



## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND)**

Our aim is to provide all children with the best possible outcomes in preparation for life-long learning. We believe it is important that children acquire skills, knowledge and confidence that can be applied to all future learning experiences, including social, physical and spiritual development. We endeavour to raise aspirations and expectations for all pupils, including those pupils with SEND, by working in partnership with parents/carers and listening to students.

At Plymstock School we believe it is essential to provide a well-balanced, broad and challenging curriculum for all pupils. We are committed to ensuring that all students, including those with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), receive their right to a high quality, accessible and balanced curriculum. Our approach is based on Quality First Teaching (QFT) and a graduated approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND).

### **SEND Provision at Plymstock School - Context**

The Department has experienced significant changes in recent times including a change of leadership and structure. The SENCo responsibility passed to a Deputy Headteacher in April 2017. The SEND department has been reorganised into a new structure (Learning Support) following SLE Review in 2016-17, around the four areas of SEND need (AoN) and year groupings. Currently, the team consists of a Deputy and Assistant SENCo, 4 team leaders and 19 TAs.

All students on the SEN register have a designated member of the Learning Support department who is the first point of contact in relation to each child's SEN. Staff within the Department are very caring and committed; they have the highest aspirations and want the best possible outcomes for the students they work with.

### **School SEND Profile**

At present, there are 158 students currently on the SEND Register, 10.4% of the school population as a whole; 30 students have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), 128 are SEN Support and a further 111 are monitored on our Pre – SEND (watch list).

### **Accommodation (The Den)**

The Learning Support Department has an open plan teaching area, there are a number of smaller classrooms/meeting spaces, as well as a Sensory Room. The DEN provides a 'safe place' for vulnerable students at break/lunchtime. The 'Teaching and Learning Zone' within the HUB (pastoral base) provides an additional supervised quiet study facility for students who are temporarily unable to cope with the demands of the mainstream classroom. The pastoral team works closely with Learning Support to quickly support parents and students. As a result *'The attendance of pupils who have SEN and/or disabilities has improved considerably' (Ofsted 2017)*

### **Outcomes**

Attainment and progress for students on the Special Educational Needs register was highlighted on our school inspection dashboard in 2016. As a consequence of our ongoing actions we have seen substantial improvements. *"The progress of key stage 4 pupils who have a statement of special educational needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan has improved dramatically" (Ofsted 2017)*. In 2018 the P8 score for EHCP students has improved significantly; to +0.21; previously -0.95 in 2016 and +0.05 in 2017. Progress of SEND Support students is also encouraging; P8 was -0.33 in 2017 has now improved to -0.18. However, there is still progress to be made to ensure that all students with additional needs make similar progress in line with targets compared to other students in the school and nationally. SEND Support students remain a key focus and an area for improvement.

**This is an exciting opportunity** for a creative, ambitious and innovative professional with excellent leadership skills to take the department forward and build on the successes achieved to date. Working alongside the Deputy Headteacher, you will have the vision to shape and oversee the next stages in Learning Support provision at our school.

Full details of Plymstock School's SEN offer can be found on our website in our **SEN Information Report (SIR)**. This should be read in conjunction with the Plymouth Local Offer.