



1. INTRODUCTION

Eagle House School (Mitcham) is an independent day school, which provides an appropriate education for primary-aged pupils who hold a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health & Care plan for an autism spectrum disorder and associated social and communication difficulties. This will include children and young people with moderate or severe learning difficulties.

We believe that our pupils have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty, which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

Pupils have a learning difficulty if they:

- have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age
- have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for pupils of the same age in schools within the area of the Local Authority

Special educational provision is:

“for pupils who require educational provision which is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision made generally for pupils of their age in schools maintained by the Local Authority, other than special schools, in the area.” (Education Act 1996)

2. OUR AIMS

We aim to provide pupils who have Special Educational Needs with a broad and balanced curriculum with regular access to all subjects and areas of learning, taking into consideration their significant difficulties relating to their autism and paying attention to teaching autism-specific skills to support all-round educational growth and development.

We aim to ensure that teachers and learning support assistants are prepared for dealing with the challenges and complex difficulties posed by pupils with Special Educational Needs by providing structured training on a variety of issues relating to the specific needs of the pupils at this school. We believe teachers are responsible for the pupils' learning and that learning support assistants will be used effectively to provide the necessary support for our pupils.

The Curriculum Access Team (CA Team) will offer their expertise and knowledge in order to support and reinforce the pupils' learning by providing the necessary and appropriate programmes and resources, working closely and in conjunction with the teaching staff.

It is our aim to:

- welcome pupils into the school and meet their needs in a positive and accepting manner
- identify and assess the specific needs of the pupils, by means of baseline assessment as early as possible within the first half term, ensuring there is careful monitoring and assessment of pupils throughout their schooling

- develop the existing skills of the staff in the identification of, assessment of, and provision for the pupils and to provide training, support and shared good practice as appropriate
- provide access to a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum, appropriate for meeting the various needs of the pupils
- encourage the parents/carers and pupils to participate in and support the process
- ensure that support agencies are used effectively and appropriately to help identify needs and plan programmes of work
- encourage confidence and raise self-esteem by providing a caring and well organised whole-school environment
- ensure appropriate progress is made by pupils according to their individual potential.

We will achieve these objectives by:

- making available on request our Local Offer
- providing an effective autism-specific learning environment, with suitable strategies to enhance motivation, attention and concentration
- planning suitably differentiated lessons
- adopting a range of appropriate teaching and learning styles, including building on strengths with the use of visual and autism-specific approaches
- planning and reviewing Individual Education Plans, at least termly, ensuring that parents/carers and pupils (as appropriate) know what targets have been set
- using positive reinforcement to encourage pupils' achievements, no matter how small, as well as frequent celebrations of success, giving equal status to physical/cognitive/emotional achievements thereby enabling all children and young people to feel valued for their efforts
- ensuring appropriate and varied resources are available to assist in skill acquisition
- having multi-disciplinary input in place (Teachers, Learning Support Assistants, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Psychologists and Music Therapists)
- ensuring we have high expectations of pupils, set suitable and challenging targets, and monitor progress carefully against P Scales, National Curriculum levels (or an equivalent) and other reliable and valid assessment systems
- regular and open liaison with parents/carers and other external professionals
- providing an autism-specific curriculum that takes into account the pupils' need for explicit tuition of their emotional, mental and social development, independence and life skills.

3. ADMISSION, ASSESSMENT AND REVIEW

Eagle House School (Mitcham) is a specialist provision and as a result, each pupil's special educational needs will have been identified before arrival. All pupils at Eagle House School hold a statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan.

All pupils will be assessed as part of the Admissions process (see Admissions Policy) and a full baseline assessment will be undertaken within the first 6 weeks post-admission.

IEP's are written by the Teacher and members of the CA Team and shared with parents/carers and the pupil (where appropriate).

In line with legislation, all pupils have an annual review and interim reviews are held where there are concerns that need to be addressed outside of the annual review process. Regular meetings are encouraged with parents/carers to discuss the pupil's progress.

4. TRANSITION TO THE NEXT SCHOOL

Particular guidance and care is taken to ensure pupils are properly and adequately prepared for their move to another school, e.g. at Year 6/7 transition, taking into account their individual needs. The multi-disciplinary team ensures information is presented to each individual pupil in a way they understand, and that this information is created with the parents/carers and the pupil, and shared with the home or other involved parties as necessary. Appropriate information on the pupil is shared with the receiving school to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

5. POLICY REVIEW

It is the responsibility of the Head of Education supported by the other members of the school's Senior Leadership Team to monitor this policy. It should be reviewed annually or when new legislation is published. The Head of Education reports on Eagle House School (Mitcham) matters to the Executive Principal and in turn to the CEO/Directors.

6. RELATED POLICIES AND DOCUMENTATION

- ❖ Planning, Assessment, Recording and Reporting Policy
- ❖ Admissions Policy and Procedure

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