



OAKLANDS SCHOOL

OAKLANDS SCHOOL ISLEWORTH TW7 6JZ

Prospectus

2017-2018



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"How do I get a place for my child at Oakland's School?"

"Will your curriculum meet the needs of my child?"

"What are the Aims of the School?"

"Can my child go swimming?"

"What are the approaches used at Oakland's School?"



OAKLANDS SCHOOL



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Introduction

Oaklands School is a London Borough of Hounslow Special School for secondary aged pupils. We provide highly individualised education to meet the needs of pupils who have severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties or whose learning is significantly affected by autism.

The school has two departments for pupils of secondary age;

The complex needs department

The Autistic Department

The decision of which department will best meet each pupil's needs will be made with parents and may change during a young person's career at the school.

We also have sixth form provision for students with a wider range of needs, including pupils who have moderate learning difficulties, which provides education to young people who need more time to develop skills before they are ready to access either college or adult environments.

We have developed an exciting curriculum in line with the National Curriculum and reflecting the needs and interests of our pupils. We celebrate a range of festivals, as part of our RE syllabus, and also offer a variety of curriculum enhancement activities such as Book Day, French Day, a week of exciting activities to encourage the students to increase physical activity in our aptly named "Let's Get Active" week and an annual Performing Arts week. Further opportunities to get active are offered to students through Cycling, Dance, Tennis, Boccia, Football and Athletics.

2018-19 is our last year in our current accommodation at Woodlands Road. From September 2018 the school will move into new purpose built building on Gresham Road, Hounslow. This is not a change of school place, all Oaklands pupils will move with us. The facilities at our new site are much improved. Parents will have an opportunity to visit from Spring 2018.

Oaklands School Aims

- To provide each individual with a safe, stimulating, challenging, supportive learning environment.
- To promote the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, cognitive and physical development of all.
- To create a community in which each individual is valued and enabled to play a full part in school life.
- To enable each individual to maximise their potential to become confident learners.
- To develop effective communication skills.
- To help students to stay safe and learn to protect and to assert themselves.
- To ensure all students have access to a relevant broad and balanced curriculum designed to meet their personalised learning needs.
- To support parents/families through multi-agency work with all stakeholders.
- To encourage families to work in partnership with professionals, to the benefit of our students, and the work of the school.
- To provide inclusion opportunities at other schools and colleges.
- To prepare students for smooth transitions pre and post school.
- To promote healthy lifestyle choices to aid well-being.
- To follow Every Disabled Child Matters guidelines and facilitate equal opportunities for all.

Complex Needs Department

Students with Severe Learning Difficulties and Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties are based in a class group by age. The size of class does vary according to pupils needs but will not exceed 9 pupils. Each class has a class teacher and between 2 and 4 support staff.

In both key stages the students follow the National Curriculum. In key stage 3 familiar subjects such as English, Maths, Science, ICT, Personal and Social Education, History, Geography, Music, Food and Design Technology, Performing Arts, P.E and Swimming will all be found on our students' timetables.

As the students move into key stage 4 Vocational courses such as "Preparation for Work" are introduced. This is accredited through Laser. An accredited course in music is also offered.

Individual support can be accessed by those students who require Physiotherapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy and Music Therapy. Students in both Key Stages also benefit from specialist facilities such as our Sensory Theatre, Ball pool, Outdoor all weather pitch, state of the art Gym, Dark room, Art and design technology room and Spa bath.

Two of our classes are specifically for pupils who have Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties

For these pupils much of the curriculum is accessed by our pupils through a multi-sensory approach using artefacts which stimulate the senses - seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting and smelling. Another approach which is widely used is Intensive Interaction - a method teaching the pre-speech fundamentals of communication. Pupils have access to specialist lessons, and are taught by our specialist Music teacher. The pupils have weekly Community Visits.

Autistic Department

Many pupils at Oaklands who have a diagnosis of autism and also have severe learning difficulties do thrive within our complex needs department and benefit from the social opportunities presented by being educated alongside their non-autistic peers. Some young people benefit more from being a member of an autistic specific class group in the Autistic Department where their education can be more individually tailored to their autistic specific needs. For this reason Oaklands has developed a separate department for pupils who have autism. The department provides education to pupils with a range of ability and whose learning is severely affected by their autism.

The size of class does vary according to pupils needs but will not exceed 8 pupils. Each class has a class teacher and up to 4 support staff.

Pupils have access to the full range of facilities in the school which include; three sensory rooms, an art room, music therapy room, gym, sports court, design technology room, science room, food technology room and outdoor play facilities. Particular use is made of TEACCH, PECs and Intensive Interaction as well as Sensory Integration programmes designed by our therapy team. All autistic pupils have Speech and Language Therapy and Occupational Therapy. Music therapy is used with some pupils.

The number of pupils whose learning is severely affected by autism is increasing every year.

We are proud to have been accredited by the National Autistic Society again this year for the quality of our provision for autistic pupils.

Sixth Form

Oaklands School provides Sixth Form education for students with a range of learning difficulties. We have 38 students who are taught in a combination of age and ability streamed groups. Each student has a class tutor and between 1 and 3 support staff according to need. Students have access to a 3 year curriculum including Maths, English, ICT, Life Skills, Vocational Education, Art, PSHEC, Performing Arts and Sport and Leisure.

The Department has long been recognised as Outstanding, by OFSTED.

We have strong and active links with local Colleges and students work at West Thames College and Richmond upon Thames College as part of their programme. All students have access to work related learning via a work experience programme supported by job coaches, as well as an annual work experience fortnight.

Students work on personalised Foundation Learning programmes and qualifications will be offered in Functional Skills in Maths, English and ICT, Independent Living and Personal Progress.

The sixth form accommodation comprises of a suite of four classrooms one of which is fitted with a kitchen area. One classroom is set up for autistic sixth form pupils. Students also have access to the full range of facilities in the school which include three sensory rooms, an Art and design technology room, Music therapy room, Gym, Sports court, Food technology room and Outdoor facilities.

The Curriculum

The Oaklands Curriculum is divided into four Curriculum areas;

Communication

Cognitive Skills

Physical and sensory skills

Skills for independence

The curriculum is delivered in key stages 3 and 4 through National Curriculum subjects in Complex Needs and Autistic Classrooms and through a more individual timetabled approach in PMLD classrooms.

Modules are taught on a termly basis.

English (including listening, speaking, reading, and writing)

Mathematics (including time, money, name, data handling)

Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

Science

Personal, Social and Health Education & Citizenship (PSHEC)

Food Technology

Design Technology

Art

Music/Performing Arts

PE/Motor Development/Swimming/MOVE mobility training.

Humanities

Work Related Skills

Community Visits which include Road Safety Awareness and travel training

Modern Foreign Language is delivered through a theme day annually.

Qualifications offered

Key stage 4

Laser Work Based Learning

Entry level music

Our Post 16 Curriculum covers

Literacy
Numeracy
ICT

Swimming

Games/PE/Sports e.g.: football/yoga/athletics/sailing.

College Link Programme (one day a week for one term in each academic year at either Richmond or West Thames Colleges for those intending to progress to College aged 19).

Vocational programme (including catering, woodwork, retail, office skills, horticulture, craft) Work experience

Performing Arts and Art.

Life Skills, Community and travel training

Personal Social Health Education & Citizenship.

Qualifications

Sixth form

Functional skills (Maths, English and ICT)

Laser Independent Living and Personal Progress awards

Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Homework at Oaklands

All Families are all provided with work for pupils to do at home.

- For most pupils the use of their communication techniques is essential homework; use of PECs and/or Makaton signing.
- For many pupils undertaking their physiotherapy and/or Occupational Therapy programmes at home is essential homework.
- Pupils' Individual Education programmes contain their termly targets with details of activities which should be carried out at home.
- Our website contains an extensive area providing ideas and activities for pupils and families to do at home.
- Some pupils may be sent more traditional homework if it is appropriate for them at their level of independence and cognitive development.

Facilities

Students at Oaklands benefit from a range of facilities both on and offsite.

On our current site we have a range of sensory rooms, a Spa pool, Ball pool, Dark room and a Sensory Theatre and specialist light and sound installations in our school hall.

Specialist Art and Design Technology, Food Technology, Music and ICT Suites.

Our Gym provides students with opportunities for additional fitness activities and has a full range of treadmills, rowing machines, and adapted exercise machines.

We have three school minibuses which we use to take students to use a wide range of community facilities.



Multi-professional Support

Physiotherapists:

Physiotherapists attend school weekly

Speech Therapist:

All pupils have a speech and language programme which advises staff of the communication targets and strategies for each pupil.

Occupational Therapist

Our Occupational Therapist works with pupils who have OT in their Statement or EHCP and with all pupils with a diagnosis of autism.

Music Therapy

Available one day per week

Educational Psychology

By referral on pupil need

School Dr,

Our school Dr is based at the Heart of Hounslow and visits school regularly and provides medicals on site.

We have the following particularly specialist staff:

Two Makaton trainers,

Two Team Teach trainers

MOVE trainer,

Approved TEACCH trainer

Healthcare services are provided to school by Hounslow and Richmond Healthcare Trust. Their staff are employed by the Trust, and deployed to work at Oaklands to ensure that pupil's medical needs are met. It is the responsibility of parents and families to keep the school updated with any changes to medication as you should not assume that the health service will inform us.

Approaches used at Oaklands School

Our students all have an individual learning plan, which identifies the approaches they need. At Oaklands students currently benefit from a range of interventions and approaches.

Music Therapy

Speech and Language Therapy

Physiotherapy

Occupational Therapy

Intensive interaction

Makaton

Picture Exchange Communication System (PECs)

TEACCH

Team-Teach

The MOVE Programme

Sensory Integration

If you would like any further information on any of the approaches, please look at our website www.oaklands.hounslow.sch.uk

If there are any other approaches or interventions which are central to your young person's wellbeing and/or education which we do not currently used we would be happy to discuss these with you.

Admissions procedures

Many of our pupils come to Oaklands School in year 7. A number also join us in year 12 in order to attend our sixth form after having attended a different school for their secondary education. Occasionally pupils transfer to Oaklands when they move to the area or if another school they have been attending feels they would benefit from our provision.

We welcome visits from parents who would like to see the school and discuss their child's needs. Please contact the school or see our website for the dates of our prospective parents mornings.

Applications for places at Oaklands are not made directly by parents to the school. Applications are made through Hounslow's SEN Department and the SEN panel.

When an application is made to the school through the SEN panel a young person's Statement of Special Education Needs or Education Healthcare Plan, recent reports and other relevant paperwork will be sent to the school. We will carefully assess whether we feel the school would be able to meet the young person's needs and make a decision whether to offer a place at the school.

At Oaklands School we seek to meet the needs of the majority of pupils whose learning needs are complex and severe. Occasionally we are not able to offer a place. E.g. if the school is full or if the young person has challenging behaviour which presents a health and safety risk to other pupils

When a place has been offered at Oaklands.

Once a place has been allocated at the school we will discuss what arrangements we need to make so that the transition to Oaklands is as smooth as possible. We will ask for details about personal care and, in some cases will need to write a medical care plan before the young person can begin attending.

Useful Information**School Transport**

The school does not arrange school transport. Parents will need to apply to Hounslow for school transport separately.

**Parents bringing their own children to school**

If you bring your own children to school you should plan to arrive at 9.15am. If you arrive early you may wait with your child in reception. In the afternoon please arrive by 3.15pm.

The School Day:

Students arrive at 9.15am and depart by 3.20pm.

**School Lunches**

We have a school kitchen in which school hot lunches are prepared fresh on site. There are two choices daily. Special diets can be catered for.



Parents may choose to send packed lunches

Our parents pay for student's lunches using ParentPay.

They are able to log on from home to check how many lunches their child has had and make payment.

Parents can link their ParentPay accounts with their other children who attend different schools and manage all school lunches from one account.

Parents who are not happy to pay online are issued with a paypoint card which can be topped up at a participating store (these can be found online).

**Medication**

Detailed arrangements can be found in the school policy on the Administration of Medicines and Pupils Health at the end of this document. We can support you in filling out all of the medical care plan forms if required

Personal Care

If your young person has personal care needs (toileting, feeding etc.) we will need to discuss these with you, and fill out a personal care plan for your young person. We can support you with this if required.

Family support

Oaklands runs a support service for families which includes;

- A family support worker who works all day Wednesday and on Friday mornings
- A weekly drop in session on Wednesday mornings
- Close communication with class staff,
- Parent/Carer evenings/meetings
- Monthly Parent/Carer training events on a variety of topics

Home/school communication

Teachers and support staff communicate with parents direct via a home/school book. This ensures parents are kept up to date with school activities.

Parents Evenings

Every Autumn and Summer Term there is a Parents Consultation Evening. These events run from 3.30pm-6.30pm. During this time Parents can discuss their child's education with the Class Teacher and meet specialist subject teachers.

Newsletter

Our Oaklands Newsletter is produced every half term.

School Uniform.

All pupils aged 11-16 should wear school uniform to school. The uniform consists of a school t shirt or sweatshirt worn with dark trousers or skirt. T shirts and sweatshirts can be bought from school.

Sixth form students are not expected to wear uniform, however hoodies are available for any students who want to wear a school item.

For any other information please look at our website

www.oaklands.hounslow.sch.uk