

School Provision Specifications

Wren Spinney School

Westover Road, Kettering, Northants, NN15 7LB
Tel: 01536 481939

Type of Provision

Wren Spinney School is a Secondary School for pupils aged 11-18. The school caters for a total of up to 60 pupils.

In its last 2 Ofsted inspections (most recent March 2014) the school has been rated 'Outstanding'. The school is part of the Maplefields Teaching School Alliance.



Admission Criteria and Arrangements

Wren Spinney provides education for pupils that have complex needs and associated sensory, physical, communication and behavioural difficulties including A.S.D. and multi-sensory impairment.

- All pupils will have a statement of Special Educational Needs or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and the Local Authority will have identified their needs as requiring placement at Wren Spinney
- The local authority will determine admission to the provision, considering parental preference and following consultation with the governing body and Headteacher, in accordance with the 'SEN and Disability Code of Practice', July 2014, if the pupil has an EHC plan or in accordance with the 'SEN Code of Practice', November 2001, if the pupil has a statement of SEN.
- Placements are made throughout the year although most admissions take place at the start of the academic year.
- Staff will liaise with any previous or future education establishments to enable a smooth transition.

School Characteristics

Wren Spinney School is set in a residential area on the western fringe of Kettering, overlooking open countryside. The accommodation offers a friendly environment and special facilities include a warm water pool, a sensory room, a vestibular room, food technology room, art & craft room and a life skills room. 3 'Safe Place' environments are available to support pupils, as and when required.

The school has 2 off-site satellite bases, in the heart of Kettering Town Centre. These bases comprise an award-winning sweet shop, simply called 'The Shop', and 'The Studio' which consists of 'The Wardrobe' selling pre-loved clothes for babies, children and adults, and an arts, crafts and gifts outlet. Both places provide vocational and life skills learning opportunities for Post-16 pupils and also for pupils in KS4. Students at these bases learn vital skills for life, not least customer service and interpersonal/social skills through daily interactions with the general public.

The school's Accessibility Plan describes the actions the school has taken to increase access to the environment and the curriculum. Further information is available via the school website.

Wren Spinney provides specialist teaching for pupils within the Autistic Spectrum. ASD classes are organised using TEACCH principles and the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) is used to support learners' communication. Additional classroom space is provided to ensure an appropriate learning environment for all ASD learners.



The PMLD provision offers an appropriate specialised learning environment which maximises the opportunities for multi-sensory learning. The specialist curriculum for PMLD pupils focuses on the development of communication and self-help skills. Technological aids, switches and a range of communication methods are used to facilitate learning. The PMLD classrooms and changing areas are equipped with ceiling hoists. Professional therapy instruction, support and advice is drawn upon for individual pupils, as required.

The school has a policy of total communication so that every child's individual communication skills are recognised as an integral part of

their education. Alternative and Augmentative communication methods including signing, PECS, communication aids, symbols software and switches are a strong feature of the school.

Pupils are taught in class groups identified by age, key stage and primary need. Sometimes it is necessary to have mixed age groupings. For those whom it is appropriate in KS5, provision is made for pupils to join other learners in other special schools, through the Northamptonshire Special Schools Consortium; usually pupils will access another school's curriculum offer for one day per week for 1 year.

If a pupil has a medical need then a detailed Health Care Plan is compiled by the school nurse in partnership with parents/carers and if appropriate the pupil themselves. Staff who provide medicine administration complete training that is overseen by the school nurse and follow the LA policy/DfE guidelines included within 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' Statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and proprietors of academies in England, February 2014.

Regarding staff organisation and integration opportunities, each class has a teacher who oversees all of their learning programmes. Whilst the class teacher spends the majority of their time with their class, teachers in the different key stages may have some regular designated sessions where they teach in other classes, or where pupils are mixed from across a key stage or across ASD groups. Similarly, pupils may be brought together from across different groups/keys stages for specific activities such as swimming, horse-riding, and PE. KS4/ASD/PMLD staff work together to offer work-related learning (WRL)/Enterprise activities in mixed groups; this enables pupils to work with their peers whilst having the reassurance and comfort of a tutor group for stability which meets their physical/complex needs. Where appropriate, Post-16 PMLD pupils may attend sessions at The Studio and/or The Shop.

A broad range of special activities are held annually, enabling pupils to engage with the wider community. These include our Scarecrow Convention, MacMillan Coffee morning, Christmas Carol Service (and carol singing at a local elderly people's home), Sport Relief/Comic Relief, Wren Spinney school performance, May Day, WrenFest, and our leavers' party.

The school has an effective School Council, elected annually in the autumn term and which meets every half term. There are always a good range of after-school clubs offered throughout the year, which are led by school staff and sometimes by external providers.

Review

Role of school:

Reviews arrangements for pupils with EHC Plans and for pupils with Statements of SEN are set out in the relevant SEN Codes of Practice. Wren Spinney will adhere to these, ensuring that due process is followed and that relevant timeframes are adhered to.

Role of the Local Authority:

Northamptonshire Local Authority will review a pupil's EHC Plan and Statement of SEN in accordance with the relevant SEN Code of Practice. The Local Authority will ensure that due process is followed and that relevant time frames are adhered to.

Assessment and Monitoring

For pupils:

The progress of pupils will be assessed and reviewed through:

- The school's generic processes for tracking the progress of all pupils
- Ongoing tracking of pupils' progress against the IEP targets agreed at annual review
- Twice-yearly use of the B-Squared assessment materials in Core Subjects
- Annual tracking of progress in all Foundation Subjects
- Comparison with pupils of similar ability in other schools using CASPA
- Cross-school moderation ensures similar marking and assessment criteria operates across the county special schools
- Annual review of Statements/Education Health and Care Plans are prescribed in the SEND Code of Practice (September 2014)
- External accreditation opportunities using a variety of modular courses from different awarding bodies: ASDAN in KS4, and ASDAN/AIM Awards in KS5

For the school:

- The School is inspected as part of the whole school Ofsted inspection.

Exit Criteria and Arrangements

The needs of individual students are paramount; although the vast majority of pupils do stay at Wren Spinney throughout their Secondary education, pupils' needs change over time so it should not be assumed that Wren Spinney will necessarily be the best placement for all pupils throughout their Secondary years.

Future Plans

To further develop and enhance provision for pupils with PMLD and ASD.

To improve the facilities at the school through extensive renovation and new build.

Staffing Details

The well-qualified, experienced and dedicated staff are able to meet the wide range of pupils' personal, educational and social needs and most are trained in positive handling (Team Teach.). All teaching assistants are at least Level 2; where possible classes will be supported by a designated Level 3 or 4 Teaching Assistant. A NHS nurse is almost always on site and the school employs a part-time Parent Support Worker to ensure effective support for parents. In addition an ICT technician supports technology resources in the school. Wren Spinney is committed to a process of continuous improvement so ongoing opportunities are provided to all staff for their professional development.

For more information, please visit the school's website:

<http://www.wrenspinney.northants.sch.uk/>

The Shop:

http://www.wrenspinney.northants.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=118&Itemid=643

The Studio:

http://www.wrenspinney.northants.sch.uk/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=119&Itemid=644

Wren Spinney works in association with:

Cube Disability: <http://www.thecubedisability.co.uk/home.aspx>

Delos Learning Disability Support (Wellingborough): <http://www.delos.org.uk/>

Foundations Day Service (Corby): <http://www.foundationsdayservice.com/>

Moulton College: <http://www.moulton.ac.uk/>

NAS Resource Centre (Irthlingborough): <http://www.autism.org.uk/services/england/northamptonshire/daytime-hubs/resource-centre.aspx>

Olympus Care: <https://www.olympuscareservices.co.uk/>

Rothwell SENSE: <https://www.sense.org.uk/content/rothwell-resource-centre>

Teamwork Trust (Corby; Kettering; Wellingborough): <http://www.teamworktrust.co.uk/index.php/where-we-are>