



Information Sheet

Introduction

Bishopswood School is a co-located Special School, uniquely spread across three different sites. Our school community is comprises pupils and young people aged between 2 - 16 years with significant, severe and multiple or complex learning difficulties. The opportunities offered for both social and academic inclusion with our mainstream partner schools are a very strong feature of the school. We are committed to providing professional advice and expertise to our mainstream colleagues.

As a forward-looking school we offer access to good facilities, teaching resources and professional training opportunities. There are currently 72 pupils on roll, 8.1 (FTE) teachers plus a Headteacher and 19 (FTE) classroom support staff together with part time physiotherapists, an occupational therapist, a speech therapist, a school nurse, and office staff.

The school structure

Our early years (nursery) is co-located at Valley Road Primary School, Henley. There are four primary classes in the Bishopswood School building on the site of Sonning Common Primary School. There are three secondary classes in two buildings at Maiden Erlegh Chiltern Edge secondary school in Sonning Common.

Teaching and Learning

Teaching is carefully differentiated to build on the strengths of individual pupils and to overcome barriers to learning - such as verbal communication, mobility, sensory impairment, and challenging behaviours. Pupils are working within the P levels and lower National Curriculum Levels, and therefore require regular individual support and teaching using highly structured programmes to progress. A range of assessment processes are finely tuned to capture progress, however significant. The school enjoys a good reputation for its relevant and broad curriculum with its emphasis on Personal & Social Education. The classrooms are well resourced with mobility and seating aids, interactive whiteboards or flat panels, chromebooks and iPads and a range of other technologies to support learning. The school is also well resourced in term of its access to wider facilities both on site and beyond. We have our own sensory gardens and play areas and a hydrotherapy pool as well access regular access to other pools. We make good use of the facilities of our partner schools - such as the hall, playing field, swimming pool, canteen facilities etc., and use leisure centres, 'Riding for the Disabled' and other providers in the locality.

The most recent Ofsted report (2017) stated that the school continues to be good, maintaining a good quality of education for the children. Please see our website for details of our OFSTED and other reports.

Partnership with parents

We are very highly regarded by our parents and within our community. We believe that close co-operation with parents and carers is an essential part of every child's education. Therefore, all staff at the school are expected to liaise and work closely with parents in a variety of ways to the benefit of the children. Parents are always welcome to assist in the planning and implementation of learning programmes. Partnership is achieved through Annual Review meetings, termly meetings to discuss IEP's and progress and informally through home-school diaries and regular contact with class teachers.

The Bishopswood School Association (PTA) actively supports by financing the running costs of the two school minibuses. Over the past few years they have also provided a wide range of computer aids and programmes, contributed to towards the costs of fully equipping the new classrooms on the primary site, creating and equipping a sensory garden and playground area.

Teachers meet after school once a week for curriculum development work and there are weekly meetings with all the classroom staff.

General

The school has a positive commitment to equal opportunities, safeguarding children and actively promoting their welfare. The school Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy sets out the procedures for recognition and referral of suspected child abuse. All staff have responsibility to protect pupils from abuse. All staff are required to undertake an enhanced DBS check. The "Bishopswood Children's Charter" sets out a code of conduct for all staff.

Bishopswood is a unique co-located school that creates a safe, stimulating and fun environment. This is achieved through the commitment, care and expertise of our aspirational staff working in partnership with families, governors and the local community. Our school has an inclusive, therapeutic and creative approach to learning that enables individuals to develop their resilience and character ensuring all pupils achieve their full potential.