

SEN Link to Local Offer

Philosophy

The Academy believes in and encourages inclusion. The Academy believes that all students, whatever their needs, should receive the best possible education and thereby our aim is to provide all students with opportunities to excel in their personal, social and academic achievements.

Garforth Academy is committed to improving the quality of the pastoral system and teaching and learning to achieve this through innovation and effective deployment of resources.

What do I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

In the first instance you should contact the Academy's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo), Mr J. Yaul to discuss your concerns. Mr Yaul can be contacted by email yaulj@garforthacademy.org.uk or by telephone on 0113 2127127.

You may also wish to arrange an appointment with your child's GP if you feel that this is appropriate.

The SENCo may be able to guide you to alternative sources of support should you require it; for example health or social care.

How will school support my child or young person's learning?

The provision plan for all children with special educational needs is overseen by the SENCo in liaison with Pastoral Leaders, subject tutors and in some cases the Support Centre Manager.

A team of individuals offering specific areas of expertise may work with your child depending on the child's need including:

- **Mentors**
- **Counsellors**
- **Subject specialists**
- **The support centre team**
- **Pastoral Leaders**
- **Teaching Assistants**

Parents and carers are kept up to date with their child's progress through the review cycle process where the impact of interventions can be measured. The Academy will also monitor progress through the annual Education, Health Care Plan review where appropriate.

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

In many cases students can benefit from very simple solutions such as their seating position in the classroom or the provision of large font hand outs. For other students with complex or more severe difficulties any or a combination of the following provisions may be in place:

Teaching Assistant Support, Support Centre Literacy Support, Support Centre Numeracy Support, Personalised Time Tables, Skills For Life Centre Support, Homework Club, Lap Top Provision, Work Related Learning, ASDAN, KS4 Pathway, Post 16 Dream Team, Post 16 Additional Numeracy and Literacy, Work

Experience, Reading Intervention, Maths, English and Science Set Groups, Differentiated Work, Radio Hearing Aid, Hearing Impairment Support Team, Large Print Work Sheets/Hand outs, Leave Lessons Pass, Scribe, overlays, text books, seating position, Dyslexia support – Homework and mentoring

How accessible is the school?

The Academy can be accessed by ramp at the main entrance. The Academy is in compliance with current legislation but being a relatively old build there is limited access to some areas of the Academy. The hearing impairment and visual impairment team advise the Academy where appropriate and an arrangement is in place for them to complete an environment assessment for students experiencing these difficulties if necessary.

How will I know how well my child is doing and how will you help me support my child's learning?

The student planner is an excellent method of communication between home and school. Students will note their homework each day and parents are encouraged to speak to their child about their learning. Teachers may, from time to time, make comment about how parents can become more involved with their child's learning. Parents/carers should contact the subject tutor, form tutor, Pastoral Leader or SENCo if they have any concerns. The annual parents'/carer's review evening is an excellent opportunity to speak with your child's tutors. They can advise you of the necessary level of support that would be useful at home. From time to time you may be invited to the Academy for events specifically designed to help you support your child; for example the Year 7 "Catch up Literacy and Numeracy" Event.

What support will there be for my child's overall well-being and social, emotional and behavioural development?

The first port of call in the pastoral system is the form tutor. He or she is trained and equipped to deal with most situations. Should the need arise concerns can be brought to the attention of the Pastoral Leader, in the first instance, and then to the Assistant Principal for Inclusion, (Key Stage 3 for years 7 – 9 or Key Stage 4 for years 10 – 11); Mrs Barber or Mr Cunningham respectively.

There are a number of qualified first aiders in the Academy as well as a specifically designated first aider in the medical room who is capable of administering medications.

Emotional and Social support is provided through the Academy's pastoral system as well as the Support department. Interventions and support can include:

Support Centre Autism Break Time Club, Excellence Centre Break Time Club, Mentoring, Counselling, Skills For Life Centre Support, Problem Solving Groups, Travel Training, Friendship Groups, Post 16 Dream Team, Work Experience, Reading Intervention, Feelings Cards, 1 – 1 Self Esteem Work, Toilet Pass/ Assistance with Toileting, Leave Lessons Pass, Autism Specialist Services, Student Services – Medical, (Epi pen, diabetes, etc...), Anger management groups,

The Academy operates a zero tolerance policy towards bullying and deals supportively with the victim and severely with the perpetrator.

What services and expertise are available or accessed by the school, including staff with specific specialist knowledge/qualifications?

The Academy has a number of staff with expertise in Autism. Further support is available from the STARS (Specialist Teachers Autism Response service), team where appropriate. In exceptional circumstances the Educational Psychologist may be required to complete assessments and to advise the Academy with a child's provision.

Links are maintained with the Speech and Language service and occupational therapists may advise the Academy with provision for some children. Extended Services are available to support in some circumstances where a child's SEN is having an impact on the family at home.

The Academy has an excellent working partnership with CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and the Parent Partnership.

What training and development is done by staff supporting those with SEND?

Frequent training is provided to all staff; for example working with Teaching Assistants, getting the best out of students with Autism, how to support Dyslexic children, Understanding ADHD etc. All new staff receives some SEN training and are introduced to the Academy's "SEND Register and Significant Student Groups." Several staff have completed training with the STARS team. Continued Professional Development is critical to improving the quality of support in the Academy. Each year a CPD plan is drawn up aimed at improving the provision for student's mental and emotional wellbeing, behaviour management and learning as well as our statutory obligations.

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

All children have an entitlement to enjoy activities outside the classroom. Teaching Assistants, First Aiders or other adults will often accompany children on educational visits so that they can access these opportunities.

How will the school help children and young people transfer to the next phase of education?

The Academy has a team of staff to help young people with Careers Advice and Guidance. Students are supported to complete applications for college places, university and employment.

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

Support for each child is allocated based on a child's need and the resources available at any one time. Parents are encouraged to take an active interest and in particular highlight an area of concern or need that they have for their child and to discuss this with the SENCo and to reach an agreement of how this need may be met within the finite level of resourcing.

The SENCo can be contacted on 0113 2 127127 or by emailing yauillj@garforthacademy.org.uk

Who can I contact for further information?

For more information about the Academy's offer, please contact Mr J. Yauill 0113 2 127127 or by emailing yauillj@garforthacademy.org.uk