, for which money is allocated from the school budget.

10. How will the school prepare and support my child/young person to join the school, transfer to a new school or the next stage of education and life?

The school provides a full transition programme both when joining the school, moving between the school phases and to post school provision. The SALTAs have the role of co-ordinating transition across the school.

11. How are the school's resources allocated and matched to learner's/young people's special educational needs?

Pupil Premium funding and student bursary funding are allocated according to individual needs. Each child is considered individually for resources such as staffing and specialist equipment.

12. How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child/young person will receive?

The school looks at the individual needs of each child and allocates support accordingly. This is reviewed at regular intervals and in consultation with parents and carers. The impact of support is continually monitored by class teams and reviewed on the 3 x pupil progress meetings.

13. How are parents involved in the school? How can I be involved?

Parents and carers are fully involved in all aspects of their child's education. There is an open school policy and parents/carers are able to come into school or phone to speak to a staff member. Communication is on a daily basis through home-school diaries/record sheets, phone calls and e-mail.

The school holds two formal parent/carer consultations each academic year in addition to other professional meetings held as necessary, and each learner has a formal annual review around the date of their birthday.

The school has a weekly newsletter with news and relevant information/dates and a website for families to access.

14. Who can I contact for further information?

The child's teacher or member of the teaching team would be the first point of contact for parents and carers. The senior leadership team and governors are also available at all times. Each learner is allocated a SEN caseworker at East Sussex County Council who can also be contacted if there are concerns.

The CITS (Childrens Integrated Therapy Service) provide a service within the school and as necessary, individuals can be referred to the Family Intensive Support Services and Child and Adult Mental Health Service or for educational psychology input, sensory needs input etc.

This offer is accurate now, but services are regularly reviewed and could change. All information will be updated as soon as possible to reflect any new service offer.

'This service offer is intended to give you clear, accurate and accessible information.

If you would like to comment on the content of the offer or make suggestions to improve the information, please email localoffer@eastsussex.gov.uk'