

Introduction

Rushey Mead Academy is proud to be an inclusive school, valuing the individuality of all young people. We are committed to giving all our students every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards. We do this by taking account of students' varied life experiences and needs. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations of all our children. The achievements, attitudes and wellbeing of all our students matter and are celebrated.

In August 2024 we opened Rushey Meadows, a Designated Specialist Provision for students with Language, Communication and Interaction needs, and in August 2025 we opened Rushey Connect, an internal provision to support students who may be struggling in mainstream lessons.

This section shares the policies and practices that we have in place to ensure these aspirations become apparent.

What is SEND?

The Code of Practice 2014 states that:

'A pupil has SEN where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age.'

The Four broad areas of need identified within the SEN Code of Practice 2014 are:

- Communication and Interaction (e.g. speech articulation, stammering, speech and language delay, autism etc)
- Cognition and Learning (e.g. global learning difficulties, dyslexia, dyscalculia etc)
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (e.g. anxiety, depression, eating disorders, obsessive, compulsive disorder (OCD) etc)
- Sensory and Physical Needs (Visual impairment, hearing impairment, sensory needs (e.g. autism, dyspraxia, toileting issues, physical disability etc)

Type of SEND	Provision In Place
Communication and Interaction (e.g. speech articulation, stammering, speech and language delay, autism etc)	Advice is provided and shared with staff. The LCI link teachers work with individuals and provide specific advice for school. The Educational Psychologist provides advice and strategies for individual students. Enhanced transition arrangements ensure needs are identified and arrangements put in place as students move from KS2 and in Year 11 for post 16 provision. Connexions work with some students to ensure support is provided during transition. Bespoke individual support is available if professionals advise this is necessary.

	Personalised support and guidance where necessary.
--	--

Type of SEND	Provision In Place
Cognition and Learning (e.g. global learning difficulties, dyslexia, dyscalculia etc)	On entry, the school assesses students' cognition and learning through MIDYIS tests, reading, literacy, and numeracy tests are conducted and previous attainment levels at KS2 are reviewed. Primary school visits take place during transition and throughout the academic year when necessary. Enhanced transition visits to RMA take place for students who require them. Connexions support in transition plans to post 16 provision where appropriate. The following programmes are implemented when baseline assessments indicate a need: • Variety of reading interventions targeted to particular aspects of literacy including: Phonics, Inference, and Comprehension. • Targeted maths interventions Small group and individual work where appropriate The following assessments are used in conjunction with observation to identify specific needs: • MIDYIS • Reading age assessments • Maths assessments Alternative provision is sought where necessary including bespoke programmes and at KS4, Foundation Learning and Entry Level courses are identified. After school study clubs support learning.

Type of SEND	Provision In Place
--------------	--------------------

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (e.g. anxiety, depression, eating disorders, obsessive, compulsive disorder (OCD) etc)	We have good links with feeder primary schools, and the year 6 profiles are shared before transition and enhanced induction days and visits arranged where appropriate PSHE activities are incorporated into tutor time activities. Safeguarding, anti-bullying and behaviour policies and procedures all support students with SEMH needs. The school holds the ABC anti-bullying award. The following resources are used to support those children who have been identified with issues relating to SEMH difficulties: TAs are available to provide support, guidance, modelling and practice of skills if appropriate. Rushey Restoration is available for dysregulated students. Bereavement support is offered and referrals to the Laura Centre if appropriate. The following bespoke and time limited interventions might be used to support a student with SEMH difficulties: ELSA intervention Social Stories intervention Nurture and friendship groups Restorative curriculum For some students a personalised and bespoke timetable is required Use of Rushey Connect where appropriate
---	---

Type of SEND	Provision In Place
--------------	--------------------

Sensory and Physical Needs (Visual impairment, hearing impairment, sensory needs (e.g. autism, dyspraxia, toileting issues, physical disability etc)	Clear planning for the production of modified resources, with support from outside agencies where appropriate. Provision of differentiated and assistive resources and materials when planning delivery of lessons. Consideration of timetabling and location of rooms, which are suitably furnished. DDA compliant building, including where appropriate adaptations to the environment. The young person is aware of their own impairment and its limitations and implications for their own learning. The school enables the young person to take responsibility for their own learning environment. All environmental aspects of the school building have been considered with reference to special individual needs, and where appropriate further modifications are provided after support and guidance from appropriate agencies. The following are available to students with these needs: · Full access throughout the school · Use of lifts as appropriate · Disabled toilets · Fire evacuation using Evac chairs if required Adapted resources for ICT Specialist staff from the Hearing Support Team and Vision Support Team provide assessment and support where appropriate. Links with disability sports provide help with inclusive practices. Enhanced transition arrangements ensure needs are identified and arrangements put in place as students move from KS2 and in Year 11 for post 16 provision. Other agencies are involved if appropriate.
--	--

Where can I find the school's Accessibility Policy?

A copy of the Accessibility Policy can be found on the Academy's website.

What are the admission arrangements for students with SEND at Rushey Mead?

We follow the Leicester City Council Admissions code and the Admissions department arrange all admissions to the academy.

<https://www.leicester.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/school-and-colleges/schooladmissions/admissions-policy-and-arrangements/>

What are the arrangements for supporting students with SEN who are looked after by the local authority?

Looked After Children fall within the scope of the 'Guidance for Education of Looked after Children'.

The Lead Safeguarding Officer works closely with the SENDCO and SEND team to ensure all students reach their full potential.

This includes holding PEPs and applying for additional support where required.

We endeavour to build resilience and embrace challenge through an inclusive environment that is both flexible and responsive, ensuring all students with SEND have their needs met and achieve the best outcomes. We strive to ensure everyone has an equal opportunity to fully engage with the whole curriculum.

At Rushey Mead all students, teachers and parents share a common vision to **Make A Positive Difference**.

This underpins everything we do and helps us to achieve the best outcomes for all students.

Every day at Rushey Mead we work together to **Make A Positive Difference**.

- *To ourselves.* We support students to achieve the highest standards, not just in lessons and examinations, but also in extra-curricular activities. We encourage them to consider their behaviour and to understand how this behaviour makes a positive difference to them and their future prospects. Every individual truly matters and we support them to be the best they can be. We follow the Rushey Way at all times; 1 be kind, 2 work hard and 3 develop your whole self.
- *To others.* Students at Rushey Mead consider their place in society and understand what it means to be a good citizen. The academy is extensively involved in charitable activity and students fully participate not only in fundraising for good causes but also in actively helping others. The development of leadership skills for students is an important focus for the academy through our "Compass" student leadership scheme. On a daily basis staff and students support one another and their peers to mutual success.
- *To our world.* Every day we encourage all members of our learning community to respect their surroundings and make sustainable choices for the future. We take collective responsibility to make Rushey Mead, Leicester and the wider world a better place.

Rushey 1-2-3

Students' safety and wellbeing is of paramount importance, so we seek to make sure that they thrive and are protected from harm and well equipped to make wise choices. Our excellent pastoral support system ensures that students are helped to do their best and are happy in school. Students feel safe, nurtured and supported.

Our Rushey 1-2-3 expectations **of Be Kind, Work Hard, Develop your Whole Self** provide a framework for personal conduct and development for students. From the moment a student arrives at Rushey Mead Academy we ask them to live these expectations, so that they permeate all that we do:

1 **Be Kind** – We aim to develop respectful, tolerant students who are kind to everyone.

2 **Work hard** – We promote resilience and persistence in the face of challenges initiative as qualities to be admired and rewarded, at school, as they will be in life.

3 Develop your whole self – We want students to develop more than just academic excellence. We want them to use their leadership skills, sporting talent, musical or dramatic ability, raise money for charity or challenge themselves on the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. All of these make for rich and memorable experiences, develop qualities prized by employers and develop important wider attributes.

What expertise and training of staff do Rushey Mead provide to support students with SEN?

We employ staff who are highly qualified and committed, and ensure that through induction, PL, and quality assurance processes we have outstanding staff working with our students with SEND. All staff receive advice, training and guidance to deliver quality first teaching and support SEND students in accessing the curriculum and ensuring the most effective provision.

Last year all staff completed training in autism awareness, adaptive teaching strategies, and meeting the needs of all learners.

We have a trained and experienced team around the year group, including specialist SEND staff and a Level 3 ELSA TA who supports with social and emotional development. Teachers also receive training in all areas of SEND and have a wide body of experience and expertise to draw upon.

What facilities are provided to assist access to the academy?

A copy of the Accessibility plan is available on the school website. These include the following adaptations:

Examples of reasonable adjustments:

- Braille resources produced in-school
- Enlarged print and coloured overlays
- Assistive technology (text-to-speech, speech-to-text)
- Additional time and rest breaks
- Modified PE curriculum maintaining challenge
- Alternative recording methods

What equipment and facilities do we have to support students with SEND?

- Bespoke equipment to meet needs will also be made available internally and in partnership with services for visually or hearing-impaired students or any other identified needs.
- Sensory garden with musical equipment including drums and chimes for visually impaired students
- Specific furniture adaptations in DT, Science, Art, PE

What support services are available?

We work in collaboration and partnership with all support services to ensure students' needs are appropriately met. We have a history of very strong multi-agency working and safeguarding, ensuring that we receive the most appropriate support from external agencies. Rushey Mead Academy works in partnership with other agencies in order to provide an integrated support based on the needs of the student. The main external support agencies used by the Academy include (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Leicester Local Authority SEND multi-agency teams
- Virtual School

- The Educational Psychologist team
- CAMHS support
- Children's Hospital School
- School Nurse
- School Counsellor
- Educational Welfare Officers
- Speech and Language Service
- Occupational Therapy
- Leicester City in the Community

How does Rushey Mead adapt the curriculum and the learning environment of students with SEND?

The curriculum is tailored to students with high level needs through their EHCPs, and all staff support students in achieving their learning outcomes through the use of Advice Cards and Student Spotlights.

A graduated response is adopted for students identified as having SEND. Provision is identified and managed by the SENDCO and Learning Support faculty, but will be planned and delivered by teaching and support staff as part of Quality First Teaching. For a more detailed review of provision please refer to the Academy SEND policy.

How does Rushey Mead ensure that students with SEN are enabled to engage in activities available with students in the academy who do not have SEN?

This is ensured through:

1. All staff having a keen commitment to inclusive education.
2. SENDCO and teaching assistants advocating on behalf of SEND students if needed.
3. Close monitoring of school activities uptake to ensure SEND students are participating at proportionate rates at least.
4. Active encouragement of participation through the Rushey Passport.
5. Tracking of homework through data analysis

What steps are taken to prevent students with SEND from being treated less favourably than other students?

Robust monitoring systems, including individual student trackers, are in place to monitor every aspect of a student's experience to ensure there is equality of access and fair treatment for all according to need.

We have an inclusive curriculum to ensure equality of opportunity and high expectations regardless of starting points.

How will Rushey Mead evaluate the effectiveness of the provision made for students with SEN?

- Analysis of termly tracking data, including A2L, homework, Rushey Passport, etc
- Reports to parents including Annual Reviews for EHCPs.
- School self-evaluation and improvement planning.
- Academy Council monitoring visits
- Peer review via Challenge Partners.
- Learning Walks, Pupil Pursuits and DDIs.

- Observations, monitoring and quality assurance from professionals working for specialist agencies and by those at school.
- Evaluating GCSE outcomes and using the information to plan for the following academic year.
- Student voice.
- Parent voice

How does Rushey Mead assess and review SEND students' progress towards outcomes

Through regular tracking and analysis of SEND performance data, assessment information from subjects, Pupil Pursuits, learning walks and DDIs specifically for SEND students, and meetings with parents and students.

How does Rushey Mead consult parents of children with SEND and involve them in their child's education?

We work in partnership with parents/carers to provide an education of the highest quality, which celebrates everyone's success in a stimulating and caring environment where all our differences are valued. We believe the relationship between Rushey Mead Academy and parents/carers is a partnership which involves a two-way process. We recognise and value the input of the family and believe that this has a crucial bearing on a student's educational progress, and on the effectiveness of any action the school may take. We aim to ensure parents/carers are supported and informed through:

- communication via telephone calls, letters and emails,
- termly tracking,
- annual reviews for EHCP,
- parents' evenings, coffee mornings and meet the tutor evening,
- multi- agency meetings.

How does Rushey Mead consult students with SEND and involve them in their education?

This takes place at Annual reviews for students with an EHCP and also through parents' evenings, Pupil Pursuits to monitor progress, student voice through surveys and questionnaires, observations in lessons, feedback from TAs and consultation and feedback from external professionals.

What support for improving emotional and social development does Rushey Mead offer?

We have a trained and experienced pastoral and SEND team of staff, including a specialist Level 3 ELSA TA, who supports with social and emotional development. Teachers also receive regular training and have a wide body of experience and expertise to draw upon. Other staff who support students' emotional wellbeing include:

- Full-time school counsellor
- Full-time ELSA practitioner
- Mental Health Support Team (MHST)
- School nurse
- Leicester City in the Community partnership (4 days per week)
- Two Family Support Workers

How does Rushey Mead involve other bodies, including health and social care bodies, local authority support services and voluntary sector organisations, in meeting student's SEN and supporting their families?

We have a history of very strong multi-agency working and safeguarding, ensuring that we receive the most appropriate support from external agencies. Rushey Mead Academy works in partnership with other agencies in order to provide an integrated support based on the needs of the student. The main external support agencies used by the Academy include (this is not an exhaustive list):

- Leicester Local Authority SEND Services
- The Educational Psychologist team
- CAMHS support
- Children's Hospital School
- School Nurse
- School Counsellor
- Educational Welfare Officers
- Speech and Language Service
- Occupational Therapy

How does Rushey Mead support students with SEND in the transfer between phases of education/the preparation for adulthood and independent living?

We have strong transition arrangements for post 16 provision including enhanced visits during Year 11 reviews after transition, resulting in no NEET students and a well-established programme of transition from feeder primary schools.

How are SEND students supported in the event of remote or blended learning?

During a period of remote or blended learning every EHCP or high needs student will be allocated a teaching assistant who will keep in regular contact with them whilst they are working from home. They will provide regular telephone or Teams support for both emotional wellbeing and support to access and complete on-line lessons.

What are the arrangements for handling complaints from parents of children with SEN about the provision made at Rushey Mead?

A copy of the complaint's procedure is available on the school website.

Next Review- Oct 2027