

“In Pursuit of Excellence”

Wootton Academy Trust is committed to the principle that every child has individual needs, has an entitlement to access the full curriculum offer and be fully included in all aspects of the life of Wootton Upper School and Kimberley College, irrespective of ability, race, gender or need and should be respected and valued as individuals.

Need

At Wootton Upper School we truly believe every child does matter. As a result of this, learning is differentiated to suit the needs of each individual student:

Communication and Interaction Difficulties

All students with speech, language and communication difficulties are highlighted on the SEND register which is provided for staff and recorded on sims. Opportunities to improve communication skills are presented in lessons. We have teaching assistants who lead on Speech & Language, Autism, Visual Impairments, Hearing Impairments, Literacy and numeracy. Specialist services are consulted regularly to provide advice and guidance. They are also invited into school to work with individuals or groups of pupils on a regular basis.

Cognition and Learning Difficulties

All students are supported to make progress. We use a variety of different assessment methods to regularly track progress including exam based assessments, extended writing and oral assessments. Students with cognition and learning difficulties are assessed in Year 9 and access arrangements for external exams are put in place as required. Successes are celebrated with students regularly. Lessons in all subjects are differentiated; the use of Special Educational Needs Pupil Profile Sheets (PPS) inform Quality First Teaching.

Social, Mental and Emotional Health Difficulties

Wootton Upper School has a dedicated Attendance Officer to support students and their families. In addition the Wellbeing Team aims to provide a secure and consistent environment with equality of opportunity for all our students; one in which they feel safe, supported, included, valued, respected and listened to. The SENDCo works closely with the Pastoral Team to ensure all students receive the support they need. This includes one to one mentoring, group mentoring and support from Pastoral Leaders. The needs of students are communicated to relevant staff and support from specialist services is readily available for students, staff and families.

Sensory and Physical Difficulties

Wootton Upper School is in close liaison with several different specialist teams who support students in their learning. ICT equipment is made available to students to aid learning; both staff and students receive training regarding specialist equipment. Lessons are differentiated; the use of Special Educational Needs Pupil Profile Sheets (PPS) inform Quality First Teaching. Independence is encouraged both at home and school.

Parent/Student Consultation

We welcome and encourage all parents and carers to participate in their child's educational progress from the outset. The SENDCo is available to meet by appointment and will also be available at all progress meetings. Any changes made to student SEND status will be in consultation with students and parents/carers. Students are aware of the SENDCo and their role within school. All pupils are encouraged to speak to the SENDCo or Pastoral Leaders regarding any issues or worries they may have. The SENDCo can be contacted at the school:

SENDCo

Jessica Newman
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator
jnewman@wootton.beds.sch.uk

Wootton Upper School
Hall End Road
Wootton
MK43 9HT
01234 767123 Ext 243

Identifying and Reviewing SEND

The whole school has a responsibility for the identification and review of students' needs in line with the guidance the SEN Code of Practice 2014. Teachers will use the SEN referral form to pass on any students they have identified as requiring more support and intervention. Subject Leaders are supported in interrogating assessment data regularly to identify any students not making progress. The school employs the use of the Graduated Approach to identify and support students and their families. Students who are identified as having SEND are recorded on the Whole School SEND Register. Education, Health and Care Plans and Special Educational Needs Pupil Profile Sheets (PPS) will be used as appropriate to monitor and review progress for those on the Whole School SEND Register. Pastoral and Wellbeing leads liaise with the SENDCO regularly to renew the impact of interventions.

Transition

SEND students at Wootton Upper School are involved in an extended transition period. The SENDCO works closely with feeder middle schools to prepare students and their families for the transition to Wootton Upper School.

Inclusive Teaching

Staff differentiate lessons according to the needs of the students. Special Educational Needs Pupil Profile Sheets (PPS) are used to inform planning and support for students with SEND. Students are supported to participate in all aspects of school including extra-curricular activities. ICT equipment is used to support students with SEND.

Inclusion

We are an inclusive school and are fully committed to ensuring that young people with SEND take part fully in the life of the school. All aspects of our anti-bullying policy (see safeguarding page on the website) apply to all students to ensure that students with SEND are not treated less favourably than others. Bullying is unacceptable and will not be tolerated.

Staff CPD

All staff at Wootton Upper School take an active part in their development. This is supported with both a CPD and coaching programme. External speakers/trainers are used to facilitate staff training during different times of the year.

Evaluating the Success of Provision for Students with SEND

The following will be evaluated regularly:

- Progress against SEND priorities in the School Improvement Plan.
- Outcomes of provision made through review of students targets and tracking.
- Analysis of how and where the Inclusion Budget is being used to provide for students on the Whole School SEND Register.

Wellbeing and Social Development

The Behaviour Policy provides for its community, real opportunities for learning in a caring, supportive and, above all, positive environment. Standards and expectations are high, with individuals encouraged to take responsibility for themselves. This is embedded across school in all lessons.

Elements of the 'Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning' curriculum are delivered through tutor time and social skills lessons. All students are aware of their rights and responsibilities within Wootton Upper School. Wootton Upper School operates a zero tolerance to bullying. Please refer to the Behaviour Policy and Peer on Peer Abuse Policy for more information.

External Agency Involvement

Wootton Upper School has close liaison with local authority support services, health and social care bodies and voluntary sector organisations. External agencies work with the school to offer advice and guidance to students, families and school staff.

Wootton Upper School has regular contact with the following services who provide support and advice:

- Hearing Impairment Team
- Visual Impairment Team
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Educational Psychologists
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- School Nursing Team
- Behaviour and Attendance

- Occupational Therapy
- Specialist Inclusion Service
- Physiotherapy
- Hospital Education (Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire)
- Brook Clinic
- CHUMs
- Greys Education Centre

Admissions

WAT will ensure that students with SEND are admitted on an equal basis with others in accordance with its admissions policy. For more details, see SEND Policy (page 8).

Accessibility

In line with the SEND and Disability Act 2001 the school has an Accessibility Plan. For more information, see page 9 of the SEND policy and the 3-year accessibility plan.

Summary

It is the school's aim to remove barriers to learning for all students in its care through improving outcomes, raising achievement and enabling participation in the full life of the school. Please refer to the local offer for more information regarding the support available at Wootton Upper School. Links to the below are available on the school website:

Bedford Borough SEND Local Offer

Central Bedfordshire SEND Local Offer

WAT SEND Policy

WAT Accessibility Plan

For other services that may be helpful to you and your family please go to:

<https://www.sendirect.org.uk/>