

Woodcroft School

Special educational needs and disabilities offer

How we support children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities

Woodcroft School's aims and how we hope to achieve them

Woodcroft School aims to be:

- a safe and supportive school, where pupils can learn to live healthy, satisfying and independent lives within society;
- a positive and encouraging school, where pupils can develop to their full potential;
- a flexible and innovative school, adapting what we offer to meet each pupil's needs.

Woodcroft School has a very dedicated and experienced staff team of teachers, therapists, assistants and carers. We have small classes and a 1:1 staff to pupil ratio, enabling us to offer each pupil a personalized education.

What type of school is Woodcroft?

Woodcroft School is primary school for children with a variety of complex special educational needs, including autism. From September 2016 the school is seeking a change of registration so as to provide a Key stage 3 years 7 and 8 secondary unit. The purpose of the unit is to enable children coming to the end of their schooling at Woodcroft to maximise their self-regulation and communication potential and thereby aid their transition to their future placement.

Our age range for admissions is from 5 to 13 years.

Woodcroft is a small, independent, family-run school, which was founded in 1963.

Woodcroft's current Ofsted rating

Ofsted (June 2016) says we are a good school with good leadership and management; good teaching, learning and assessment; good personal development, behaviour and welfare; and good outcomes for pupils.

How Woodcroft quickly identifies a pupil who needs extra help

Decisions about extra help are made quickly by our Focus Team, who regularly look at individual cases identified by classroom staff.

Pupils' needs are continuously monitored by their class teachers and the school's care manager, who are all experienced in providing for pupils with special educational needs. In addition, each pupil is regularly observed in class by one of our two full-time speech therapists and full-time occupational therapist.

What Woodcroft does to help its pupils with special educational needs

The whole school curriculum and all of the school's activities are designed to meet the special educational needs of its pupils. In addition to education goals, each pupil also has their own Pupil Behaviour Profile and Risk Assessment, Care Plan and Transport Plan. These plans are monitored by members of our senior management team to make sure they remain helpful.

How Woodcroft's teachers match the curriculum to an individual pupil's needs

Small class sizes of around 6–8 pupils and a 1:1 staff to pupil ratio means that the curriculum can be adapted by the class teacher to each pupil's needs as set out in their education goals. Communication and social skills are emphasised, alongside National Curriculum, behaviour and therapy goals.

How Woodcroft allocates its resources to match individual pupil's needs

Woodcroft's curriculum, therapies and activities are made available to all of our pupils equally.

A staff to pupil ratio of 1:1 is maintained across the school, however, higher ratios of 2:1 are available where required.

Decisions about allocating resources are made and monitored by the senior management team following recommendations by class teachers or the Focus Team.

Parents and carers can contribute to the decision making process at statutory annual review meetings or by contacting their pupil's class teacher at any time.

How Woodcroft checks pupil progress and how we keep parents and carers informed and involved

Each pupil has an annual review meeting at which senior staff discuss pupil progress and plan for the coming year with parents, carers and local authority professionals.

Woodcroft holds open days or training workshops for parents and carers so that parents and carers can meet and learn about Woodcroft's ways of working.

Where appropriate, we follow National Curriculum testing. As the abilities of many of our pupils may be different to national expectations, Woodcroft currently uses PIVATS (Performance Indicators for Value Added Target Setting) and SCERTS (Social Communication, Emotional Regulation Transitional support) to assess pupil's functioning and follow progress.

The Great Goal setting approach is used to support children's progress in specific areas appropriate to the individual.

The support Woodcroft offers to its pupils for overall health and wellbeing

Woodcroft School's provision for welfare, health and safety procedures, including our safeguarding arrangements, were judged to be good by Ofsted.

Our spiritual, moral, social and cultural development were also judged to be good at our last Ofsted inspection.

Our full-time care manager is a state registered childrens' nurse and has great experience caring for children with complex medical conditions. She works with parents, carers and local authority professionals to put together a Care Plan for each pupil. Our care manager provides an approachable point of contact with social care or health services, and can arrange professional assistance or interpretation services. Staff holding first aid certificates are available to each class group.

Our school lunches are made with fresh ingredients and a healthy food policy supports the healthy living goals of the school curriculum.

The school council meets regularly to discuss whole school issues and is attended by pupils representing each class group.

Woodcroft's specialist services and expertise

Woodcroft has a fully qualified therapy team with two full-time speech and language therapists, a full-time occupational therapist and a part-time music therapist. Physiotherapy and support with Applied Behaviour Analysis is also available.

Where required, Woodcroft brings in the services of consultant behaviour support specialists and maintains good links with local authority psychology and mental health teams.

Woodcroft can provide daily home/school transport if required, dependent on policy within individual sending authorities.

Woodcroft staff training

During 2016 Woodcroft staff received training in:

- Positive Behaviour Intervention (Team Teach)
- Communication and sensory strategies (SCERTS and Elklan)
- Epilepsy awareness
- E-Safety
- Prevent
- Attention Autism

Woodcroft staff receive regular in-house training in safeguarding children and manual handling, and appropriate staff receive regular training in paediatric first aid (including anaphylaxis), fire safety, first aid, defibrillator, food safety, legionella and safer recruitment.

Woodcroft is accredited by the National Autistic Society and Team Teach.

How Woodcroft includes its pupils in activities and school trips

Woodcroft has a wide range of regular weekly activities available to all pupils, including: swimming, tennis, trampolining, outdoor adventure education, rebound therapy, pony riding, yoga and forest walks. There are also visits to the local gym, sports centre and adventure playground.

In addition to the weekly activities, pupils regularly attend concerts at the Barbican Centre, visit the local library, cafés and shops, and go on outings to special activity centres, including Paradise Park and the Sea Life Centre.

The accessibility of Woodcroft School's environment

The Woodcroft School buildings are adapted to suit the educational, medical and sensory needs of its pupils. Additional changes can be made for pupils where needed.

How Woodcroft prepares for children joining the school and for our pupils continuing with the next stage of their education

Each child's needs are thoroughly assessed before they start at Woodcroft. Senior staff meet with the child, their parents, carers and teacher, usually at their current school or at home. The child's Statement of Special Educational Needs, Educational Health and Care plan or Statutory Assessment is read, as well as any information from previous schools. From the information gathered during this process education goals are written and a transition programme developed. Our teachers, therapists and care manager keep in regular touch with parents and carers (for example with a daily home/school book) so that additional needs can be identified quickly.

We encourage parents, carers and local authority professionals to visit new schools and become aware of possible options from the summer term of the pupil's penultimate school year. Senior members of staff can visit new school with pupils, parents and carers. Staff will, where it is appropriate support pupils at their new schools to help them settle. In the final terms of a pupil's placement at Woodcroft emphasis is put on independence skills and preparing for transition.

How parents and carers are involved in their children's life at Woodcroft

Parents and carers receive day-to-day information and support in a variety of ways, including telephone contact, email and home/school books.

Social events, the parents' and carers' support group, a parent and carer forum, termly workshops and a weekly newsletter all help to provide closer links between home and school.

Staff will visit individual homes where needed, to provide support and help maintain a consistent approach.

Woodcroft can access translation services where required.

Who to contact at Woodcroft for further information

The school's telephone number is 020 8508 1369. You will get through to the school secretary who will pass you on to the appropriate person. Our head teacher is Brian Sainsbury.

Parents and carers are welcome to make an appointment to see the care manager or head teacher, or senior staff can make a home visit.

Our email address is mail@woodcroftschoo.net

Our website address is www.woodcroftschoo.net

This offer to children with special educational needs and disabilities was reviewed in January 2017.