

Castle School



SEND Policy

Status: Approved	Drafted by Liz West	Date approved:	Approved by:
Date to be reviewed	To be reviewed by Liz West	Date shared with staff:	Publish on school website:



This report fulfils the requirements of 'Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations, Sept 2014 section 65(3) (a)

This SEN Information Report is updated annually to reflect any changes and plans within the school.

What types of SEND do we provide for?

- *Castle School is a maintained day SEND school for children aged 2-19.*
- *All children who attend Castle will be provided with an appropriately paced and individual curriculum in an inclusive setting, to match their needs.*
- *Pupils' /students' identified needs are complex and significant in the area of cognition and learning (severe or profound learning difficulties as described in the SEN code of practice).*
- *Some pupils/students may also have associated needs in the areas of mental health difficulties and emotional/social challenges and communication/interaction (autistic spectrum condition and/or speech and language difficulties).*
- *More detail on our commitment to high quality educational provision for all our young people can be found on our website: [Curriculum - Castle School](#)*

What are the school's policies for the identification and assessment of pupils/students attending the school?

- *All pupils /students will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) prior to starting at Castle.*
- *All consultations for Castle School are done through the Local Authority, more information on our admissions process can be found on our website: [Admissions - Castle School](#)*

What is the provision for pupils/students at Castle School and how is it evaluated?

We offer three educational pathways: Pre-Formal (Non-subject specific), Semi-Formal and Formal

- *We have a varied and exciting curriculum; schedules of work will be designed to meet the needs of all our learners*
- *There is detailed planning for all subjects, with differentiated outcomes for each pupil/student alongside personalised learning targets written termly for all subject areas*



- *Individual Education Plans are written twice yearly. These are linked to the EHCP*
- *On-going assessment of pupils/ students' progress and attainment*
- *Detailed analysis of data for:*
 - *The whole school*
 - *Individual pupils/students*
 - *Groups of pupils/students*
- *Opportunities for our learners to take part in externally moderated qualifications, e.g. GCSEs*
- *We ensure regular contact with home via Evidence For Learning (EFL).*
- *Functional learning in meaningful contexts*
- *A variety of Community Outings both in the local vicinity and further afield are used to enhance learning*
- *Lunchtime clubs are in place to support learning*

In Castle School- Together we learn

Ethos;

- *Be Confident*
- *Be Kind*
- *Be Creative*

We aim to inspire, motivate and educate our pupils

By

- *Aiming high, celebrating success and individuality*
- *Providing opportunities to develop and learn in a nurturing environment*
- *Having fun creating, exploring and growing together*
- *Respecting and caring for ourselves and others*
- *Creating positive and meaningful connections*
- *Preparing for life in the wider community*

Through our pedagogical approaches we will

- *Create an ethos that is warm, safe, caring, purposeful and professional.*
- *Deliver the highest quality of teaching by ensuring all staff are well trained and supported*
- *Provide every child with a holistic learning experience which addresses all aspects of development*
- *Support every pupil as an individual, promoting independence, resilience and lifelong learning*
- *Develop meaningful communication for all our pupils*
- *Develop and promote positive self-esteem, wellbeing and healthy lifestyles*
- *Listen to and act on the voice of pupils and their families*



What support is available at Castle School?

- *Behaviour Support Plans are used to underpin learning:*
 - *Risk assessments in place when needed for specific pupils/students*
 - *A variety of methods to support communication, including PECs, Makaton and talking with symbols*
 - *Multi-disciplinary meetings are held regularly to ensure a wrap-around approach*
 - *Regular Key Stage events*
 - *Additional targeted interventions*
- *Small class groups for focused learning*
- *High level of exceptionally trained staff*
- *Staffing in classes assigned according to need*
- *Regular school meetings to disseminate knowledge and information*
- *Weekly class meetings to review programmes and progress.*
- *Support programmes are devised in conjunction with the multi-disciplinary team*
- *Level 4 teaching assistants support medical and welfare, staff deployment, careers and transitions*
- *Intervention programmes delivered for individuals or small groups*
- *SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) programme, 'Thought for the Week' underpins our school day*

What are the teaching approaches at Castle School?

- *Appropriate grouping based on pupils/students' needs*
- *Specialist subject teaching available*
- *Clear, structured, and focused visual support in all classrooms – this will include schedules and timetables (bespoke if required)*
- *Regular team meetings to discuss curriculum accessibility and pupil/student updates*
- *Our staff have varied expertise used across the school*
- *Accreditation routes offered according to need*
- *Intervention support identified through TAC (Team around the Child) meeting*
- *Additional support and bespoke programmes are always provided where necessary*
- *Access to specialist rooms:*
 - *Soft play*
 - *Multi-sensory*
 - *Hydrotherapy*
- *Play therapist, music therapist and occupational therapist*



Where can I find more information on the staff at Castle School?

- All staff details are detailed on our website: [Staff - Castle School](#)
- The school contact details are also on the website: [Contact Us - Castle School](#)
- Staffing levels are enhanced; this allows us to have:
 - Up to twelve pupils/students per class
 - A minimum of one teacher
 - A minimum of two teaching assistants
 - An appropriate number of additional teaching assistants to meet the needs of the class group
- The school receives advice from a range of health professionals to meet the needs of the pupils/pupil/student/students as assessed by the appropriate professionals.
- We work closely with our health and social care colleagues to implement the SEN Code of Practice.

What training do staff have in relation to the needs of pupils/students at Castle School?

- All staff have clear job descriptions which detail the required qualifications for each post in school.
- All staff have a core training programme related to their work within school; it is the role of the Deputy Headteacher to manage the on-going training needs of all members of the team at Castle.

How will equipment and facilities be provided to support pupils/students at Castle School?

- Castle enjoys a purpose-built site fully accessible to all pupils/students/users
- Our school website gives details of the extensive specialist facilities that we have which include the explore room, learning hub, gymnasium and swimming/hydro pool: [Photo Gallery - Castle School](#)

What are the arrangements for consulting parents of children/young people at Castle School about? And, involving them, in the education of their child?



- *All our children and young people are treated with dignity and respect. There is full personalisation of the curriculum for each pupil/student so they can access, and experience measured success throughout their learning journey.*
- *The School Council involves pupils/students to contribute and decide on aspects of school life relating to their personal needs.*
- *The assessment and annual review process of statements of SEN and EHCPs includes the choices and views of pupils/students.*

How are complaints made by parents/carers dealt with by the Governing Body?

- *The process for all complaints can be found on our website or access via the link here: [Complaints Policy.pdf](#)*

Who employs the staff at Castle School?

- *We have a wide range of staff working together within the school to support the children, young people and their families – some are employed directly through the school, others are from agencies and have different lines of management.*
- *All classroom staff are employed either directly through the school or through agencies.*
- *School nurses, speech and language therapists (SaLT), occupational therapists (OT) and physiotherapists (PT) are all employees of Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust. These professionals work within the school training and advising staff and working with the children/young people.*
- *The sensory service staff including visual/hearing impairment advisory teachers are employed by the Local Authority. They provide staff training and advice on individual needs.*
- *Transport staff are employed by the transport companies – this is organised by the Local Authority.*
- *There are social workers for children/young people with disabilities who are Local Authority employees that are based within the Children's Services.*



How does Castle School support pupils/students transferring between phases of education or preparing for adulthood?

- *We have a very thorough transition programme to help support pupils transferring to Castle, beginning their learning journey at Castle, moving within the school and moving to alternative provision post-school.*
- *We hold open mornings for new pupils and their families.*
- *We hold a phase-transfer review at the end of every key stage for each pupil to ensure a smooth transition.*
- *Pupils have a transition book and as much work as possible is done on this, with guidance from staff.*
- *Transition co-ordinators, college links and planned programmes are linked with the pupil/students' next placement.*
- *We hold information sharing events for pupils/students and their families such as Opportunities afternoon.*
- *We have more information on our careers and preparing for adulthood programme on our website: [Careers and Preparing for Adulthood - Castle School](#)*

Where is the information on Cambridge Local Authority Local Offer published?

- *Local Offer on the Cambridgeshire County Council website: [Cambridgeshire Online | SEND Information Hub \(Local Offer\)](#)*

