

Our School SEND Offer

Welcome – Our aim

Akroydon Primary Academy is passionate about ensuring each and every one of our pupils achieves their potential. Our team is dedicated to providing an inclusive education in an environment that is sympathetic to, and understanding of, any pupil with special educational needs or disabilities. We are committed to providing an inclusive education within an environment and culture that is understanding of the issues involved in providing a fair and appropriate education for pupils with special educational needs or disabilities. We aim to:

- Provide an inclusive, quality first education for teaching of all our pupils
- Wherever possible, educate children and young people in a mainstream setting
- Equally value all of our pupils
- Share how all of our teachers teach pupils with special educational needs
- Make sure all of our pupils receive a broad, balanced curriculum suited to their individual needs
- Ensure we reflect and take into account the views of the child or young person
- Work with others, including outside agencies, to ensure the child's full potential can be reached

What is a School Offer?

The 'School Offer' from Akroydon Primary Academy will outline the services and support that is available to pupils and parents/ carers through the academy. It forms part of the Local Authority Local Offer which provides information on what services children, young people and their families can expect from a range of agencies, including education, health and social care. Knowing what is available to parents and pupils is an important part of the decision making process.

As an academy, we have a dedicated team of professionals here to help pupils achieve their full potential. Support for all pupils with special educational needs is overseen by the SENCo who works with other staff including the Principal, Assistant Principals, teachers and support assistants who are all committed to delivering the very best possible experience for all pupils.

What is a special educational need? (SEN)

A child or young person has a SEN if they have a learning difficulty or learning disability which calls for a special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age, or young person had a learning difficulty or learning disability if they:

- (a) Have a significantly greater need in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- (b) Have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

A child under compulsory school age has a special educational need if they fall within the definition of (a) or (b) above or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them. (*Special Educational Needs and Disability, Code of Practice: 0 – 25 years, June 2014*)

Support available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs

Accessibility of the academy

As an academy, we are happy to discuss individual access requirements and make necessary adaptations where possible. Additional equipment and communication aids are used where they support access for particular pupils.

All children have the right to access off site educational visits where it is safe for them to do so. For those with additional needs, individualised provision can be made, for example, additional adult support or arrangements for the administration of medicines.

Support provided by the academy staff

When a pupil joins the academy we gather information regarding specific needs and make this available to key staff, and individuals who will be interacting with that pupil, to plan appropriate provision and support. Our SENCo liaises with parents to develop the best possible support package. Our staff also receive targeted SEND and other specialist training. When necessary, pupils may work with outside agencies, specific to their requirements, to receive additional support. However, parents and carers are always advised of any interventions organised to take place at the academy.

Support with curriculum

Teachers at the academy deliver outstanding lessons that are appropriately differentiated and personalised to match pupils' needs and targets. Where necessary, we also provide additional help with classroom support, one-to-one intervention or small group work. Parents are invited to contribute to reviewing targets on learning plans and our Parental Consultation Evenings provide regular opportunities to ensure continued support and regular reviews. Appointments can also be made with the SENCo and pastoral team to discuss any particular concerns.

Support for children and young people's well-being

We ensure a supportive environment for all pupils and make their emotional well-being our priority. We cultivate a culture of empathy and respect through our core values here at the academy and these are promoted throughout the school. In addition, where it is deemed beneficial, children are invited to take part in individual or small group sessions, such as Nurture Group, aimed at boosting confidence and self-esteem and giving children with the extra help sometimes needed to improve social skills and independence. Pupils and parents have the opportunity to discuss any concerns with their class teacher, support staff or the Behaviour Manager and we also provide direction to additional services where required. We monitor attendance and work with the Education Welfare Officer to support attendance.

Support of pupils with medical needs

Our team will work with parents and other agencies to ensure that any medical needs that contribute to a pupil's educational needs are met. This includes administration of medicine/care needs (with the appropriate consent forms) and support when needs change. A member of staff will discuss any specific needs.

Support for pupils who require help with literacy and numeracy

If additional support is required, our teachers will organise this and it could include additional tuition either on an individual basis or taking part in small group work.

Support outside of the classroom

We aim for all pupils to be able to participate in all our activities, such as trips and extra-curricular sessions. If a pupil requires additional provisions for these, we endeavour to provide support. Our staff consider specific needs when planning activities, and our SENCo can provide information regarding academy clubs that would benefit pupils with special educational needs, and discuss any concerns regarding medical needs in relation to participating in activities.

Pupils moving to a new setting, school or continuing their academic journey

We have a dynamic transition process, with opportunities for Year 6 pupils to visit their next school or academy. Our SENCo can arrange additional visits for pupils with special educational needs to help them to adjust to the change. If a child has an Education, Health Care Plan the SENCo may attend meetings with schools to pass on information. We may also invite the SENCo from the new school to attend EHC Planning or Annual Review meetings to ensure a smooth transition and arrange suitable provisions. When a pupil leaves the academy, we will follow all relevant documentation and information regarding their needs. If required, staff may accompany pupils on new setting visits and meet with appropriate staff.

Services available or that can be accessed by the academy

We liaise with local agencies such as CAMHS, Hearing Impairment Service, Speech and Language Therapy Team, School Nursing Team and Specialist Inclusion teams to ensure pupils' needs are met. We work closely with the Calderdale SEN team to review pupils with Educational Health and Care plans. We encourage parents to contact us when requirements change so we can adapt our provision.

What can parents do to support a child/ young person's learning?

It is essential that parents are involved in their child's education. Events to support this include transition events, Parental Consultation Evenings, SEN review meetings and other meetings as appropriate. We work to provide a comfortable environment where pupils can feel confident approaching staff, for example with homework queries or to request additional support. Pupils and parents are also invited to participate in the review process. Views about how best we can meet the needs of the child will be explored in consultation with the pupil and their parents.

“At Akroydon Primary Academy, we passionately believe that all of our pupils have a right to an outstanding experience. This is why all of our pupils enjoy an experience that reflects their needs, abilities and future ambitions.”

Further information and useful contacts:

If you think your child may have additional needs, or you require further details about our School Offer, please contact Sue Farmer, Special Educational Needs Coordinator via admin@akroydon.org or 01422 351291.

For additional information regarding Calderdale Council's Local Offer please visit:
<http://www.calderdale.gov.uk/education/parents/send-offer/support/index.html>

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