

The Palmer Catholic Academy SEN Report

Our vision and how we hope to achieve it

We are an inclusive academy. We want to identify and break down possible barriers to learning. The aim is for all students to achieve their potential both socially and educationally.

Type of academy we are

The Palmer Catholic Academy is a voluntary aided co-educational Academy for students aged 11-18

Our Ofsted rating

The school was judged to be good following the visit from Ofsted on February 28, 2017.

How we give students/young people a voice

- School Council
- Students views recorded for annual reviews independently or with support
- Students create power points to present at annual reviews
- Students attend and contribute to annual reviews
- Students attend and contribute to parent consultation evenings
- Students attend and contribute to progress review days

How we know if a child/young person has special educational needs

- Year 6 transition including data and conversations with Primary School teachers.
- Early testing in Year 7 this includes standardised assessments and base line testing
- Classroom observations
- Referrals from subject teachers
- Data is used to inform planning for appropriate interventions
- Parents are encouraged to contact the academy as soon as they have any concerns regarding their child's progress or the support in place to meet their Special Educational Needs. A meeting will be set up with the relevant member of staff.

What we do to help children/young people with special educational needs

- Provision for students with SEN; includes in-class support, one to one provision, small group teaching as well as specialised in-put where needed (e.g. Speech therapy; social skills).
- Students with high level of need will have a personalised curriculum where necessary to help develop key skills. At KS4 this may include off site alternative provision.
- The academy offers alternative qualifications in English and Maths for some students to ensure all students achieve a recognised qualification at KS4
- ASDAN is also offered as an alternative option
- At KS4 the SEN department offers a non-examined option to support the core subjects and other chosen options as well as an opportunity to continue to develop literacy skills.
- The SENCO oversees education programmes within the department.

- The Annual Review for children on EHC plans is a means of evaluating provision for these children. In addition, data analysis, lesson observation and exam performance analysis are all means of measuring the effectiveness of what we do and student progress
- Adjustments are made where possible to meet the needs of students with hearing /visual impairment. These include use of ICT, seating plans that take into account individual need and the use of supplementary resource's
- Students with difficulties with walking will have a timetable that is confined to ground or first floor or in classrooms that can be accessed by a lift.

How we adapt our teaching for children/young people with special educational needs

- There is an expectation that all teaching staff across the academy differentiate for individual students. The Learning Support department provides advice and information to support this process.
- Personalised and small group provision offer appropriate provision for children with special educational needs.
- Subject specific HLTA's and LSA's work collaboratively with subject teachers to develop resources to support students with SEN.

How we decide what resources we can give to a child/young person with special educational needs

- Students individual needs are assessed and appropriate support put in place. This will be based on identified need.
- Students with EHC plans will be supported as outlined in their plan and reviewed annually
- If a child is identified as needing SEN additional support, parents are informed

How we check that a child/young person is making progress and how we keep parents informed

- The progress of students with identified SEN is monitored by subject teachers within their lesson
- Liaison between subject teachers and learning support staff contribute to this process
- The academy has a schedule of assessment to monitor the progress of all students. There are six occasions over the academy year when data is collected. The academic progress of students with identified need will be checked at these times. The SENCO has an overview of this progress.
- The SENCO attends all parent consultation meetings
- Parents are invited to attend or can request additional meetings outside of the above if there are any concerns.

Support we offer for children's/young people's health and general wellbeing

- Pastoral teams provide on-going support and guidance for all children across the academy.
- All Heads of Year work closely with the SENCO to identify needs and refer on if appropriate.

- The academy has a dedicated team of Learning Mentors who work with the pastoral staff and the learning support department to provide a range of support in groups and for individual students
- The academy is able to refer to a counsellor from Brentwood Catholic Children's Society who comes in to the academy every week.
- Medical care plans are in place for children who require them. These are reviewed annually with the school nurse.
- There is a school behaviour policy which outlines systems and procedures to encourage, recognise and celebrate positive behaviour.
- The Student Council provides opportunities for student voice.
- Senior staff meet on a regular basis to review the needs of students who have been identified as "vulnerable students"

Specialist external services we use when we think extra help is needed

- Speech and language therapy.
- Educational psychology service.
- Physiotherapy and occupational therapy services.
- Child and Mental Health Service
- Outreach teachers from Local Special Schools
- Educational Welfare Office

The training our staff have had or are getting

- Autism awareness training - to be revisited
- Training led by speech and language therapist for Learning Support Staff to continue.
- Training led by the School Educational psychologist – to be revisited
- Whole staff training on implications of the new code of practice.
- Whole School INSET on delivering "Quality First Teaching"
- Further training planned on developing understanding and awareness of meeting SEN in classrooms

How we include children/young people in activities and school trips

All reasonable adjustments are made to enable any student at the academy to go on educational trips including off site and residential courses. This includes providing:

- 1:1 support when needed
- Using accessible transport
- Providing advice to departments across the academy in drawing up risk assessments.
- Close communication with parents when required to ensure their children can take part safely in all activities.
- Regular homework support.
- Social activities at breaks and lunchtime

Our academy environment

The Palmer Catholic Academy is an attractive safe environment. It is based on one site and is made up of several individual buildings. There is lift access in one building. There is a disabled toilet for students in one building.

How we prepare for children/young people joining and leaving our academy

For children transferring to The Palmer Catholic Academy from Year 6 we offer the following:

- The Palmer Catholic Academy staff visit primary schools both to collect information and meet the children.
- Participate in taster activities and get to know each other on a whole day visit during the summer term.
- A variety of joint activities between teachers and students at The Palmer Catholic Academy and feeder primary schools.
- Additional visits to The Palmer Catholic Academy during the summer term when needed
- All children on EHC plans are allocated meetings with the careers advisor.
- The allocated specialist SEN teachers work closely with children and families to help them make choices beyond Year 11.

How parents are involved in academy life

As previously outlined, parents are consulted and kept informed on all aspects of their child's school experience. When necessary, interpreters are available for meetings with parents.

Who to contact for more information or to discuss a concern

Parents can contact the following staff with any concerns they may have.

- Head of year.
- SENCO.

The SENCO at The Palmer Catholic Academy is Mrs Taneisha Pascoe-Matthews. Parents of students with SEN are welcome to contact her if they are considering a placement at The Palmer Catholic Academy for their child.

Our offer to children with special educational needs and disabilities was prepared in July 2016. This can be accessed on the Redbridge Education web site.