Rotherham Special Free School

Statement of Provision

Policy reviewed and adopted by Trustees	
Review frequency	**Annually**
Date of next review	

Statement of Provision

Introductory Statement

Rotherham Special Free School (RSFS) is a special academy for pupils with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) needs.

All pupils at the academy will have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Through the use of expertise and partnership working with local, regional and national SEMH specialists, RSFS will become a recognised centre of excellence. A broad and balanced curriculum with personalised pathways and specialised teaching will inspire our pupils to learning and personal success. High quality pastoral care and targeted intervention will aid all pupils to access learning and reach their potential.

Pupils with SEMH do not necessarily follow a typical learning or developmental trajectory and so our curriculum provides a framework that can support learning for those who learn in different ways. Our pupils will have a range of learning needs; some will require a high level of adult support to access the curriculum. A personalised curriculum will be delivered within each Key Stage, reflecting a whole academy ethos of nurture, empathy, support and understanding. All pupils will have appropriate access to learning within the National Curriculum.

The curriculum will be delivered using a variety of pupil need specific approaches and strategies, with a balanced mix of 'process based' (a more holistic and immersive approach) and 'skills based' (highly structured) teaching to meet pupils' individual needs and learning styles. Relational and therapeutic approaches will support pupils to access the whole curriculum.

The bespoke, personalised curriculum will offer a range of accredited qualifications, as well as wider educational and social experiences. These experiences will address the learning, social, emotional and mental health needs of our pupils and, as they progress towards adult life, will help them to make a positive contribution to their community.

Admission will be through the referral process outlined in this policy. Referrals may be made at any time throughout the year.

Admissions to the School

RSFS is a special school academy which is planned to open in September 2022. At full capacity, it will provide 135 places for children from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 4 (7 – 16 years) with SEMH needs.

For a child to be admitted, the academy must be named, by a local authority, in the child's education health and care plan ('EHCP'). Prior to naming the school on a child's EHCP, the LA must consult with the school over the admission of the individual child and carefully consider the school's response, parental views and whether the school is suitable for the child given their age, ability, aptitude and SEND and whether the admission would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education at the school or the efficient use of resources. The SENCO is responsible for completing consultation responses within the 15 day timeframe on behalf of the Head Teacher. The consultation process may involve conversations with parents/carers, current or previous schools, social care and other professionals. It may involve a visit to the child's current school to assess their suitability for a placement. Parents wishing for their children to attend our provision should ask their local authority to name our Academy in their child's EHCP.

A local authority can also refer a child to the Academy[1] to be assessed for an EHCP or, following a change in the child's circumstances, for his or her needs to be assessed or reassessed. Any assessment should be completed within the 20 weeks set out in the SEND Code of Practice.

Children being assessed for an EHCP will be dual registered and return, full time, to their mainstream school/academy if the local authority decides not to issue an EHCP.

For further information on our academy, and the process for obtaining a place here contact,

Rebecca Smith - Ethos Academy Trust
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01924 469170

Monitoring Arrangements

This policy will be reviewed annually and will be published on the academy website throughout the school year.

[1] To refer a child in this way requires the agreement of the school's home local authority (if the school is in another local authority area), the school and the child's parents, or the student when he or she is a post 16 student.

Links to other policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with the Academy`s and Trust's other policies published under the policies section of the Academy and Trust's website.

https://www.eat.uk.com/

Other related policies include:

- Safeguarding policy
- Complaints policy
- Equal Opportunities policy
- SEND policy
- Information Sharing