



Victory Park Academy SEND Information Report Summer 2021

In September 2014 a new Special Educational Needs Code of Practice came into effect. From this time Local Authorities must publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place Information about provision that they expect to be made available for children and young people in their area who have Special Educational Needs. (SEN)

The Local Offer, provided by Southend Borough Council has two key purposes:

- To provide clear, comprehensive and accessible information about the provision available to support disabled children and children with SEN and their families.
- To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving children and young people with SEND, parents/carers and service providers in its development and review.

The information and support available can be accessed by clicking the link below:

<https://livewellsouthend.com/>

Schools must contribute to the Local Offer. This SEN Information Report is our school's contribution to the Local Offer.

If you would like further information about what we offer at Victory Park Academy then please do not hesitate to contact our SENCO, Miss K Blight.

Special Educational Needs Information

Types of Special Needs catered for:

Victory Park Academy is a Specialist Alternative Provision (AP), providing an education for students aged 5-16 providing short term and fulltime education. Students are referred to us if they display significant social, emotional and mental health issues places often presenting as behaviour difficulties and those who have been permanently excluded from School and has resulted in them being unable to access their education in a mainstream setting.

Provision at Victory Park Academy:

Victory Park Academy provides a caring community which aims to promote communities, mutual respect and understanding and an effective and therapeutic education for all students. Behaviour is viewed as communication and all staff adopt a trauma informed lens approach when students are facing difficulties.

At Victory Park Academy, classes are restricted to small numbers with a high adult: student ratio. This enables all young people to have access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, with teaching and learning strategies that maximise achievement and prevent failure. Staff strive to remove barriers to learning and provide access to a wide range of learning experiences and challenges while taking into consideration their emotions and wellbeing.

All students are allocated an adult as their Form Tutor in Secondary and Class teacher in Primary. These members of staff monitor the student's progress, oversee the student's general wellbeing, offer advice and support throughout the school day and provide an essential conduit between the Academy and home. Students are encouraged to form a relationship with their Tutors, Class teachers and Learning Support Assistants and share any achievements or difficulties with them.

On entry to Victory Park Academy, each student will have baseline assessments in behaviour and academic competency. Students will be assessed using the WRAT (Wide Range Achievement Test), for literacy and numeracy. Specific language skills will also be assessed using the Single Word Receptive and Expressive Language Assessments or ELKLAN Abstract Language Tools. A risk assessment will be made using previous records to inform possible strategies to support the student with their emotional regulation and an Individual Support Plan (ISP) will be made with 3 targets. The ISP targets are monitored frequently and reviewed at least termly. The desired outcomes of all interventions are to reduce the gap between a student's current ability to within age related expectations.

Additional support can be arranged using interventions which focus on an individual's needs as identified in their personal EHCP and can include:

- 1:1 daily reading and spelling
- Maths number skills
- Sentence structure
- Expressive and receptive language development
- Comprehension and inference
- Lexia
- Social skills
- Emotional literacy
- Anger Management
- Counselling

Victory Park also offers a Therapeutic Curriculum which operates in tandem with the Academic Curriculum that promotes students personal development. This curriculum encompasses all students and includes the use of Zones of Regulation, SIS, PSHE and RSE modules.

Looked After Children:

All looked after children are offered extra support with their English and Maths skills as well as help completing related examination course work. An individual Support Plan is implemented.

LAC and PEP reviews are attended by a relevant member of staff or the SENCO (Designated Teacher for LAC children). SMART targets are generated and any additional money from the related pupil premium is allocated to additional support with regards learning, social and emotional skill building activities.

Counselling is available and forms a strong role in our therapeutic curriculum. Referrals and requests can be made by parents, carers, staff and any other stakeholders and are considered on an individual basis. Progress is assessed using the SIS data analysis.

The curriculum at Victory Park Academy has been tailored to meet the needs of individuals. This includes enrichment activities where students are able to develop their social and emotional skills within the community. There are also structured social times, such as Breakfast Club, sporting fixtures and assemblies.

The school's approach to teaching pupils with special education needs varies according to the needs of each group. All students are educated in small class groups with additional adult support, to enable achievement. Appropriate behaviour and learning are rewarded with additional social times. Students are also given the opportunity to develop their emotional literacy, within a safe environment. Achievement is celebrated once a week in a celebration assembly.

KS3 education is delivered by subject specific teachers and assessed using the same levels as mainstream school. Lessons are 60 minutes long and adapted according to the needs of the students.

KS4 students are able to follow an optional vocational curriculum with English and Maths as core subjects. Some vocational subjects are off site provisions and include transport to and from the location.

The aim is to enable pupils to make as much progress as possible and to prepare them for the next stage of their education wherever this may be.

Victory Park have the following facilities:

- Full sized sports hall for PE lessons.
- Specialist Cookery room where all groups are taught cookery and life skills in small groups – up to 6 pupils.
- Specialist art room to cover curriculum and therapy.
- A multi-sensory room for integrating sensory needs in the primary corridor.
- Outdoor area for growing vegetables and fruit for life skills.
- Large playgrounds for break times and outdoor PE
- Learning hub upstairs for students struggling with social interaction/ anxiety etc
- Two counselling suites for CBT, art therapy and play therapy

Outcomes:

Students are supported to develop their social, emotional and academic skills to within age related bands.

The aim of Victory Park Academy is that all students achieve at least 5 GCSEs or equivalent by the end of KS4.

Identified Year 9 and 10 students are encouraged to 'bank' qualifications during their school life, we refer to this as tangible currency. These include functional Skills in English and Maths and Food Technology.

If a pupil is able, willing and wishes to access local mainstream school provision for certain subjects, this is negotiated individually for the pupil(s) concerned with families and the pupil, and school concerned.

Adaptions to teaching:

Teaching and learning at Victory Park Academy is of paramount importance and is adapted to meet the needs of individual learners. This can include:

- Seating arrangements

- Support – should hover and give opportunity for independence
- Story frames
- Story Mountains
- Date and LO already written
- Concrete resources
- Phonics mats and key word fans
- Support to pre learn vocabulary
- Manageable chunks
- Revisions and experience
- Multi-sensory
- Writing frames
- Colourful semantics
- Making and using vocabulary maps
- Making and using mind maps
- Alternative ways for recording work
- Word Processor
- Number lines
- 100 square
- Table's grid
- Adult scribe- Reader

Additional support from within the school:

Victory Park employs 3 counsellors who use CBT, play therapy and art therapy to support emotional needs on a 1-1 basis.

Victory Park employs an art therapist 3 days a week to support individuals and groups.

A Welfare Team supporting the welfare of students and pastoral care are readily available and are mental health first aiders.

Additional support and access to outside services:

The school liaises very closely with the Emotional, Wellbeing & Mental Health (EWMHs) team and supports a number of students and families who are having difficulties. Joint behavioural and emotional programmes are worked on with families and all concerned.

Regular support and advice is gained from the local Educational Psychology Service and requests can be made for assessments, observations and advice around learning and communication needs.

Referrals can be made to the Speech Therapy Service and requests to the Speech and Language

Specialist Teacher for assessments around language and communication.

The school liaises with the school nurse and can refer directly for additional support around health and wellbeing issues.

The school liaises with the Lighthouse Child Development Centre to support health assessments, reviews and in the monitoring of health conditions which require the administration of medication such as ADHD.

The school liaises with the adolescent, intervention and prevention team (AIPT) and has weekly visits from the School Community Police Officer.

School holiday clubs are run for most school holidays. These are either sports activities in the Sports

Hall or practical cookery lessons. These are advertised and accessed via school letters and bookings forms.

Specialist training and expertise of staff:

All staff at Victory Park Academy are MAPA trained for behaviour management to safely diffuse situations and manage the behaviour of some very challenging pupils and situations.

All staff must complete a range of online Educare courses demonstrating compliance in Mental Health, Safeguarding and SEND.

All staff attend weekly CPD training which covers curriculum, pupil focus, assessment and SEND.

If there is an unmet need that we feel we could benefit from training in, then we will do our best to acquire it from outside sources if it felt to be essential to meeting the needs of the current pupils.

Consultation and Communication:

At Victory Park Academy we believe communication with families is vital. We hold an open door policy and will discuss any concerns raised via telephone or through an arranged meeting.

ISPs are reviewed by teachers and shared termly with parents.

For Students with EHCP's annual reviews / meetings about progress are arranged regarding the outline of provision and need from the EHCP. Parents/carers and children, where appropriate, are invited to attend the meetings. Reports and graphs of progress are discussed at the meeting as well as views as to the next steps in learning and longer term views as to possible routes for life after school.

Parents are asked to give their views about the work of the school via a yearly questionnaire. The results are published in the school. Parent View on Ofsted's web-site is also available for those who wish to pass on their views to Ofsted.

Access Arrangements:

Victory Park Academy is fully inclusive and all students are actively encouraged to participate in our extra-curricular activities. Our site and facilities are fully accessible for all students, including those with disabilities, including wheel chair access. Victory Park Academy provides allocated disabled toilets, wide access corridors and ramp access and has a lift to enable access to further rooms upstairs.

Exam Access Arrangements:

Access arrangements follow government guidelines and allow pupils with identified needs to show what they know without affecting the integrity of the assessment. They are a principle way in which awarding bodies comply with the duty under the equality act 2010, to make reasonable adjustments. These can include a reader, scribe or processor for specified examinations, and/or extra time or rest breaks and be part of normal practice within the classroom. These are applied for prior to students sitting exams and must be part of their daily practice.

Transition:

We consider transition to be a very important aspect to the success of a pupil's start at Victory Park Academy. We also plan carefully any transitions in our daily school life.

New starters are invited to an induction meeting with their family to share information and find out about the school. At this point an individual transition plan will be agreed with the SENCo to ensure that the transition is successful and moves at the pace of the pupil. These are reviewed regularly building up to full time attendance.

If a pupil is moving to another school/educational setting, careful transition work is completed with the pupil and the family and outreach support is provided to support to share strategies and support settle students in their new setting. A leavers' assembly enables all pupils to know they are transitioning from one provision to another, even if they are remaining within this school. Those pupils who are remaining in this school spend time in transition into the secondary department having lessons with new staff and getting used to the new environment. Information about the pupils is given to the next setting, producing one page profiles of pupils as well as passing on further information on strategies that help and any further support that is needed.

Pupils in Years 10 and 11 are prepared for their next steps through a series of activities in lessons according to their individual needs. All pupils are encouraged to attend their EHC review meetings to discuss their future choices with staff, parents and a Local Authority Careers or Transitions Guidance team member. All local college open evenings and relevant careers/work fairs are advertised to pupils and parents.

If you feel that you need to make a complaint at any time please speak to the SENCo, Miss K Blight who can be contacted via email; jgallagher@victorypark.org.uk or alternatively refer to our complaints procedure which is available on the school website.