Ellesmere College SEN Report

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| What kinds of Special Educational Needs does Ellesmere College make provision for? | Ellesmere College is an all age special school that offers educational provision for pupils from 4 – 19 with complex learning needs. We have expertise in working with pupils with a wide range of learning difficulties including Autistic Spectrum disorder (ASD), Asperger syndrome, Attachment difficulties, communication and interaction difficulties, hearing impairment and visual impairment. We provide specialist provision for learners with varied and complex needs who have below average ability and are unable to successfully access a mainstream school setting.  |
| Admissions to Ellesmere College  | Admissions are through the SEN department of the Local Authority. The college arranges viewing mornings throughout the academic year. For appointments to view contact the college on 01162894224 to make arrangements.  |
| What facilities does Ellesmere College have?  | The college has specialist areas in the building including, sports hall, assembly / dining hall, sensory rooms, drama studio with associated technology, soft play areas, science rooms, art rooms, food technology area, design technology area, music rooms alongside classroom hub areas. The outside areas include horticultural facilities, BMX bike track, outdoor and adventurous play areas and access to football playing fields.  |
| How would Ellesmere College identify and assess my child’s special educational need?  | Every pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or is waiting for their Statement of Special Needs to be converted into an EHCP. These plans are reviewed annually.  As well as formal EHCP reviews parents / carers are invited to 2 parents evening during the course of the year where they have the opportunity to discuss their child’s progress with teachers and support staff and to discuss targets set for their child.  |
| How would Ellesmere College prepare my child for joining the college or transferring to another setting?  | The college would organise pre-admission meetings with parents / carers. Viewing mornings enable parents / carers to get a feel of what the provision is like and whether it would be suitable for their child. The transition arrangements would differ according to the needs of your child but the college does organise a group transition day towards the end of the Summer term.  The college’s Post 16 provision is focused on vocational learning and preparation for adulthood. The college also focuses on developing skills and interests that will promote independence and prepare pupils for their next steps in work placements or further education. |
| How will both the college and I know how my child is doing and how I can support my child’s learning?  | Ellesmere College staff meet with parents / carers early in the Autumn term. This enables us to discuss your child and to share targets that will be focused on in the forthcoming year. These meetings are invaluable, helping us understand the whole child in a range of different settings.  |
| How does Ellesmere College evaluate the effectiveness of their provision? | The college uses a range of assessment materials in order to set aspirational targets in all subject areas for each pupils. We analyse data collected so that where a pupils is identified as making lower than expected progress strategies can be put into place in order support expected progress.  The yearly EHCP meeting will also focus on your child and enables us together to plan for next steps in all areas of your child’s life for the next year.  In the summer term a detailed report is produced and sent to parents / carers that outlines progress made throughout the year.  We communicate via face to face meetings, school planners, telephone, text messages, through the school web-site.Ellesmere College provides for pupils with special educational needs, in line with the Local Authority’s admission criteria. We believe that learning is a lifelong activity, which engages everyone in our college community. Working as an efficient and effective multidisciplinary team, we aim to make our college a happy place where expectations are high and individuals are valued. We aim to achieve a standard of excellence appropriate to each individual, enriching, encouraging and equipping each child for their future lives.  Ellesmere College has an annual cycle of self-evaluation at a number of different levels: - Whole college level Every term the college reviews its college action plan to ensure that targets set for whole college development are being achieved and that provision remains good and appropriate for the pupils that the organisation is serving. This evaluation informs the college and Governing Body of how standards in teaching and learning are being raised and what further needs to be done in order to improve the college. Curriculum level Pupils progress is monitored by the college leadership team / governing body on a termly basis. Pupil’s interim targets are checked and ensures that all pupils are reaching their potential and highlights whether any additional support or intervention may be required.  Parent level Parents view are sought on the effectiveness of the college provision. The information given to us by parents is really useful and ensures that what the college considers to be working well is valued by parents / carers too. Areas that parents / carers highlight as needing attention are considered and addressed, if appropriate. |
| How will the curriculum be matched to my child’s needs?  | The whole college curriculum is regularly reviewed in order to ensure that the best possible learning opportunities are available for groups and individual pupils. The curriculum offers a wide range of learning opportunities that aim to support pupils in their preparation for lifelong learning and their journey into adult hood. The curriculum covers and enhances the National Curriculum.  Teachers carefully plan each lesson to ensure that effective learning can take place. Each pupils has objectives that highlight what they are expected to learn in each curriculum area. These are regularly visited.  All work is differentiated and pupils are taught in small groups as well as individually, when required. Educational programmes are delivered by a team of teachers and teaching assistants that are very experienced and highly skilled. |
| How are decisions made about the type and amount of support my child will receive?     | Your child’s EHCP will inform us of their individual needs. We consult with parents / carers / other schools attended prior to entry to the college to determine the type and amount of support needed initially and then will regularly review through meetings with a range of professionals, including parents / carers. Our data tracking systems (academic and personal) also support us in determining your child’s needs within the college environment. Ellesmere College pupils are taught in small groups of 8 - 10 with a teacher and support staff. Pupils are also in smaller groups and 1:1, where appropriate.  |
| How will my child / young person be included in activities outside the classroom, including college trips?  | The learning environment for pupils is very varied and includes many routine and non-routine visits to other sites (e.g. outdoor learning, swimming). Pupils do access community facilities for some of their learning. We offer some lunch-time clubs and after school clubs for different groups of pupils. The college makes good use of visiting theatre groups and other specialist providers. Some pupils participate in work experience placements away from the college and independent travel training. |
| What support will there be for my child’s well – being?  | Pupils have access to a wide range of support activities including drawing and talking, Lego therapy, play therapy, let’s talk. The college also employs the support of external agencies including CAMHS, SALT, OT, NHS, optician, sensory support service.The college has a parent link worker who liaises with parents / carers and organises workshops linked to curriculum delivery. The college also has pastoral support workers in each phase who co-ordinate the personal support needs of each pupils in the phase.  |
| What training is provided for staff supporting pupils with special needs?  | Ellesmere College has a highly trained staff team who have considerable experience within the field of special education. The college has a particular expertise of meeting the needs of pupils with complex learning needs, including ASD, hearing and visual impairment. The college is aware that the field of special education is constantly changing and because of this regularly audit the training needs of staff in order that the individual needs of all pupils admitted to the college can be met. The college has a focused training and development programme for all staff working with the pupils that is reviewed regularly.  |
| How accessible is Ellesmere College?  | Ellesmere College is a purpose built environment with fully accessible areas throughout the college. The college has specialist changing spaces and fully accessible toilet areas.  |
| What would I do if I had a concern about the college provision? | Speak to the college via your child’s teacher and / or their Phase Lead at the earliest opportunity so that actions can be agreed. If concerns are not resolved please follow the college’s complaints procedure that can be found on the web-site or requested from the college office. |