

Mapledown School

Admissions Criteria

Mapledown is the Barnet Secondary School for young people with severe and complex learning difficulties. Many of the pupils have additional needs including challenging behaviour, autism and profound and multiple learning difficulties, which include sensory, physical, medical, social and emotional needs.

The school is divided into two departments. Lower School consisting of Key Stage Three and Upper School consisting of Post-14 provision. We currently have eleven classrooms and cater for up to 88 pupils. Our class groups are organised on the basis of identified needs. i.e. SLD (Zone One) ASC (Zone Two) , PMLD (Zone Three).

Referrals

- All pupils are placed via the special educational needs department of the LA.
- Transition from Oakleigh or Northway Schools
- Fixed Term assessment places

Any placement will have been the decision of the LA in conjunction with the Headteacher.

Application for places can be made from other boroughs providing that they do not jeopardise places for Barnet residents.

The provision for each pupil is considered every year at Annual Review.

The admissions criteria for the school has been approved by the Governing Body of Mapledown and agreed with the Local Authority. They will be reviewed annually.

Cognition and Learning

The overriding needs of the pupils at Mapledown will be centred on their cognition and learning. Pupils will be working between levels P1 and P8. More exceptionally they will achieve levels 1 & 2 of the National Curriculum

Sensory and Physical Development

Pupils experience a wide spectrum of sensory, multi-sensory and physical disabilities. Sensory difficulties range from profound and permanent deafness and/or visual impairment; some pupils will have multi-sensory disabilities and/or progressively degenerative conditions associated with deteriorating abilities and a poor long-term prognosis. Specialist support from LA advisory services for children with the above needs will be necessary.

Communication and Interaction

The communication needs of pupils at Mapledown may be both diverse and complex. Pupils may need help and support in acquiring basic language, communication and literacy skills; using augmented and alternative means of communication. eg Touch Cues, Objects of Reference, PECS, Symbol use, Makaton etc

Behavioural, Emotional and Social Development

Some pupils may exhibit behaviour that may challenge their access to the service. There are also those pupils whose own needs are exceptional or who deny others access to the service or compromise the safety of others or themselves. For such pupils additional human resources will be necessary.

Medical

Pupils may have recognised medical conditions.

The school has access to a specialist nurse practitioner who is based at Mapledown.

Some pupils may have medical needs that compromise their personal safety in school. Additional human resources may be necessary to support them.

We offer

- Access to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, which is differentiated to the needs of the pupils
- Small class groups – currently between five and ten pupils
- Staff pupil ratio of between 1.2 and 1.3
- Assessment placement as described
- Specialist Nurse Practitioner
- Some opportunities for inclusive practice with mainstream peers
- Physiotherapy
- Speech & Language Therapy Programmes
- Music Therapy two days a week

- Specialist resources, equipment e.g. hydrotherapy pool, sensory room etc.
- Specialist teaching methodologies as appropriate e.g. MOVE, TEACCH
- Augmentative methods of communication e.g. Makaton, PECS

Factors determining whether placement is appropriate

- The effective and efficient use of resources e.g. space, class numbers, pupils needs and staffing ratios.
 - Compatibility with the interests of other pupils.

SPC (reviewed Nov 2019)

This Policy will be reviewed annually