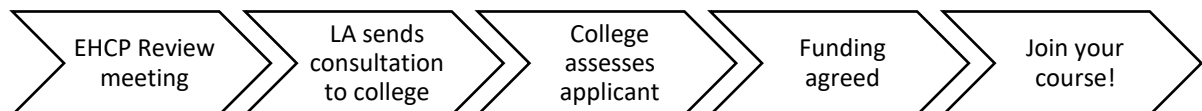




## **Supported Learning – Learning Difficulties department**

### **Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Brief overview of the department:  
Supported Learning department consists of 2 departments; Learning Difficulties department and Mental Health department (Community Link – Adult provision and CourseLINK -provision for 16-19-year-olds).
2. How many students are there in the LDD department?  
We have around 190 on 25 programmes within 2 sub-provisions; Complex Needs (including Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties - PMLD) and Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)
3. How can we apply for a place at the Centre?



4. How many students do you offer places to every year? How do you prioritize offering places?

Numbers differ every year but we have between 45-70 leavers every year. The sooner a consultation is received the sooner we will be able to respond. We have to assess and look at each student's needs. In some cases, despite receiving a consultation, we may not be a suitable placement for a young person as in some cases we may not be able to meet a young person's needs well.

5. How long can my son/daughter stay in the Centre?

Places on all courses are funded for 1 year only. During EHCP reviews (that take place once a year) a young person's progress is discussed and, if it can be demonstrated that there has been academic progress, LAs fund the next year. Most of our lovely learners stay with us for 3 years but some may only study one or two years.

6. What courses do you offer?

The pathways we offer are below. It is worth remembering that consultations do not relate to specific pathways/courses but a place in the Centre. Once a consultation is received a young person is assessed and a place on a suitable programme is offered. We aim to take a young person's interests and wishes into account but, at times, they may need to develop their skills before progressing to the course of their choice.

Level	Course
Entry Level 3	College Path: Next Step Work Path: Catering Work Path: Performing Arts Work Path: Progression
Entry Level 2	College Path: Gateway Work Path: Gateway
Entry Level 1	Pre Vocational Skills Pre Vocational Gateway
Milestones 1 to 8	Explore Learning (PMLD) Transition Skills

7. Do you have “feeder” schools and are certain Local Authorities given priority when places are allocated?

We have developed very good relationships with a number of schools but we accept students from various Local Authorities.

8. Will the College help me secure funding for the following year in relation to my child’s placement?

Usually our recommendations from EHCP reviews are taken into considerations and LAs accept that a young person will progress to another course in the Centre in year 2 or 3 so there is no need for parents to worry about securing funding.

9. How many hours a week will my child attend?

Full time education in an FE college = 16hrs a week.

All students attend College 4 days a week with one day off. The day off is consistent throughout the year.

There are 2 lesson a day: 10:00-12:00 and 1:00-3:00. These lessons have a 15 min break half way through. The students also have one hour lunchbreak (12:00-1:00).

10. Do you follow Barnet’s school term dates or do you make your own?

Yes, we do.

11. What will my child learn and can they gain any qualifications?

Complex Needs groups have sensory curriculum with Maths and English embedded in all their sessions.

MLD groups have English and Maths as stand-alone subjects. They also have Tutorial sessions. We also offer:

- ✓ Dance and Drama
- ✓ Sports
- ✓ World of Work
- ✓ Art
- ✓ Cooking
- ✓ Independent Living Skills
- ✓ Vocational subjects (specific to Catering and Performing Arts)

Subjects vary and depend on the pathway a young person is on.

12. What therapies do you offer?

We offer: Speech and Language therapy, Physio and Hydro therapy and we have a nurse on site. We do not have an Occupational Therapist on site.

It is worth mentioning that these services can only be accessed by a young person if their EHCP reflects that such input is part of their support package.

13. How big are classes in the Centre?

It depends on a group but the numbers are between 6-12 students in a class.

14. Will my child have in class support?

Yes, if a young person's EHCP clearly states that they need 1:1 support.

All MLD groups also have a Study Support Assistant who acts a group support. This is not the case in Complex Needs groups as the ratio of support is very high and most students have either 1:1 or 2:1 support.

15. My child needs support during breaks. Can they have it?

Yes, members of support team are with students from the moment they arrive at College to the moment they leave the premises. This means that they accompany students throughout all their breaks.

16. Do you offer breakfast clubs?

No, young people should not arrive earlier than 9:30am.

17. Do you provide transport?

No. Most of the students in the Centre come to college on the transport from their Local Authority. This is an arrangement between families and their Local Authorities and we are not able to arrange that.

18. Do you arrange activities for my child's day off?

No. This is an arrangement that families have to organize themselves.

19. Can my child get Free School Meals (FSM)?

Yes, if they are entitled to it but parents/carers have to apply for FSM and are responsible for providing relevant evidence.