



THE ACADEMY OF  
**ST FRANCIS  
OF ASSISI**

## **SEN Information Report 2022-2023**

### **Local Offer**

In response to the Children and Families Bill, Local Authorities are required to publish information about the provision that is available in their area for children and young people from 0 – 25 who have special education needs. This is called the local offer.

The link to the local offer for Liverpool is:

<https://liverpool.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/special-educational-needs/send-local-offer/>

The link to the local offer for Knowsley is:

<https://www.knowsleyinfo.co.uk/categories/knowsley-local-offer-send>

The link to the local offer for Sefton is:

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/localoffer>

A copy of the SEND Policy can be found on the school's website in the 'Policies' section.

The Academy of St Francis of Assisi is committed to inclusive learning. We believe that it is the right of every student, including those with Special Educational Needs, to learn and experience high quality teaching. It is through learning that our students will be empowered to achieve and lead successful, fulfilled lives. Our aim is to grow successful confident individuals capable of leading successful lives by valuing life-long learning.

Our objectives are:

- All students are able to make progress academically, socially and emotionally.
- All students have access to a broad and well balanced curriculum with high quality teaching that is differentiated to support individual needs.

## **Responsibility for co-ordination of SEND**

Laura Riley SENCo KS3  
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The SENCOS are responsible for the overall co-ordination of SEND provision within the school.

### **How will we know if a student needs extra help?**

When a student first comes to us we use information from:

- primary transition information and key stage 2 data
- base line testing, Cognitive Ability Tests and other initial tests in year 7
- parents/carers, application form information
- subject teachers
- specialist colleagues, external agencies

As a student gets older we use information or referrals from:

- assessments and interim data
- subject teachers and form tutors
- parental concerns
- external agencies
- reading tests
- diagnostic reading analysis

### **If a student needs to be assessed we would:**

- use a range of assessments depending on the area of need
- request that outside agencies do some specialist assessment. Parent/carer would be involved in this process.

### **If it is thought a family needs support we:**

- have good working relationships with outside agencies and a referral can be made to them.

### **How will we know if a student is making progress?**

We monitor student progress closely throughout the academic year to ensure that teaching and interventions for students with SEN are effective and are having a positive impact on their progress. We welcome parents/carers, students and staff to be involved in reviewing the impact of interventions.

We follow the 'assess, plan, do, review' model set out in the SEN Code of Practice and endeavour to involve parent/carer and student in each step. Progress will be reviewed throughout the year to measure the impact of the provision.

The SENCO collates the impact data of the interventions for students with SEN to ensure that we are only using interventions that work.

The SENCO reports termly to the governors who monitor and review the work of the Learning Support department.

We welcome the involvement of parents/carers and want to keep you up to date and involved with your child's progress. We do this through:

- parents evenings
- reward/report cards
- email
- telephone calls
- appointments made with individual teachers
- annual reviews (for those with an Education Health Care Plan)
- Parent/carer coffee mornings

The school provides information for parents through:

- Information on the website
- Open evenings
- Letters home
- Information evenings (year 7 through to year 11)

### **Provision and Allocation of Resources**

Provision and resources are allocated according to individual need, this is reviewed termly to ensure that all students' needs are being catered for and met. Parents/carers and any outside agencies involved are encouraged to work with us to ensure appropriate and meaningful provision is in place. Parents' evenings, interim reviews and annual reviews for students with EHC Plans all ensure that there is excellent home school communication.

**Students with EHC Plans** will be supported under the direction of their EHCP.

**Students with additional medical needs:** All staff will be made aware of need through the SEN register. For any students whose medical needs impact on the school day, an Individual Health Care Plan will be written and supported by all agencies involved with the students

**Students with Physical Disabilities:** The Academy works with students with physical disabilities and their parents/carers to enable them to participate fully in school life. The Academy has wheelchair access and a lift to access all floors and classrooms. We work closely with outside agencies and have regular sessions from the physiotherapy team at

Alder Hey Hospital. For further information, you can access the academy's Accessibility Policy on the website.

### **How we support students?**

All teachers are informed about a student's individual needs and will adapt their lessons to meet these. This will ensure that students can fully access the curriculum.

Within school there are a variety of staff roles to help us fully support students.

Most of our students follow all national curriculum subjects; however a small number of students have a more personalised curriculum to match their individual needs, interests and abilities.

Where it is felt it is the right thing to do a student may be offered additional help and support, in which case you would be informed. This support will take the form of withdrawal sessions with learning support assistants; students will follow an identified programme to help develop their literacy and numeracy skills or to provide strategies for improving their behaviour or mental health.

There are a range of interventions and additional subject support which are available and should a student need this, it would be discussed with you.

When your child is approaching the start of Key Stage 4 if we think it is needed we will assess and apply for exam access arrangements according to the Joint Council for Qualifications exam regulations.

### **How are students included in activities outside the classroom?**

All students in the school are encouraged to take part in extracurricular activities. Reward and educational trips are open to all students and a student's specific needs can be discussed if they wish to join such a trip.

### **How will we support students' wellbeing?**

At ASFA, we pride ourselves on providing a high level of student support and guidance. All students will have a form teacher throughout their time in the academy.

There are additional members of staff at the academy who are able to provide additional pastoral support, these include:

- Heads of Year
- Chaplain
- Learning Support Assistants
- Directors of Progress
- We also have excellent relationships with a number of outside agencies including: Children's Services, CAMHS, the Police and the Youth Service

If a student finds unstructured times difficult, we have supervised lunch and break rooms that they can access with a pass.

### **What SEN training have our staff had?**

We have a Learning Support department which is made up of the SENCo, Leader of Learning Support and 10 Learning Support Assistants. Within this team we have staff with a range of experience, expertise and training covering various SEN needs.

Staff who are new to the school follow an induction programme which includes training and information on SEND.

Training is provided to all staff including teachers and LSAs as the need arises and there is ongoing training for all staff as well as opportunities to further develop skills.

As a school we can call on support from specialist organisations from within the Local Authority, health and social care services.

### **How else can you be involved?**

We need you to support us by encouraging students' to fully engage with their learning and any interventions offered by:

- helping them to be organised for their day (including bringing the right equipment and books)
- full attendance and good punctuality
- completion of homework
- checking and signing planner
- attending parent/carer meetings
- attending any meetings specifically arranged for your child

### **How can students' contribute?**

Students are encouraged to:

- contribute to target setting and reviewing
- attend review meetings
- take an active part in academy life

### **What should you do if you have concerns?**

In the first instance contact the subject teacher or the student's form tutor who may refer your concerns to a more senior member of staff if needed.

Contact the SENCO to discuss your concerns directly.

The school has a formal complaints policy which can be found on the website.

## **What other services are available through the school?**

As a school we can access a range of services including:

- Child and adolescent Mental Health Service
- Social Care
- School health
- Educational Psychology Service
- Safer Schools Police Officer
- Careers Information and Guidance

These services are contacted when necessary and appropriate, according to individual student needs.

## **How will we help students transition into secondary school and beyond?**

We liaise closely with primary schools and provide additional transition support if it is needed.

The SENCO and Head of Year 7 attend a transition day to gather all relevant SEND information from primary schools.

A parent/carer information evening is held at the end of year 9 to give advice to students when choosing their options.

A sixth form information evening is held during year 11 and advice is provided throughout the year to ensure that students make the right choices for their post 16 education.

All students receive advice on careers and are encouraged to stay on at All Saints Sixth Form College or to visit other colleges to explore post-16 courses. If additional support is needed this will be put in place.

## **Where can you get further information?**

- Contact the school on 0151 260 7600
- Look at the Local Authorities local offer
- Look at the school's SEND Policy on our website