

SPECIAL NEEDS DEPARTMENT

THE SEND DEPARTMENT

The Department currently includes a SENDCO, who is a qualified teacher, and 20 teaching assistants, some of whom are part time. A small team of seven work at the Olney Campus under an HLTA (Assistant SENDCO). At the Newport Pagnell campus there is also an Assistant SENDCO who manages the team of 11 teaching assistants. The combined team includes an HLTA responsible for examination assessment and special arrangements and Dyslexia, as well as a provision mapping manager and TAs specialising in Maths, English, ASD and Physical/Sensory impairment. There is also a literacy HLTA who is responsible for literacy interventions at the NP campus. At the Olney campus, this is a combined post for the English HLTA to also deliver literacy interventions. Teaching assistants are encouraged to develop their own areas of expertise and interest.

Around 10% of students at Ousedale are on the CoP stages of assessment at any one time, and there are currently 25 students with Education Health Care Plans. Our principle focus currently is in-class support, and only a very small number of students are withdrawn from classes for intervention. The Department completes whole school assessment for students on entry and maintains data for staff and statistical returns based on these and subsequent updates, thereby negotiating additional support funding as needed.

At present there are a number of additional skill groups run by the Department, represented on both Campuses. These include Literacy and Life Skills booster groups, Spelling, Social Skills and Homework Clubs. There is also a Lunch Club for vulnerable students and various additional groups catering for coursework and exam revision and practice. Students are encouraged to move towards negotiation of their own support systems by the time they leave for Further or Higher Education.

Parents of students with SEND are central to the work of the Department and regular communication is a developing area. Members of the team keep in touch as needed, very often via email. The SENDCO and the Olney team leader attend all parents' evenings. Learning passports are written twice each year and sent by email to parents. The SENDCO is part of the school's Pastoral team and contributes to this work as needed, negotiating additional support and advice from outside agencies where appropriate.

The SEN team at both campuses has good accommodation, including well equipped classrooms and office spaces, as well as small interview rooms for various sizes of groups. Staff have access to performance development interviews and training and are encouraged to cascade information to the wider team in weekly briefings and longer training sessions on INSET days.