

# **ELLERAY PARK SCHOOL**

## **Special Education Needs School Information Report**

**2022-2023**



# ELLERAY PARK SCHOOL

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT : KEY QUESTIONS THAT YOU WILL WANT ANSWERING

**What kinds of Special Educational Needs does Ellera Park make provision for?**

Ellera Park is a primary special school that offers educational provision for pupils from 2-11 with severe learning difficulties. These are often referred to as Complex Learning Difficulties on Wirral. The ability ranges from those pupils with very early developmental skills and profound physical and medical needs, to those pupils who are very expressive and go on to become fluent readers and excel with their numeracy skills during their time with us . Pupils at Ellera Park are grouped according to age and ability and we always ensure that each classroom is adapted accordingly to meets the needs of the pupils. Ellera Park has pupils with Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties, Autism and Complex Learning Difficulties. All pupils have an Education, Health and Care Plan.

**How would Ellera Park identify and assess my child's Special Educational Needs?**

Every pupil has an Education, Health and Care Plan, that outlines your child's Special Educational Needs. These plans are reviewed annually by a member of the school's leadership team, the class teacher, professional partners (e.g. Speech and Language Therapists) and of course parents / carers. However, as well as this formal review, parents / carers are invited into school every half term to discuss their child's progress and to work with their child in class. All assessment information is shared with parents / carers and their views sought on different strategies that could be employed to enhance learning.

**How does Ellera Park know if my son / daughter needs extra help?**

Ellera Park groups pupils according to need and ability and all classes are highly staffed. Some classes have 7 pupils with 4 members of staff to ensure that effective learning can take place. In other classes the children work better in a larger group (up to 11 with 3-4 members of staff.) As a result of highly skilled staff and small groups, members of staff very quickly identify any pupil who requires additional support in any area of their development. As all classes have high staffing ratios each teacher is able to quickly identify any requirements for additional support. The class teacher is the first point of contact for parents who think their child requires additional support.

**How does Elleray Park provide for pupils with special educational needs and evaluate the effectiveness of this provision?**

Elleray Parks provides for all pupils with special educational needs, in line with the Local Authority's admission criteria. We believe that learning is a lifelong activity, which engages everyone in our school community.

Working as an efficient and effective multi-disciplinary team, we aim to make our school a happy place where expectations are high and individuals are valued. We aim to achieve a standard of excellence appropriate to each individual, enriching, encouraging and equipping each child for their future education. Elleray Park has an annual cycle of self-evaluation at a number of different levels:

#### **WHOLE SCHOOL LEVEL**

Every term the school evaluates its School Improvement Plan to ensure that targets set are being achieved and that provision remains outstanding. This evaluation informs the school and the Governing Body of how standards in teaching and learning are being raised and what further needs to be done in order to improve the school.

#### **CURRICULUM LEVEL**

The curriculum is the driving force behind everything that the school does. Closely linked to the monitoring of the curriculum is the monitoring of Pupil Progress. This is monitored by the class teaching teams and by the school's leadership team on a termly basis. Pupil's interim targets are analysed and this ensures that all pupils are reaching their potential and highlights whether any additional support may be required.

#### **PARENT LEVEL**

Parents' views are regularly sought on the effectiveness of the school provision. This information given to us by parents is really useful and ensures that what the school considers to be working well is valued by parents too. Areas highlighted as needing attention are taken on board and addressed.

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

Elleray Park staff meet with all parents / carers early in the Autumn term. This enables us to discuss your child in depth and to agree the targets that we will be focusing on over the next year. Because you know your children so well, these meetings are invaluable, ensuring that we have a full picture of your child in all environments.

**How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning? (continued)**

**During the year we review with you your child's progress and produce a detailed report in the main curriculum areas. This is part of the review of the Education and Health Care Plan. During the summer term we produce a very detailed end of year report and meet with parents to discuss progress made with regards to meeting targets. We communicate with you regularly predominately through Class Dojos and occasionally through home / school books. We always maintain communication by telephone if necessary. Staff work with the parents both in school and in the home setting to ensure that work is reinforced both at home and in school. Home school communication is vital to ensuring that learning is reinforced in all areas.**

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

**Teachers carefully plan each lesson to ensure that effective learning can take place. Each child has very specific learning outcomes that highlight what they are expected to learn in each curriculum area. The learning outcomes are built upon week by week. All work is differentiated and children are taught in small groups as well as individually when required. Educational programmes are delivered by a team of teachers and teaching assistants that are extremely experienced and highly skilled with our pupils.**

**How is the decision made about the level of support my child receives?**

**Your child will initially have their needs identified through the Education and Health Care Plan Assessment process. From this information we plan the level of support that will be required to ensure effective learning takes place within the classroom. For some children there may be times when they require extra support in addition to the differentiated approaches and learning arrangements normally provided as part of high quality, personalised teaching. This may involve additional support from the Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist or Physiotherapist. Should this be required, the additional support is carefully assessed and evaluated to ensure that it has a very positive impact upon your child's learning.**

**How will my child be included in activities outside the school curriculum, including trips?**

All children attending Elleray Park are included in a wide range of extra-curricular events. These are matched according to the needs of the pupils . There are residential opportunities for Year 6 pupils.

The school has weekly Forest School sessions and Beach School sessions. All pupils will have access to these sessions during the school year.

**What support is there for my child's overall well-being?**

Elleray Park realises the importance of ensuring that all children are happy, safe and secure and this ethos underpins everything that the school offers. A strong Personal, Social and Health curriculum is in place and this is reinforced in all other curriculum areas. We have a robust safeguarding policy and protocols in place and staff are very perceptive when working with the children. This ensures that any slight anxieties that a child might have are addressed and they are supported. All children with medical needs are supported by the school staff and a nursing team. The school has at least 1 full time nurse on site at all times. Staff are trained to administer medicine and to deal with children's everyday needs. Elleray Park works closely with speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists and the Children and Mental Health team. The school purchases an additional speech therapist and additional Occupational therapist from Shine Theray on a weekly basis to enhance the provision offered. This level of multi- disciplinary staff ensures that the children are supported in all areas of learning.

**What training is provided for staff supporting children with special needs?**

Elleray Park has highly trained staff that have considerable expertise within the field of special education. The school has particular expertise in the field of Autism Spectrum Condition, Complex Learning Difficulties , Pro- found and Multiple Learning Difficulties, The expertise of the staff has been acknowledged by Ofsted and the National Autistic Society . The curriculum has been designed based on best research in the field and is currently being evaluated against best practice. The school is aware that the field of special education is continually changing and because of this regularly audits the skills and knowledge of staff to allow us to meet all needs.

**What training is provided for staff supporting children with special needs (continued)?**

The National Autistic Society acknowledge in its recent inspection in 2022 the level of training that staff routinely receive. They found that staff are competent in SCERTS, PECS, Attention Autism, Sensory Diets, Zones of Regulation and Intensive Interaction.

The NAS 2022 inspection found that all staff were seen to be consistent in their delivery of autism specific best practice methods and approaches across school.

Autism specific best practice methods and approaches are included in the CPD programme. The ASC coordinators have audited training previously attended by the whole staff team. From this audit they have created a list of experienced staff (Ambassadors) who would be confident in offering support to new staff in a number of best practice methods and approaches. As part of the performance management programme another training audit has taken place asking staff to identify key areas in which they would like to receive further training. The CPD programme in 2022/2023 will reflect the outcome of this audit. Staff have recently attended and been involved in a wide range of professional training.

The school has an accredited MOVE trainer and the trainer ensures other staff members are trained.

**How accessible is Elleray Park School and how appropriate is the learning environment?**

Elleray Park sites at Wallasey and Pensby are fully accessible with changing and toilet areas adapted to meet the needs of the school's pupil population.

The classroom environments are designed to meet the needs of the class group each year. For some pupils a low arousal environment is required and for others a more vibrant learning environment is needed. The school is adept at ensuring that there are very different environments for each group of pupils.

The school's environment facilitates independence by being structured, organised and uncluttered. Careful considerations have been made to the school environment, specifically around the use of visual structure and low arousal teaching spaces, fostering a calm and productive learning environment.

**How accessible is Elleray Park School and how appropriate is the learning environment? (Continued)**

**The outdoor learning areas have been adapted to meet the needs of the pupils and are fully accessible. The school has invested considerable money into the outdoor areas and all areas provide exciting learning and creative opportunities for the school population.**

**How will I be involved in Elleray Park and how can I get involved?**

**Parents are involved in Elleray Park from the very beginning. Parents are encouraged to visit the school when looking for appropriate provision for their child. Once a place has been confirmed a detailed and personalised transition package is put in place. Parents are key to this process working successfully.**

**Class communicate with parents through class dojos. This is an important way of ensuring that we are kept in touch with each other. We send targets to ensure that learning is reinforced. At the beginning of October parents are invited to meet the class staff. During this structured conversation targets for the child are outlined and discussed for the coming year.**

**School staff then meet with parents during the spring and summer terms to discuss how each child is progressing.**

**We organise multi-disciplinary meetings at school to ensure that each professional working with your child is kept fully informed.**

**We have an informal parent / staff fundraising committee that organises fund raising events for the school throughout the year. We hold Christmas and summer fetes and have family discos one evening per term. Our website is regularly updated with class information and upcoming events.**

**How does Elleray Park consult with pupils and involve them in their education?**

**At Elleray Park pupils are totally involved in their education. Where possible targets are shared with them and they are encouraged at the end of each lesson to evaluate their progress. (This is naturally dependent on the pupils age and the level at which they are functioning)**

**What do I do if I have a concern about the school provision?**

The first thing for parents / carers to do is talk to the class teacher. Most concerns are effectively resolved at this level. However, should you feel that you need additional support please contact the Headteacher. Parental concerns are always taken very seriously and the Headteacher will make every effort to address each one. In the very unlikely event that your concern is not resolved then please contact our Chair of Governors. The school's complains procedures can be accessed on the website or obtained from the school office.

**What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by Ellera Park?**

Ellera Park has a wide range of staff working together within the school to support our children. School staff, including our extensive team of mid-day staff are employed by the school and are highly skilled and trained in the field of complex learning difficulties. The school also employs its own Family Support Manager. In addition to our own school staff, the school accesses a range of specialist services including:

- Paediatricians
- School Nurses (on site full time)
- Speech and Language Therapists including enhanced provision paid for by school
- Occupational Therapists
- Educational Psychologists
- Clinical Psychologist- on a needs led basis
- Physiotherapists
- Vision and Hearing Support
- Social Care– Children with Disabilities team
- Family Support Workers- on a needs led basis
- Local Authority Special Education Needs Team
- Wired / Parent Partnership
- Wirral Autistic Society
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services

**How do you prepare my child for joining Elleray Park or transferring to another school?**

**Pre-admission meetings:** before a pupil is admitted to Elleray Park, parents / carers visit the school to get 'a feel' of what the provision is like. Following on from this, a structured transition programme is planned. This period of time allows us to get to know your son / daughter in surroundings that are familiar to them. The transition arrangements vary according to the needs of the child and the family and are very much arranged in partnership with yourselves as parents/ carers.

**Secondary transition:** we know that this can be a very anxious time for parents / carers, as children, who have often been part of our school community for 8/9 years, prepare to leave. However, it is extremely well managed and meticulously planned both by the secondary schools and by ourselves. The secondary schools have a very bespoke programme for each child and this ensures that the start in a new school is a most exciting experience.

**Where can I get further information about services for my child?**

**Wirral Local Authority** has a directory of services that can help to support you. Elleray Park has contributed to this information as have parents and young people. This is referred to as the Local Offer and the link to the website is <http://localofferwirral.org>

