



Local Offer: Chatsworth High School and Community College

Ethos, Values and Core Beliefs

Mission Statement

Chatsworth High School and Community College is a caring, happy and progressive learning community in which each person is valued equally and respected unconditionally. Our school community promotes high expectations for each person and supports every member of our school community in achieving their potential as life-long learners. At Chatsworth High School and Community College every person matters.

Ten Core Beliefs

1. We believe the health and safety of our students is paramount
2. We believe in the right of all people to be emotionally healthy, financially secure and learning fulfilled
3. We believe we should all belong and feel we all belong
4. We believe in continuously improving our school through honest, collaborative teamwork
5. We believe our curriculum should be relevant, purposeful, accessible and constantly evolving
6. We believe teaching and learning should be enjoyable, exciting and consistently inclusive
7. We believe teaching and learning should be founded on established best practice and an openness to innovative approaches
8. We believe in working hard and doing our best
9. We believe we should help one another in our learning and support one another in our lives
10. We believe we are providing a foundation for our students' adult lives

visit: <http://www.chatsworth.salford.sch.uk/page/?title=Mission+Statement&pid=66>

Teaching and Learning

Chatsworth High School and Community College caters for pupils between 11 and 19 years of age who experience severe learning difficulties, profound and multiple learning difficulties and autism. Pupils' attainment ranges from P1 to National Curriculum Level 3.

We offer the full National Curriculum to all our pupils and ensure that this accessed at an appropriate and meaningful level for each individual pupil through a rigorous process of continuous assessment and creative planning. Pupils attain a range of accredited awards and qualifications including awards designed for pupils with special needs and qualifications such as Entry Level qualifications and GCSE. visit: <http://www.chatsworth.salford.sch.uk/page/?title=Curriculum+Teaching+and+Learning+Policy&pid=179>

Teaching is of the highest standard and was described by Ofsted as '*typically outstanding*' (October 2013). Class sizes range between 5 pupils to 3 members of staff and 11 pupils to 4 members of staff depending on the needs and learning profile of each group.

Each pupil has an individualised learning target for every lesson throughout the course of the school day. This ensures that lessons are pitched at the right level for all pupils and that learning progresses at a swift pace. Our pupils love coming to school and tell us they find their learning enjoyable and fun.

Where appropriate pupils have individual care plans related to their specific medical needs. Similarly, some pupils have Behaviour Support Plans in order to promote positive behaviour. visit: <http://www.chatsworth.salford.sch.uk/page/?title=Behaviour+Support+Policy&pid=32>

All pupils have a named tutor who is a member of the teaching staff. This tutor provides pastoral support and is the first point of contact for parents and carers. All pupils have a daily Literacy and Numeracy lesson which is delivered by their tutor. This consistent model of delivery in these key areas ensures pupils make outstanding progress in their learning. Subject specialist teachers deliver all other aspects of the curriculum for the majority of pupils in a typical secondary school model. Where pupils

have specific needs, often related to autism, all subjects are taught by a class teacher within a primary model of provision.

Teachers are well qualified and typically have specific qualifications in the field of special needs with several holding Masters level degrees. Areas of expertise include autism with members of the Senior Leadership Team established within national and international networks focused on autism and engaged in research and publication in this field whilst other members of the teaching staff have successfully completed Masters level dissertations focused on pupils with autism.

Other areas of expertise include the field of profound and multiple learning difficulties with a further Masters level dissertation being completed in this area, sensory integration with a qualified Sensory Integration Therapist amongst the teaching team and behaviour support with four members of the teaching staff accredited as instructors in PROACT-SCIPr-UK ®. visit: <http://www.proact-scipr-uk.com>

Teaching Assistants represent a broadly qualified, highly skilled and widely experienced group of practitioners. All Teaching Assistants are trained in First Aid and undertake regular training focused on a range of specific medical conditions including epilepsy, diabetes, gastrostomy, oxygen dependency and sensory impairment.

Teaching Assistants are trained in Signalong and several have existing qualifications in Elklan whilst some hold qualifications in British Sign Language. A comprehensive programme of professional development ensures that all staff are regularly trained and updated in behaviour support, moving and handling and curriculum development.

The school has a qualified Speech and Language Therapist who co-ordinates the work of the Communication Team. This team delivers specific communication programmes to pupils and implements whole school initiatives such as the delivery of PECS and the development of a total communication environment. The school also receives regular support from the Local Authority's specialist teacher for hearing impaired pupils.

The school environment is purpose built to support the needs of pupils with special needs providing broad, well-lit corridors, spacious classrooms, bespoke learning resources and specialised equipment. There are specialist teaching rooms for each subject area including an ICT suite, adapted Food Technology room and specialist Art room. The school has invested in the use of iPads to support learning throughout the school.

The school has a hydro-therapy pool, life skills base and cafeteria for work experience placements for pupils. The school has recently invested a significant amount of money in the refurbishment of its sensory room which is scheduled to open in the Summer of 2014.

Local Community links are strong with pupils regularly accessing the local community as part of their learning programme. Several local businesses provide work experience placements for youngsters whilst our pupils contribute to their local community by supporting local care homes and local homeless charities. The school works closely with Salford City College providing a comprehensive transition programme for school leavers.

The school's work is further supported by colleagues from Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust including a school nurse, speech and language therapist, physiotherapist, art therapist, occupational therapist, consultant community paediatricians, specialist continence nurse, learning disability nurse and dietician.

Annual Reviews

At Chatsworth High School and Community College Annual Reviews are conducted as Person Centred Reviews and are led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team in partnership with the pupil's tutor. Pupils are fully included in the Annual Review process and contribute at an appropriate level according to their learning strengths. Typically, pupils attend their Annual Review and often share some element of the presentation of their work. We firmly believe that the Annual Review is owned by the pupil and endeavour to support their ownership of the process through preparatory work and the use of approaches which enable the pupil to communicate their personal view of their progress.

The Annual Review is based largely around the Educational Report which is compiled by the tutor outlining the pupil's progress over the last year and setting clearly defined targets for the forthcoming year. Supplementary reports from allied professionals are made available where appropriate.

Alongside parents and carers, all significant partners and agencies involved in the life of the pupil are invited to the Annual Review. This includes health professionals, social workers, specialist teachers and representatives from Salford Local Authority. Where transition is planned, representatives from other educational organisations and Connexions may attend. Annual Reviews generally last around 45 minutes. Annual Reviews at Year 9 and Year 13 mark a transitional point for pupils and are consequently scheduled to last up to 90 minutes. The school has received the Inspiring IAG Full Award in recognition of the excellent quality of our work in supporting pupils through crucial transitions in their life. visit: <http://www.inspiringiag.co.uk>

The Annual Review process is just one element of our work in sharing our knowledge of pupils in order to develop an holistic understanding of each individual pupil. We hold two Parents' Evenings each academic year, coffee mornings for each class on a rota basis and special assemblies to which parents and carers are invited.

Keeping Children Safe

The health, safety and well-being of pupils at Chatsworth High School and Community College are of paramount importance. Seven members of staff are trained to an enhanced level in Safeguarding and all members of staff are trained in Safeguarding in accordance with national guidelines. There is a weekly meeting of the Safeguarding Group which includes members of the Senior Leadership Team and the school nurse. This group focuses on the well-being of every pupil and identifies any concerns for action. The school liaises on a weekly basis with the Governor responsible for Safeguarding. Procedures for Safeguarding pupils are described in our Safeguarding Policy. visit: <http://www.chatsworth.salford.sch.uk/page/?title=Safeguarding+Policy&pid=96>

Risk assessments are completed for each individual pupil and these are reviewed on a regular basis by their tutor. Where appropriate, pupils have individual care plans related to their medical condition. Where necessary, pupils have Behaviour Support Plans to promote positive behaviour. Ofsted described this group of pupils as '*exceptionally well supported*' (October 2013).

Pupil behaviour and safety is recorded using an adapted version of the school information management system. This information is monitored on a daily basis by the Senior Leadership Team. Educational Visits are monitored and regulated using Salford Local Authority's 'Evolve' system for risk assessment. Each visit is rigorously assessed by the Senior Leadership Team. Pupils are closely supervised throughout the school day including break-times and lunchtimes. High staffing ratios enable this high level of supervision.

The school has close links with social care colleagues and supports the work of Salford Safeguarding Children Board by providing training in the area of special needs. The school's Behaviour Support Policy and Safeguarding Policy have been developed in line with all of the pertinent Salford Safeguarding Children Board's policies. All the schools policies relating to the health and safety of our pupils can be found on the school website. visit: <http://www.chatsworth.salford.sch.uk/page/?title=Policies&pid=22>

Health (including Emotional Health and Wellbeing)

Chatsworth High School and Community College serves pupils who experience a broad and complex range of medical needs. The staff team are experienced in addressing the needs of this unique population and are supported by the school nurse and allied health professionals from the Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust. All members of staff have First Aid training and several members of staff have enhanced training in First Aid.

Where appropriate, individual care plans are designed by a multi-disciplinary team working alongside parents and carers in order to ensure each pupil's needs are fully met.

The school nurse is an integral part of our daily practice and ensures high quality care is consistently secured at all times. The school nurse delivers regular training to all members of staff focusing on developing skills in the administration of medication, feeding pupils with gastrostomies and monitoring the physical development of pupils. The school nurse is an active member of our Safeguarding Group.

The school works closely with the physiotherapy team, the occupational therapist and the speech and language therapy team. The consultant community paediatricians hold a weekly clinic on the school premises and other clinics are held by the dietician and the school's specialist continence nurse. The school liaises closely with the Learning Disability Nurses, CAMHS and an Art Therapist to support the emotional well-being and mental health of pupils. The school employs a highly experienced Learning Mentor who supports pupils in a variety of ways in order to enable them to overcome obstacles to their learning.

Communication with Parents

We regard working with parents and carers as fundamental to our practice at Chatsworth. A member of the Senior Leadership Team is responsible for parent and carer liaison and oversees the quality of Home-School liaison in reference to our policy related to this area. visit: <http://www.chatsworth.salford.sch.uk/page/?title=Parent+%2FCarer+Liaison+Policy&pid=140>

Each pupil has a Home-School diary which is used to pass pertinent information between parents and carers and the pupil's tutor. Parents and carers are able to contact the school office at any point and calls are responded to by either the tutor or a member of the Senior Leadership Team. Where possible parents and carers are encouraged to e-mail their child's tutor or any member of the Senior Leadership Team.

The school has two Parent-Carer Evenings each year. The first of these is held in the Autumn Term and focuses on tutorial and pastoral issues. The second of these is held in the Summer Term and focuses on pupils' progress in each subject area. Individual meetings to discuss any pupil's progress or development can be arranged at any time. Regular parent-carer coffee mornings are hosted by each class on a weekly rota basis. These are popular and provide the opportunity for pupils to welcome their families into our school.

The school regularly conducts Parent-Carer surveys and invites the views of parents and carers during various functions throughout the course of the year.

Working Together

At Chatsworth High School and Community College we believe that collaboration within our school community and with partner agencies is central to the holistic development of our pupils. We have wide ranging and well-established relationships with many organisations and value each of these highly.

Our School Council represents the voice of pupils across the school and meets regularly supported by the Deputy Headteacher and one of our Level 4 Teaching Assistants. Pupils are actively encouraged to express their views both within the classroom setting and with members of the Senior Leadership Team.

Parents and carers are regarded as active participants in their child's learning. Alongside the scheduled meetings focused on learning throughout the year, parents and carers are encouraged to contact the school at any time to discuss their child's learning and progress.

There are currently four Parent Governors on the school's Governing Body which is a highly effective strategic group. There is an active parents-carers and staff group called CHAPS which supports the work of the school.

The school has close active links with health professionals working particularly closely with the learning disability nurses to help develop behaviour support programmes for pupils across various settings. We enjoy a similarly close link with the continence nurse enabling us to develop effective continence programmes for pupils based on a shared understanding of pupil needs and consistent practice both within school and the pupil's home.

We have strong and growing links with many local organisations. Our pupils volunteer each week in care homes for elderly people

and support the work of a local charity for homeless people on an equally frequent basis. We have secured several work experience placements with local businesses and have well established, close links with Salford City College. We work closely with our colleagues at Springwood Primary School and have a strong transitional programme for all pupils to ensure a successful start to their time at Chatsworth.

Family Support

At Chatsworth High School and Community College we aim to support parents-carers and families in whatever way we can. Our School Business Support Team, led by our School Business Support Manager, provide 'front-line' support for families co-ordinating the exchange and flow of information around a range of key areas including completing important forms and documents, dinner monies, transport arrangements and arranging appointments with members of staff. This School Business Support Team also help organise multi-agency meetings co-ordinating the attendance of a broad range of professionals and family members often offering the school as the venue for meetings.

The school's Learning Mentor takes a leading role in liaising closely with families and ensuring that whatever support can be offered by the school is in place. The Learning Mentor focuses particularly on pupils' emotional well-being and attendance; attendance for the Academic Year 2012-2013 was 95.6% whilst it is currently at 96.9%.

Members of the Senior Leadership Team alongside the school's trained PROACT-SCIPr-UK® Instructors provide bespoke support for parents-carers and families around behavioural issues. This work is often supported by the learning disability nurses.

Transition

At Chatsworth High School and Community College we regard all transitions as vital steps on the road to adulthood. Transition may involve moving from one organisation to another or may involve moving around the school building. Whatever the transition we recognise the need to support all our pupils with this process and have developed practices and strategies that support our young people.

Parents of prospective pupils are actively encouraged to visit our school at anytime and can contact our School Business Support Manager to arrange visits to the school which will be led by a member of our Senior Leadership Team.

Pupils joining us at Year 7 are involved in a long transitional programme which we share with our colleagues at Springwood Primary School. This programme commences during the Summer Term immediately prior to the pupil joining our school. During the latter stages of this programme, pupils within our school are supported through the transition to their next class group as the school engages in whole school transition days.

Pupils' Year 9 Transition Review provide an opportunity to consider future options for pupils and plans are put in place to ensure a smooth transition at Year 11 with the vast majority of pupils choosing to continue into Chatsworth Community College. During their three years in the Community College a broad array of opportunities are explored and experienced enabling pupils and their families to make well-informed decisions about their future. Pupils will engage in long-term link visits with colleges such as Salford City College or Loreto College spending a significant amount of time getting to know the learning environment and course content. Pupils will also visit day provision or explore the possible options available through direct payments. The school was the first school in Salford to receive the Inspiring IAG Gold Award which recently converted to the Full Award in recognition of the excellent quality of our work in supporting pupils through crucial transitions in their life. visit: <http://www.inspiringiag.co.uk>

Extra Curricular Activities

The school has a broad range of extra-curricular activities which enhance and enrich the lives of our pupils. The Chatsworth Youth Group meet on a Monday after school whilst on Wednesday our 'Let's Get Cooking' group meet and on Thursday we run a Sports Club. There is a charge for each of these activities.

There are lunchtime activity clubs held every day of the week which include football training, rugby training, indoor games, pamper sessions and ICT club. All of these activities are free of charge.

We hold several residential holidays every year visiting North Wales, Blackpool and London on a regular basis. Next year we plan a trip to Cologne as part of a European exchange programme funded by the European Union.

Our pupils regularly participate in projects such as the Shakespeare in Schools project which involve evening performances or exhibitions.