

# SEN INFORMATION REPORT 2017

## Introduction

The Cowplain School is a mainstream secondary school with a resourced provision for students who have a specific learning difficulty (SpLD).

At Cowplain we are committed to the successful inclusion of all students with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) by:

- Raising the profile of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) across the School for all teaching staff and students.
- Identifying Special Needs students early and accurately.
- Assessing students' individual needs.
- Deploying appropriate resources to meet students' needs.
- Informing staff of identified SEND students through SEN support list.
- Ensuring that staff are trained appropriately to equip students with the necessary skills to access the curriculum.
- Ensuring that parents of SEND students are kept fully informed of their child's progress and attainment.
- Encouraging students to become independent learners.

The SENCo is Miss Lindsey Everritt who can be contacted on 023 9261 2020 or by email at [l.everritt@cowplainschool.co.uk](mailto:l.everritt@cowplainschool.co.uk).

## Provision for SEN

Our Learning Support Department has expertise, experience and resources to provide effective support for students with one or more of the following broad areas of need:

### *Communication and interaction*

This may include students with speech, language and communication needs and those with Autistic Spectrum Condition such as Asperger's Syndrome.

### *Cognition and learning*

This could include students with moderate learning difficulties and those with specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia and/or dyspraxia.

### *Social, emotional and mental health difficulties*

This might include students with difficulties related to attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder or emotional difficulties due to anxiety and/or depression.

### *Sensory and/or physical needs*

This would include students with a visual or hearing impairment as well as those who have a physical disability. Students may well require specialist equipment to help them to access the curriculum.

## **Cowplain SpLD (Dyslexia) Resourced Provision**

Cowplain is one of six schools in Hampshire resourced to provide specialist support for children with specific learning difficulties (dyslexia). There are currently 22 places at Cowplain and children are identified and placed by Hampshire County Council. Most children are identified by their Primary schools in Year 5 although some students join after Year 7.

Students who are part of the resourced provision benefit from specialist tuition throughout their time at Cowplain and also receive in-class support.

Our staff are more than happy to provide support and additional information about the SpLD resource and the application procedure.

- Individualised tuition (where the student is withdrawn from one or more lessons per week to follow their own bespoke programme).
- Paired/small group tuition (students are withdrawn as above for a shared programme).

## **Identification and Assessment of students with Special Educational Needs**

We have a strong system of monitoring progress for all our students during their time at Cowplain.

- Reading and spelling ages are assessed upon entry in Year 7 and again at the end of Year 7, across the entire school
- Regular review of academic progress by teaching staff and Senior Leadership Team
- Discussion between parents and subject staff during Parents' Evenings or by appointment with the Tutor.

As a result, identification of students with possible SEN is undertaken throughout the year by staff and parents. If there is agreement, that there may be an underlying SEN, a further more in-depth investigation can be made.

The following are examples of tests used in various circumstances:

- Access
- Vernon
- Arti

The SEN team also works closely with the School Matron, Attendance Team and Pastoral Leadership Team. Close communication enables us to support families by signposting to external agencies, for support or assessment.

When an intervention is recommended we will consult with parents and the student. This may be a formal invitation to a planning meeting to discuss long term provision needs. Alternatively for some shorter interventions the consultation may take place less formally, eg during a Parents' Evening appointment. In either case parents will receive details of the proposed interventions, an indication of the timescale and suggestions of how they can support at home.

### **Provision for Students with SEN**

The SENCo maintains an overview of the provision, responds to any concern raised and arranges training for staff.

The team of qualified specialist teachers deliver targeted interventions themselves and monitor those delivered by non-specialist staff.

The LSAs support learning in class and also undertake intervention work with individuals and small groups.

In addition to those staff employed directly by the school, SEN students also receive regular support from the Specialist Teacher Advisors, eg for Speech and Language development, for Hearing Impairment or for Occupational Therapy.

The SENCo will regularly review the progress of SEN pupils and the effectiveness of provision. If necessary interventions will be altered to meet the needs of the individual child.

### **Approaches to Teaching Students with SEN/D**

- We expect all teaching and support staff to have high expectations of every student including those with SEN/D.
- Our teaching staff are asked to regularly familiarise themselves with the SEN of all students they teach.
- Cowplain teachers are then expected to use a range of strategies and resources in order to help each SEN student to make the best progress possible in their lessons.
- Approaches for each student at Cowplain vary according to their needs with some of the most common of these listed below:

- Support with reading and reading comprehension.
  - Using technology to support writing by using, for example, laptops or iPads to produce work.
  - Regularly checking that the student understands what they have to do.
  - Making sure instructions and information is given to students in smaller, more manageable 'chunks'.
  - Providing writing frames and sentence starters to support extended pieces of writing.
- Our teachers and Learning Support Assistants work together closely in lessons to ensure each SEN student is effectively supported and encouraged to be as independent as possible.

### **Adaptations to the Curriculum and Learning Environment**

We will always make reasonable adjustments to ensure that students are able to access the curriculum.

The adaptations will depend upon the unique educational needs and/or disability of the student. Examples of adaptations we have made include:

- Students working in the Personalised Curriculum area at specific times to support their emotional/social/mental health needs.
- Use of a laptop to support written tasks in lessons and examinations.
- Dis-applying a student from a subject in order to provide an additional intervention to meet their needs.
- Ensuring a student with a sensory need is sitting in the best position possible in the classroom.

### **Expertise and Training of Staff**

We continually make sure that all staff at Cowplain have a good knowledge of the skills and understanding needed to support students with a range of SEN. We have regular training sessions and, if staff have areas they would like to develop, this can form a part of their professional development.

- Teachers are expected to plan and teach lessons that are inclusive and enable each student to make the best progress possible. At Cowplain, we take the SEN Code of Practice very seriously.
- LSAs are also given opportunities to develop their skills and knowledge to enable them to effectively support SEN students.

## **Inclusion in the Life of the School**

We want all students at Cowplain to succeed and get the best possible set of outcomes. For students with SEN/D this means ensuring that they are able to access the curriculum and extra curricular activities as much as possible.

Extra curricular activities are always made available to every student, no matter what their SEN/D. The school provides a diverse range of activities before and after school to students and SEN/D students are always encouraged to attend these if they are interested in participating.

## **Supporting Transitions**

We place huge importance on ensuring transitions are as smooth and effective as possible.

### *Year 6 to 7*

- Our Learning Support staff will visit and liaise with partner primary schools to ensure that we have as much knowledge about all Year 6 pupils with SEN.
- Ideally a representative from Cowplain will also be invited to annual review meetings and Transition Partnership Agreement (TPA) meetings when contact with the parent(s) can be made.
- If a transition meeting cannot take place in Year 6, we will endeavour to make sure a meeting is held during the first half-term in Year 7.

We welcome as many transition visits for Year 6 pupils as they need, including support for those with social, emotional and/or communication difficulties who may be particularly anxious about the move to Cowplain.

### *Year 11 College/Apprenticeships etc*

As well as extensive transition work through Years 10 and 11, for example, the School's Careers Adviser, our Learning Support Department provides further support for students with SEN. This may include a personalised trip to possible college choices.

Once we get confirmation from a college/training provider, we will ensure that all relevant information is passed on, even when it is not immediately following Year 11. For many students, this will also include a copy of their Access Arrangements for KS 4 assessments.

## **Accessibility**

Students with mobility difficulties are/have been supported successfully including by use of peer buddies and time allowances. However our school is currently not fully wheelchair accessible. There are a number of changes of level which involve moving

around outside the building and also a number of stairwells that ensure certain teaching spaces are not accessible to all.

There are disabled parking bays and toilet facilities available. Disabled visitors to the school can be accommodated on the ground floor for meetings.

### **Contact with school**

The first point of contact between home and school remains the Tutor throughout a student's time at Cowplain. You will be advised of their contact details upon joining the school. Alternatively they can be reached via the Contact Us links on the school website [www.cowplainschool.co.uk](http://www.cowplainschool.co.uk).

Contact details for senior staff and governors can also be found on the website.

### **Support4SEND**

This is a free and confidential service offering impartial information, advice and support on issues relating to a child or young person's special educational needs or disability.

Tel: 01962 845870

[Enquiries.support4send@hants.gov.uk](mailto:Enquiries.support4send@hants.gov.uk)

### **Hampshire County Council SEN**

SEN forms and Information are available from  
[www.hants.gov.uk](http://www.hants.gov.uk)