

Durants School SEN Information Report Summer 2017

School Information:

Durants School
4 Pitfield Way
Enfield
EN3 5BY

Headteacher: Peter De Rosa

Overview of the School

Durants is a secondary school for young people from 11-19 who have autism. We have 100 places currently but we are looking to expand due to the increasing numbers of younger pupils with autism in the borough. The school is accredited by the National Autistic Society.

We follow the national curriculum and aim to make it relevant and accessible to our students. Pupils are supported to achieve well with their academic studies whilst at the same time helped to develop those life and independence skills that will be essential for them to live as independently as possible as adults.

School Organisation and Curriculum

Durants is organised into 3 departments; Lower, Middle and Upper. Each department has 3 or 4 class with a teacher and 3-4 teaching assistants. There are 5-10 pupils per class. Pupils are organised into classes with students with similar needs to themselves. For some pupils the curriculum will be more sensory based whilst for others a more academic approach will be used. Whilst pupils follow the national curriculum accredited national courses such as ASDAN and AQA are taught so that our pupils can gain nationally recognised accreditation for their achievements.

As pupils move through the school the emphasis on personal, life and work skills increases to ensure that we are preparing our students as well as possible for their lives after school. Work experience is arranged as appropriate and our own charity shop provides extensive work experience for pupils.

Durants also runs a satellite provision at Winchmore School. This has places and is for those students with autism who would benefit from being in a mainstream school with appropriate access to mainstream curriculum and facilities. There are currently 16 students in this provision

Teaching at Durants

At Durants we ensure that our staff are trained to use autism specific teaching strategies to support the learning of all our students. The strategies used include:

- TEACCH
- PECS
- Makaton

Additional Support for Pupils

Durants uses a multi professional approach for our pupils. As well as teachers and teaching assistants we have a number of other professional supporting us to deliver the best possible provision for our students. This includes:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Music Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Drama and Dance Therapy
- Psychiatry
- Educational Psychology
- Nursing
- Paediatrician
- Social Care

Dealing with Concerns

Occasionally a parent or carer may have a concern which they would like to address. At Durants we always want to deal with these as soon as they arise. Of course all situations are different. However, as a general rule parents should contact their child's class teacher in the first instance. If the situation cannot be resolved or is of more serious nature then parents should contact either the Headteacher or Deputy Headteacher to discuss their concerns. In the event that a parent still feels that their concerns have not been properly addressed then a letter should be written to the Chair of Governors who will deal with the complaint.

Involving Parents and Carers

At Durants we are so aware of the crucial partnership between home and school that we have our own family support worker. Their job is to liaise with all parents dealing with problems and generally supporting parents with any issues they may need support with.

All families will have a starting school meeting before pupils start with us. Initial reviews will be held within six weeks to discuss Individual Education Plan targets. Parents will also be invited to open evenings in the autumn and summer terms. This is in addition to the annual review at which a pupil's progress will be discussed and their Education Health and Care plan will be reviewed.

As well as these more formal meetings all pupils have a home/school book which can be used for messages and passing on information. Parents are also welcome to contact us by phone at any time although outside lesson times are best.

Measuring Pupil Progress

At Durants we keep parents informed about their child's progress. The progress for all our pupils is recorded on B-squared which enables teachers to record pupil's progress against the p-scales as well as the National Curriculum. This information is updated twice a year and is reported to parents via CASPA, a nationally recognised system, which shows how a pupil has done since they joined the school. This allows parents to see how well pupils are doing in each subject area both in a school year as well as over time. This information will be reported annually at the annual review.

As well as using the p-levels all our pupils are monitored twice per year via Multi Agency Meetings. All professional working at Durants attend these meetings. All pupils are discussed and where there may be concerns extra support and input is targeted to support pupils who have been identified as requiring additional support.

After School and Holiday Activities

Durants facilitates a range of after school activities, some of which are part funded from our Pupil Premium funding. These clubs include:

- Dance Club
- Trampoline Club

The school does not provide holiday activities but the school is used by Local Authority accredited providers who offer holiday activities which parents can opt into through the personal budget system. These include 404 and Playtedz

Transitions

Before starting at Durants we will attend a prospective pupil's final annual review at their feeder school. The Family Support Worker and Head of Department will then visit parents at home prior to starting to complete a starting school booklet. All pupils will attend transition sessions at Durants to prepare them for starting with us. Parents will also be invited to attend an initial review within the first half term after starting.

We understand that leaving Durants to go to college or into adult services can be worrying for both parents and students. To support this lots of information events are held at Durants as well as across the Local Authority to inform parents about what services are available. To ensure a smooth transition our pupils are supported in their last year at school to visit where they will be going to prepare and familiarise themselves with their new placement.

Support and Training for Parents

Durants has full-time Family Support Adviser whose role is to liaise with and support all our families. They can support you with advice and information on practical subjects as well as supporting families with emotional support too. The FSW will arrange coffee mornings and workshops for parents in addition to running a siblings group to support the brothers and sisters of the young people at Durants.

Peter De Rosa
Headteacher
Summer 2017