Oaklands School

Information for the Cheshire West and Chester Local Offer

The Ethos at Oaklands School is *"The best for all, the best from all"*

Our Mission Statement is,
We believe in making a lasting difference, by giving students the tools to meet the challenges of the future.

The Oaklands values that underpin our ethos and mission statement are:

- *Developing emotionally healthy minds*
- *Providing pathways to success*
- *Supporting pupils to become confident and resilient young adults*

What should I do if I think my child has additional needs?	All pupils who attend Oaklands School have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The EHCP helps identify which school a child will attend and identifies the support needed and outcomes required to show improvement. Oaklands is a special school for pupils from 11 to 17 years of age with complex moderate learning difficulties. The caring environment provided by the excellent and supportive staff enables pupils to achieve their potential and experience many enriching and positive experiences. Information and guidance around supporting pupils with SEND in Cheshire West and Chester can be found at https://livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk/Categories/3948

	Support for families and children in Cheshire East can be found at https://www.cheshireeast.gov.uk/livewell/local-offer-for-children-with-sen-and-disabilities/local-offer-for-children-with-sen-and-disabilities.aspx
How will the school support my child?	The school undertakes a detailed staff training programme to ensure the best support is provided for your child. Each class has a high staff-to-pupil ratio that creates the appropriate climate for learning. The curriculum delivered is broad and balanced, meeting the needs of our learners, providing the appropriate challenge. Teachers and non-teaching staff meet daily to ensure each child's needs are being addressed and all issues are communicated with parents/carers. We have a Designated Safeguarding Lead who ensures pupil welfare and well-being is central to the school's ethos. If your child's progress does not make the expected and required level, either academically or socially, individual intervention will be implemented to provide the support that is needed. If at any point you feel your child is struggling and their intervention plan needs modification we then urge you to contact your child's form tutor who will be happy to assist you. Alternatively, take advantage of our open-door policy and we will ensure a member of staff is available to help. All pupils are supported through the expectations and requirements set out in their EHCP. Your child will have the opportunity to access additional support as required to help with any social or emotional wellbeing issues. The Senior Leadership Team and Governing Body work very closely together and conduct regular learning walks, and ensure policies and procedures are effectively implemented to oversee progress and attainment.
How will the curriculum be matched to my child's young person's needs?	Our curriculum is based on the National Curriculum and externally accredited pathways and includes all the mainstream subject areas. The curriculum is appropriately broad and balanced to meet the needs of the pupils. Great care is taken to ensure that your child will feel confident, comfortable and safe within our environment. This is achieved through

	reward assemblies, the nurturing pastoral system, and the positive behaviour support system. Oaklands delivers an excellent Personal, Social and Health Education Programme. The pupils have many opportunities to develop their social skills through a vast variety of school-based and off-site activities. Examples include contributing to community charities, competing in sports competitions, and attending outdoor education residentials.
How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?	We recognise and fully appreciate the contribution that parents and carers make towards their child's education. We communicate regularly with parents/carers each day to foster the best possible relationships and to keep you informed of how your child is progressing in school. Communication with parents/carers varies from us sending interim and yearly academic reports, text messages, phone calls, coffee mornings, newsletters, communicating in the home-school diary to holding meetings as required. The school is committed to ensuring we have an open door policy and will endeavor to be available to parents/carers to fully support whenever possible.
What support will there be for my child's/young person's overall well-being?	Your child's safety and emotional well-being is the school's priority. Oaklands operates a child-centered approach where the aim is for each child to obtain the necessary skills and attributes to be successful in life. We pride ourselves on how we promote children's well-being and ensure that staff training and development is centered on improving emotional health. Staff training includes child protection training, first aid training, equality and diversity, and staff and pupil well-being.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by Oaklands?	Oaklands endeavors to meet the specific needs of each child. Staff are highly skilled to support pupils' social, emotional and mental health needs. The school works closely with other agencies and the specialist services the school accesses include: • Pupil Attendance and Education Welfare Officer • Educational Psychologist • School Health (who will signpost to other agencies when asked e.g. ADHD) • CAMHS • Police • Counseling • Speech and Language Therapy • School Family Support • Children's Services • Young Carers
What training are the staff at Oaklands receiving?	Staff at Oaklands are specialists in teaching children with Complex Moderate Learning Difficulties. A detailed training programme is implemented each year to address the specific requirements of the present cohort. Recent training has included safeguarding, attachment training, restorative practice, speech and language support, literacy interventions, the use of assistive technology, and improving teaching and learning.
How will my child/young person be included in activities outside this classroom including school trips?	Oaklands takes pride in the activities it offers to pupils outside of the classroom. A vast variety of experiences and opportunities are offered to students including: extra-curricular choir and sporting events, trips to local museums and other facilities to enhance learning, outdoor education visits and residential trips. The PSHE programme includes visits to support local charities along with theatre groups and motivational speakers coming into school.

How accessible is the setting/school/college environment?	All learning environments are fully accessible to all people and include wheelchair access and accessible toilets. Secure parking is available on a fully safeguarded site. All activities on site are risk assessed based on your child's individual needs. Risk assessments and individual support plans are in place for individuals as required, to ensure that equality is provided and all pupils and staff access the full curriculum.
How will the setting/school/college prepare and support my child/young person to join the setting/school/college or the next stage of education and life	We operate an Open Morning process for prospective parents/carers which is delivered on a half-termly basis. Before admission, your child will visit the school to meet key staff and your child will participate in transition days. The school operates an induction programme for all students where we will gain a thorough understanding of their ability in all aspects of education. Regular contact will be made with home during this time and we will work hard to ensure the induction into Oaklands is one where each student is happy and is aware of the expectations required to be successful.
How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child/young person will receive?	Any decisions about pupils are taken in full consultation with parents and carers and any other relevant agencies. All aspects of your child's Education, Health and Care Plan will be reviewed annually where you will receive a copy of the review plan two weeks before the formal meeting and your opinions and those of other interested agencies will be pivotal in any discussions and decisions about your child's future. Regular scrutiny of pupil data including attendance, progress and behaviour inform decisions about your child's performance and placement. This enables informed decisions to be made.
How are parents involved in the setting/school/college? How can I be involved?	If at any point you have any queries regarding your child's education then do not hesitate to contact the school. We always encourage our parents/carers to contribute to their child's education through attending transition meetings, annual reviews, and parents/carers afternoons and coffee mornings, and other meetings as required.

Who can I contact for further information?	The school's Prospectus provides further information about the School which can be found along with additional information on the school website www.oaklandsschool.org.uk. In addition to this please do not hesitate to contact the school where staff will be willing to answer any questions or queries you may have.