

SEND Woodham Local Offer



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

The Government has asked all local authorities in the UK to publish, in one place, information about the services and provision they expect to be available in their area for children and young people from 0-25 who have special educational needs and/or a disability.

This is known as the Local Offer. Further information on the Local Offer can be found on the Durham FIS website.

Further information on special educational needs at Woodham Academy can be found on our website or you can contact Sarah McGinney (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) on 01325 300328.

School Admissions

At Woodham Academy we are committed to ensuring that all students will receive a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum that meets the needs of all of its students and prepares them for a future in a diverse society.

Woodham Academy is an inclusive school and a student's special education needs will not prevent him/her from being offered a place and integrated into the school unless:-

- The content, structure and delivery of the curriculum are such that the student would be unable to fulfil a major part of it without undermining the efficient education of other students.
- The school would be unable to provide suitably trained staff or facilities to allow the requirements of the National Curriculum to be met.

The Curriculum

The curriculum is reviewed annually to ensure that it is appropriate, relevant and in line with national and local learning entitlement. Students are taught in pathways which are determined by prior attainment and baseline testing. In Key Stage 3, students, who are identified as having social and emotional needs, are taught in smaller supported groups for the majority of their lessons.

Support for students with SEN: provided by the learning support team who work in partnership with subject specialist, learning support teachers and outside agencies.

Our aim is to maximise all students' potential and remove all barriers to their learning.

Progress of all students is tracked and assessed regularly. Appropriate intervention is put in place following a review of their termly assessments.

To support the diverse range of needs of our students, Woodham Academy adopts a variety of teaching and learning techniques. At times, and when it is felt appropriate, modifications to the curriculum may be implemented. This allows for a more personalised learning approach.

Provision for Students' Learning Needs

To successfully match students' ability Woodham Academy adopts the following approach:

- The mainstream curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of a wide range of ability
- There is support in the classroom from the learning support team when appropriate
- All students are taught in curriculum pathways where work is differentiated to suit students' needs
- There is close monitoring of student progress
- Positive partnerships with parents are sought and reinforced at every opportunity
- Liaison with outside agencies is crucial for effective support of students with SEN and SENCO will maintain responsibility for ensuring that outside agency support is engaged where appropriate
- There is appropriate use of rewards and sanctions
- There is a broad range of extra-curricular activities including homework club, one-to-one, booster and extension sessions
- Special examination arrangements where appropriate so that students with SEN are not disadvantaged

Provision for Students' Physical Needs

All areas of the building are accessible to wheelchair users. Lifts are installed and students have access to keys for the lift. Disabled toilets, shower and changing facilities are situated around the school.

The learning support team has the appropriate skills to support students' needs.

The SENCO ensures that the team has access to appropriate training, advice and support from other professionals where appropriate.

The whole staff are aware of the needs of students with disabilities and of ways of offering help but allowing independence. Care is taken not to make allowances for students where none is required.

Identification of Students with SEN

- If any member of staff believes that a student has SEN that have not yet been identified, they refer to the SENCO as soon as possible. The SENCO will then review the needs of the student and allocate support as appropriate.
- A special educational need can be a number of different things. It can be a learning need, an emotional or social need, a behavioural need or a disability. For some students this may be a temporary difficulty while others may have a long term need for help.

At Woodham Academy we consult with a range of agencies and partnerships to ensure that the learning, pastoral, social and medical needs of SEND students are met.

Additional Help

Please contact the school to arrange an appointment with Mrs McGinnety (SENCO) if you have any queries or concerns about your child's educational needs.

Transition

Woodham Academy works very closely local feeder primary schools to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary education. The SENCO may be invited to annual reviews of students in Year 5 and Year 6 who have a statement of special educational needs or an EHC plan depending on the level of their needs. There are additional visits to Woodham Academy for those students we feel would benefit. We have a transition worker who works very closely with the feeder primary schools from February until July primarily with students who have additional needs. She then moves with them in September to ensure a smooth transition. We have found this invaluable and eases any worries students or parents may have about transfer from primary to secondary.

We run a summer school programme for students we feel would benefit from some extra time to get to know the school and some staff before starting in September. These students are identified in consultation with parents, primary staff and the transition worker.

Agencies and Partnerships

Woodham Academy works closely with the following professionals to provide the highest level of support for students with SEND:

- Durham Educational Psychology Team
- School Nurse
- Behaviour Support Services
- Tree Tops Occupational Therapy Service
- Educational Social Workers
- Social Workers
- Looked after Children Team
- Local Authority Special Education Needs Inclusion Team
- One-point Hub
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Health Services)
- 4 Real Drug and Alcohol Team
- Durham Autistic Spectrum Team
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Hearing Impaired Service
- Visually Impaired Service

Complaints Procedure

The education of our students is very important to us and we are always striving to improve upon our provision. As such we welcome views from stakeholders. We regularly collect feedback from parents, from surveys and questionnaires and endeavour to implement changes where appropriate. We are always open to comment, questions, criticism and hopefully, compliments.

Any complaints will be dealt with as quickly and efficiently as possible. Most concerns are dealt with in meetings and discussions with parents. If it becomes a formal complaint, further information can be found in our school complaints policy on the school website.

Post-16 Transition

Woodham Academy ensures that all students including those with SEND are well prepared for life after Woodham. We work closely with One-point advisers who meet with parents and students in Year 10 and Year 11, guiding and supporting families through the transition to post-16 education, training or employment. We liaise closely with post-16 providers to make transition as smooth as possible.

In Year 11 students are placed with tutors who know and understand their unique needs. Year 11 can be a stressful time for students and tutors and the Student Support Team work closely together with outside agencies to minimise stress and maximise potential.

Contact Information

If you could like to talk to the SENCO about provision for SEND of Woodham Academy or about any concerns you have please contact Sarah McGinnety on 01325 300328 or e-mail info@woodham.org.uk