



PURPLE OAKS ACADEMY

SEND Information Report 2026-27

Thank you for taking the time to look at this report. Our Information Report hopes to answer questions you may have regarding how we will cater for your child's special educational needs.

What kinds of special educational needs does Purple Oaks Academy make provision for?

Purple Oaks Academy is a special school for children who may be autistic and/or have severe learning difficulties (SLD). All students who attend Purple Oaks Academy have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

What are the arrangements for admissions?

Admissions to Purple Oaks Academy are arranged by West Northamptonshire Local Authority. Further details about admissions can be seen on the [admissions page](#) of our website

How does Purple Oaks Academy identify and assess student's needs?

Students arrive at Purple Oaks Academy following a programme of transition. Within this process needs are identified in conjunction with previous provision, parents/carers and the Education, Health and Care Plan. This transition period is tailored to the individual student and their needs and may look very different for each student.

How does the academy evaluate the effectiveness of provision?

We have a robust system of self-evaluation using the Ofsted Framework.

In brief, we use the following information to help us monitor the progress of students with SEND:

Analysis of Student Performance Data	• Termly progress and attainment data against EHC outcomes and learning targets. • % achieving end of key stage targets, or making at least expected progress towards these targets • Number of fixed term suspensions and Permanent Exclusions. • Attendance • Lesson visits • Feedback from teachers, support staff, parents and students • Comparisons with national data – where available
Quality First Teaching and Quality Assurance	• Observations of academy lessons to identify evidence that training has had an impact • Staff training evaluations • Observations of students across different subjects to check use of strategies and student engagement • Observations of interventions • Observations of support staff in lessons to ensure that it is effective, benefitting student progress and of good quality
Communication of Student Needs	• Communicate individual pupil needs through: whole school INSET, staff briefings and meetings • Provide detailed student profiles during the transition period • Individual Learning Plans and Positive Behaviour Support Plans updated at least termly or more frequently if needed. • Where relevant, share student and parent views, wishes and concerns with staff

What are the arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of children with SEND?

A formal meeting is held at least three times a year with teachers and senior leaders to monitor progress.

These meetings are:

- Annual Review/Transition Review – held a minimum of once per year to identify progress towards EHCP outcomes for each individual student.

- Parent/Teacher Progress Meetings – held termly for parents to meet with their child’s teacher, review learning and update ILP targets as appropriate.

The school works closely with external agencies where appropriate to support the needs of students.

What are the approaches to teaching children with SEND?

Through regular whole school meetings and information sharing systems, every student’s needs are shared and understood.

Discussions take place to identify successful strategies thus creating a consistent approach to your child’s needs.

Learning Mentors and Learning Assistants support teaching groups and lead interventions.

Students will be taught in a whole class environment with small groups and sometimes 1:1 interventions where necessary.

Class sizes are smaller than average with 8-10 students in a class.

All lesson planning, both medium term and short term is adapted to meet the needs of the students in each class.

Purple Oaks may be supported by Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Educational Psychologists, the School Nurse and specialist teacher advisers where and when appropriate.

The curriculum is regularly reviewed to meet the individual needs of students at Purple Oaks Academy. Our aim is to provide a broad, challenging and varied curriculum, which provides the opportunity for individual learning both inside and outside the classroom, along with links to vocational experiences and the wider community to enable student to practice and transfer learnt skills.

What adaptations are made to the curriculum and the learning environment?

As much as possible, students will have full access to the National Curriculum, though at times small group teaching, one to one sessions or alternative provision might be provided if these better suits the learning needs of the student.

Purple Oaks Academy can provide, if necessary:

- Literacy intervention programmes e.g. comprehension groups
- Numeracy intervention programmes e.g. Mathletics
- Social and emotional interventions e.g. Lego Therapy, Protective Behaviours, Zippy’s Friends
- Sensory balancing interventions e.g. Sensory Circuits, Relaxation
- Emotional and/or academic Mentoring
- Specific subject interventions targeted around achievement and progress
- A personalised curriculum for students with specific strengths and difficulties

The type of support is dependent on the individual learning needs and is intended to enable access to learning by overcoming the barrier to learning which has been identified. A range of equipment is used at Purple Oaks by groups or individuals to aid equal access to the curriculum.

The learning environment at Purple Oaks Academy has been carefully considered to meet the needs of our students. Teachers and Senior Leaders regularly review the learning environment to ensure it meets the sensory needs of our students – this includes ensuring that classrooms are as clutter free as possible, that walls are free from visual distractions and that outside noise is kept to a minimum. Students are encouraged to undertake sensory regulating activities and sensory tools are available in all classrooms.

Are children with SEND able to access extra-curricular activities and physical activity?

At Purple Oaks Academy, every student can access educational visits, including a biannual residential visit for our secondary age students. No student is excluded from activities at Purple Oaks Academy – unless a risk assessment deems that it is unsafe for them to take part.

All students take part in Enrichment activities throughout the year; there are a range of opportunities available including swimming, horse riding and ‘out and about’ in the local community activities to name but a few.

Physical activity is planned for all students including traditional PE lessons, sensory circuit activities and sports clubs. Students may also participate in sports competitions at inter-school level as well as the academy’s annual sports day. Students within our secondary cohort also could participate in Young Leaders training, which enables them to lead sports and play sessions with others, including supporting with events across Northamptonshire.

What support is available for improving social, emotional and behavioural development of students?

Purple Oaks Academy is committed to supporting and improving the social and emotional development of our students. We have regular pastoral meetings to highlight the needs of children who are causing concern.

Pastoral Support: students have access to talk to their preferred adult, teacher, learning mentor or learning assistant. Each class has access to ‘pastoral cards’ where students can request access to speak to someone from the pastoral team at any point whilst they are in school.

Preventing Bullying: Purple Oaks Academy provides clear expectations for behaviour including a zero-tolerance approach to bullying behaviours. If bullying does occur we seek to understand and support students to understand what they have done and how to change this behaviour, including support for the victim. We have a clear process and process to follow to ensure that there is no repeat.

The PHSE curriculum regularly addresses anti-bullying, and this is also a focus of assembly themes during the year when we participate in anti-bullying week and safer internet day.

Personal care: Staff at Purple Oaks Academy are proactive in supporting students with their own personal care and hygiene. Staff help students with toileting needs; this includes working closely with parents to facilitate early toilet training and developing independence in using the bathroom. Staff, where necessary, will support students with any personal hygiene issues, including advising them of the need to shower, the use of personal hygiene products and supporting with differentiated visuals. Every child who needs personal care has an intimate care plan developed in conjunction with the family of the young person. This is to support staff consistently supporting the young person in their best interests and what works best for them.

With regards to eating, staff support children with cutlery skills, trying new foods and supporting children in accessing a balanced and healthy diet.

We have a robust Safeguarding Policy and practice in place. Students' health and well-being is paramount. We work closely with external agencies, other schools and the Local Authority.

We also work closely with Social Services particularly the Children's Disability Team.

We work closely with MHST (Mental Health Support Team), CAMHS and CTPLD if your child requires their support.

All staff receive on-going training, including in all aspects of Child Protection and Safeguarding.

What is the name and contact details of the SENDCo?

Mrs Helena Bull, Deputy Principal is our SENDCo and she can be contacted via the academy office or by email at hbull@purpleoaksacademy.org

What is the expertise and training of staff?

Most of our teachers have Qualified Teacher Status and have undertaken specialist further professional development, this includes training in TEACHH, using Social Stories and Comic Strip Conversations and PRICE (Protecting Rights in a Caring Environment) to name but a few.

Our Learning Mentors and Learning Assistants also have a range of expertise, and all receive ongoing professional development to ensure they remain informed and skilled.

All staff follow a programme of autism awareness training to ensure a base line level of understanding.

How does Purple Oaks Academy work with parents?

We hope to meet new parents at the stage when you are deciding which school is your preferred choice for your child. When a decision has been made and a place has been provided, we hold a new parents' evening prior to your child starting our academy if they are joining at the start of the academic year or an individual meeting if the transition is taking place at another point in the year.

Parents are invited to arrange a visit with their child, prior to them transferring here.

Weekly newsletters are sent out to families on a Monday lunchtime. This will include all the information from the academy for the coming month.

Parents will also have the contact information for their class teacher and receive regular updates about their child, what they have been up to and what they have learnt.

Curriculum newsletters are shared by class teachers at the start of each half term and a whole academy newsletter is sent home at the end of each term.

Parents can access information via our website and will receive contact details of key staff involved in the wellbeing of their child.

We also have a group called 'Acorns'. This group includes parents, carers and staff who meet on a regular basis as a support network and to fundraise for the academy. They have enabled us to purchase an additional minibus to support with 'out and about' visits and paid for the refurbishment of the sensory room through their fundraising efforts.

A formal meeting is held at least three times a year with teachers and senior leaders to monitor individual student progress. A yearly written report is also provided to parents and carers.

As well as formal meetings, we use phone calls and emails to ensure regular communication about all aspects of a child's education.

There are numerous other opportunities throughout the year when parents and carers are invited into the school, these include sports day, Parent learning week and Parent /Carer forums.

Inclusion of students who are Currently in Care (CIC) in Local Authority Care

Purple Oaks Academy recognises that:

Children who are in local authority care have the same rights as all children but may have additional needs due to attachment issues, early neglect, separation and loss, trauma and many placement moves. These barriers to learning can affect their educational outcomes and their personal, social and emotional development.

There are commonly understood reasons (Social Exclusion Unit Report 2003) why children who are looked after in local authority care often fail to make expected progress at school (this applies equally to pupils with severe, profound and multiple learning difficulties).

- Placement instability

- Unsatisfactory educational experiences of many carers
- Too much time out of school
- Insufficient help if they fall behind
- Unmet needs – emotional, mental, physical

There is a statutory requirement for all schools to have a designated teacher (DT) for children in care and previously in care. The designated teacher for Purple Oaks Academy is Helena Bull, who can be contacted via the academy office or hbull@purpleoaksacademy.org.

The responsibilities of our designated teacher include:

- Monitoring the progress of children who are in care to ensure they have the best life chances possible and access to the full range of opportunities in school
- Ensuring that children who are in care have access to the appropriate network of support
- Checking that the statutory Personal Education Plan (PEP) has been arranged and that it is regularly reviewed, at least every six months
- Ensuring that information concerning the education of children who are in care is transferred between agencies and individuals
- Preparing a report on the child's educational progress to contribute towards the statutory review (these are usually held at six monthly intervals or more frequently if there is a concern)
- Discussing feedback from the statutory review (chaired by the Independent Reviewing Officer) with social workers and, where necessary, the carers and a member of the Virtual School team
- Liaising with the child's Social Worker to ensure there is effective communication at all times
- Celebrating the child's successes and acknowledging the progress they are making.

Purple Oaks Academy will work closely with the county's Virtual School (VS) for Children which promotes the educational needs of children in care and monitors admissions, PEP completion, attendance and exclusions.

What arrangements are in place for consulting children and young people?

The children are involved in the running of the school through the Academy Council. We hold regular student discussions whereby students are encouraged to air their views about life in school and how we can adapt our practices to improve students' experiences. Students are also supported to complete annual questionnaires to gather their views.

As part of the annual review process all students complete a 'my views' document and, where possible, they are also involved in setting and discussing their own targets. Students are always invited and encouraged to attend their annual review.

There are annual opportunities for parents to complete a questionnaire to share their views of the school.

What should I do if I have a complaint?

Parents who have a concern regarding the provision for their child's SEND should contact their child's teacher in the first instance. Concerns should be raised at the earliest opportunity so that they do not escalate. Should you remain dissatisfied your specific concerns should be addressed to the Principal.

The Trust complaints policy can be found here [Greenwood Academies Trust - Policies](#)

What specialist services and expertise are available at, or accessed by, the academy?

The academy commission services to support your child's needs if necessary or appropriate, including Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Educational Psychology Services and CAMHS. Your child will need an Education Health and Care Plan before being considered for admission to our academy. Your point of contact to discuss this is the Local Authority SEN (Special Educational Needs) Team.

How can I contact external support services?

Education Entitlement Team

[Education - Local Offer | West Northamptonshire Council](#)

Information Advice and Support Service (IASS) 01604 364772 (Monday to Friday from 9.30am to 4.30pm)

[Parents and Carers | West Northants SEND IASS](#)

How is transition managed?

We offer a structured induction programme once our school has been named on your child's Education, Health and Care Plan. Our pastoral team will contact you and your child's current setting to arrange this. This includes gathering of a wide range of information to enable staff to plan to meet your child's needs.

When the time comes for your child to move on from Purple Oaks Academy, we will liaise with the receiving school or college and follow their transition process.

What is the Local Offer?

Details about the Local Authorities Local Offer can be found here

[Local Offer | West Northamptonshire Council](#)

Review of SEND information report

September 2027