

The Cornerstone Academy Special Educational Needs and / or Disabilities (SEND) Offer

Please have a look at these questions that you may have, and our answers. If you would like to have a conversation with someone from school about any of these or any related matters, please do not hesitate to get in contact.

How does The Cornerstone Academy know if students need extra help and what should I do if I think that my child has special Educational Needs (SEND)?

At The Cornerstone Academy students are identified as having SEND through a variety of ways including the following:

- Diagnosis via paediatrician
- Information from previous school
- Literacy and numeracy assessments
- Self-esteem assessments
- Educational psychology assessments
- Diagnosis from CAMHS

How will I raise concerns if I need to?

Please talk to us. Contact a member of staff such as your child's tutor, a member of the progress or SEND team (contact details at the end of this document)

How will The Cornerstone Academy support my child?

Our SEND team oversees all support and progress of any student requiring additional support. The Assistant Principal and in charge of Inclusion is Mrs Kim Stray, the Deputy SENDCO is Miss Naomi Vallance and they are always happy for you to contact them.

Provision of support will be matched to your child's needs, and you and your child will be invited to be involved in this process. We provide a range of SEND support, including:

- Small group phonics based interventions
- Small group numeracy intervention
- Speech and language support
- Emotional literacy support
- Social communication support
- Year 7 Transition Learning Centre (TLC)
- Mainstream Plus provision (Gateway)

Provision is reviewed on a regular basis to ensure that it meets the needs of the current and in-coming students, and that it is having a positive impact on their academic progress.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

We follow the National Curriculum at The Cornerstone Academy. Teaching and learning is the foundations of learning and we ensure Rosenshine Principals are embedded within each classroom's practice. This allows students to be able to access a knowledge rich, broad and balanced curriculum.

How will I know how my child is doing?

- The Cornerstone Academy holds two parent consultation evenings per year, and parents can access a report 6 times a year. You are welcome to, and encouraged to make an appointment to see the SENDCo, Mrs Kim Stray or the Deputy SENDCO Miss Naomi Vallance at the consultation evenings.
- Specific, measurable targets will be set in relation to your child's SEND, and these will be reviewed regularly with you and your child.
- In some cases, a home school liaison book may be used for regular communication.
- The school have implemented the use of Provision Map as tool to support communication around the progress of young people with SEND.

What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

We are an inclusive school; we welcome and celebrate diversity. All staff believe that having high self-esteem is crucial to a student's well-being. We have a caring, understanding progress and inclusion team looking after our students. Staff receive regular opportunities to update themselves on current practices around working with young people and developing and sustaining positive well-being.

We provide a range of emotional, social and mental health support and interventions, including:

- Emotional literacy support
- Social skills lessons
- Talkabout and social use of language programme
- Supported break and lunchtimes
- Buddy system
- Anti-bullying programme of support
- A close working relationship with external provide such as Mind.

What support is there for behaviour, avoiding exclusions and increasing attendance?

- We use a clear system of rewards and sanctions, which gives every opportunity to the students to make good choices
- Students with behavioural difficulties are assessed for further underlying SEND, are supported under a Behaviour Action Plan through the Progress team.

- We use a range of external agencies to support students and their families, including Winchelsea, Montacute and Longspee Outreach specialist teacher support.
- School can also refer to Early Help Advice Point (EHAP) with parent/carer permission, for a range of support such as Family support workers and Parenting of Teenagers courses.
- We use a restorative justice system which encourages students to reflect on their own behaviour and agree what they need to do differently next time.
- We use internal suspensions following a serious behaviour incident. This works as a way of keeping students focused on the reason that they attend school, as they have a day working in silence with close supervision. As we are part of an academy we can also use cluster suspensions as opposed to Fixed term exclusions.
- Attendance is monitored on a daily basis by the Attendance Officer, and good attendance and punctuality are rewarded. The Attendance Lead who works closely with families whose child has poor attendance (below 90%), includes home visits and other regular communication as appropriate. The Cornerstone Academy will always have due regard for the Equality Act when considering action for attendance difficulties.
- The school employs an Educational Social Worker to target support to families and young people who struggle with attending school consistently.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

- Two members of support staff are fully trained to deliver the LEXONIK LEAP and ADVANCE programme to target phonics and reading need.
- Exams Access arrangements have been completed by G Gardiner who is fully trained and accredited to do so up-to academic year 2022-2023.
- Mrs Kim Stray is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school and Mrs Sascha Turnbull is the Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead. Other members of the Senior Leadership and SEND team are also trained to support safeguarding.
- Staff delivering Emotional Literacy programmes have been trained by the Educational Psychology Service and follow their guidelines.
- We work closely with any external agencies that we feel are relevant to individual student's needs including GPs, the school nurse, paediatricians, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, educational psychologists, social workers etc.
- Specific staff, on the Senior Leadership Team are Team Teach trained to support students where this need may arise.
- Gateway is a provision that offers personalised support for a small number of The Cornerstone Academy students, supported by specialist staff. Students will be supported to fully access the mainstream classes following a graduated plan of support.

- The Transition Learning Centre is for a small group of year 7 students who need support to be secondary school ready before being integrated into mainstream classes.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

All students are included in all parts of the school curriculum. As part of our school pledge we aim for all students to be included on school trips, and we will provide the necessary support to ensure that this is successful. A risk assessment is carried out prior to any off-site activity to ensure that everyone's health and safety is considered. In the unlikely event that it is considered unsafe for a student to take part in an activity, the reasons will be explained to the student and parent / carer, and an alternative activity meeting the curriculum will be provided.

How will The Cornerstone Academy prepare and support my child when joining the school and transferring to a new school?

- We work closely with feeder schools to share knowledge and information about students prior to transfer
- We offer a range of transition activities, including extra visits, an opportunity to photograph key areas and staff for your child, use of our buddy system, a transfer meeting with you etc.
- If your child has an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan we will attend the annual review in the student's feeder school
- When students are preparing to leave to go to a new school or sixth form college we ensure all relevant paperwork is passed on and all needs are discussed and understood

How are the school's resources allocated and matched to children's SEND needs?

We ensure that all students' SEND are met to the best of the school's ability with the funds available. We have a team of TAs, a trained Talkabout TA and an Emotional Literacy support worker who are funded from the SEND budget and deliver programmes designed to meet groups of students' needs. The budget is allocated on a needs basis, where the students with the most complex needs (usually with an associated EHC Plan) are given the most support, often involving further adult support in class. Further information about how

Pupil Premium is spent is available on our website <http://www.TheCornerstoneAcademy.poole.sch.uk/>

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

Different students will require different levels of support in order to bridge the gap to achieve age expected levels. Parents / carers will be involved in this process in the run-up to and throughout the period of support.

How do we know if the support has had an impact?

By setting clear targets which focus on what outcomes are required, and what evidence we will use to know if the outcomes have been met, we will have a clear system for planning, putting support into place and then reviewing that support. One of these measures is likely to be whether the student is making progress academically against national / age expected levels and the gap is narrowing. Students may move off or on the SEND register at particular times in their school career.

Who can I contact for further information?

You can also arrange to meet with Mrs Kim Stray, Assistant Principal or Miss Naomi Vallance:

Send@cornerstoneacademy.org.uk

Poole Borough offers Poole SEND Information Advice and support service (SENDDIASS)

01202 261933

How are the governors involved and what are their responsibilities?

The Assistant Principal in charge of Inclusion reports to the governors every term to inform them about the progress of students with SEND. One of the governors is responsible for SEND and ensures that practice is in line with the school SEND and other related policies.

www.carter.poole.sch.uk/Information/Policies

Who should I contact if I am considering whether my child should join the school?

Contact the school office on 01202 676789 to arrange a meeting, where we can discuss your student's needs with you. Our admissions policy is available on the website.

Children with an Education, Health and Care Plan issued by a local authority naming The Cornerstone Academy will be admitted before preferences are considered for admission in September.

How do you ensure that students with SEND are treated fairly?

We are an inclusive school, and both staff and students are supportive of one another. Staff have regular training on how to meet the needs of all students, and every effort is made to make sure that they are treated with respect and dignity and their unique qualities appreciated and supported.

Is your school accessible to students with a range of physical and other needs?

Our school has wide corridors and large classrooms, which are all on the ground floor. We currently successfully support students with SEND, including

visually impaired, hearing impaired, medical conditions, ASC and sensory needs etc. Our accessibility policy is available on the website.