



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITIES INFORMATION REPORT 2024-25

Purpose of this document

This document provides a summary of William Ellis School's approach and provision Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Further information is available in the school's SEND policy which is available on our website.

Information about the school

William Ellis School is a mainstream secondary school. We are a fully comprehensive, non-selective school and students join us from a number of local primary schools.

We believe that all children should be valued as individuals. We have an inclusive ethos with high expectations for all, a broad and balanced curriculum differentiated to meet individual needs and systems for early identification of barriers to learning and participation. We believe that educational inclusion is about making effective and appropriate provision for all learners whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, impairment, attainment and background.

Staff undergo regular training in order to support the students' needs. We ensure that all students are included in both curricular and extracurricular activities including educational trips and visits.

William Ellis School provides support for students with all kinds of SEND, with particular expertise in supporting boys of all ages with social, emotional and mental health needs and young people with speech, language and communication needs, particularly through transition periods.

How we learn with and from other schools

We are a learning community and believe that it is important to work with other schools to make sure that our knowledge, expertise and skills on SEND issues are up to date. We also share our best practice with other schools.

We undertake visits to local schools to look at aspects of their practice such as how they support students making slow progress in reading and mathematics and how they train, support and make best use of Teaching & Learning Assistants.

Our SENDCo attends and contributes to the Local Authority SENDCo Forum which keeps all schools up to date with national developments and local projects on inclusion.

How will we know if your child needs extra help?

When your child first comes to us we use information from:

- primary school teachers, end of key stage 2 levels
- base line testing, Cognitive Ability Tests, reading assessment and other initial tests in year 7
- parents/carers, application form information
- subject teachers
- specialist colleagues, external agencies

As your child gets older we use information or referrals from:

- termly assessments and interim data
- subject teachers and tutors
- parental concerns
- external agencies

If your child needs to be assessed we would:

- use a range of assessments depending on the area of need
- if appropriate, engage a specialist service, such as educational psychology or occupational therapy

How will we know how your child is doing?

The school will send home 3 reports each year (1 full report and 2 progress reports) which will show current and target levels and report on attitude to learning, behaviour and homework. Your child's pastoral leader along with subject and Learning Support departments will monitor and review your child's levels and pick up on any subjects where your child is not making sufficient progress. We may then put an intervention in place. At the next reporting time we will check whether the right progress has been made.

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:

- Regular "listening" conversations for all students identified with SEND
- Parent-teacher evenings
- Notes in planners
- Email
- Telephone calls
- Appointments made with individual teachers
- Annual reviews for students with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

The school provides information for parents through:

- information on the website
- the School newsletter
- letters home
- open evenings
- information evenings

How will we support your child?

Students with additional needs are divided into 3 distinct categories:

- M – SEND AWARENESS: Students in this group may have an identified learning need that can be met by our universal offer of high-quality teaching. They may be included in occasional and specific interventions but, generally, do not receive any additional or different provision.
- K – ADDITIONAL NEEDS: Students included in this group have a range of identified or specific needs and, as well as receiving the support offered through high-quality teaching, they also have access to a host of additional and/or different provision.
- E – EHCP: These students have a particularly high level of need, over and above what can be provided for by our universal or usual in-school SEND offer, and have been issued an Education, Health and Care plan by their home borough to offer further support and guidance.

Both the child and parent would be contacted when the school identified a need and we will work collaboratively with parents and children to develop individualised support to ensure we address any presenting need in school and to advise on how this work can be further supported at home.

All teachers will be told about your child's individual needs and will adapt their lessons to meet these. Teachers have experience or are trained in doing this. This means your child can access the lessons fully.

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

Most of our students follow a traditional curriculum, however a small number of learners have a more personalised curriculum to match their individual needs, interests and abilities. For example, we have a smaller class in Year 7 and Year 8 which is specifically tailored to support students with a social, emotional and mental health needs and speech, language and communication needs through transition into secondary school.

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.

There are a range of interventions and additional subject support which are available and, should your child need this, it would be discussed with you. For example, small group literacy interventions are in place across the school for students in need of additional support with developing their ability to read.

If your child requires specific equipment and additional resources, the school will either use the funding within its budget for supporting SEND students or make appropriate submissions to the local authority, charities or other organisations who may be able to support. In addition, we work collaboratively with a range of appropriate agencies to provide additional support children with SEND.

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. Referrals for this kind of assessment are made directly to the SENDCo by class teachers.

We will evaluate the impact and effectiveness of our provision for SEND students primarily through review of progress, attainment, outcomes and destinations data for students with SEND. This process includes regular meetings with the named SEND governor. The SENDCo will also support and challenge school staff through the teacher development and appraisal programme.

[How will your child be included in activities outside the classroom?](#)

All children in the school are encouraged to take part in extra activities before school and at lunchtime and after school. Day and residential trips are open to **all** children, usually as part of the planned curriculum delivered by subjects. In the case of extra-curricular trips, your child's specific needs can be discussed if they wish to join such a trip and we will arrange for appropriate support to be available should this be required.

[How will we support your child's well being?](#)

At William Ellis we take our pastoral responsibilities seriously. We pride ourselves on providing a high level of student support and guidance. One way we support our students is by assigning them to a form tutor who will (in most cases) remain with them as they progress up the school. This provides continuity and builds a strong relationship between tutor, students and their families.

There are additional members of staff at William Ellis who are able to provide pastoral support.

We have excellent relationships with a number of outside agencies, including local Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Although instances of bullying at William Ellis School are low, the school has robust measures in place to address and prevent it when it does occur for all students, including those with SEND. We will always adopt a restorative approach and seek resolution of conflicts whereby all parties are listened to and able to find common ground and understanding.

Who is our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator?

The SEND Co-ordinator (SENDCo) can be contacted via the school office or via email at send@williamellis.camden.sch.uk At the time of writing, our SENDCo is Ms Charalambous Clarke.

What SEND training have our staff had?

Training is provided to all staff including teachers and TLAs as the need arises and there is on-going training for all staff as well as opportunities to further develop skills.

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

The school's SEND Learning Support element of the schools Additional Needs department is made up of the SENDCo and a team of Teaching and Learning Assistants (TLAs). Within this team are staff who have a wide range of experience and training covering various SEND needs. For example, members of the team have completed additional qualifications in supporting speech, language and communication needs, delivering phonics programmes and supporting emotional literacy. The wider Additional Needs team in school includes our school counsellor, lead learning mentor, student engagement officer and EMAS co-ordinator.

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

How accessible is our school?

Many of our school buildings date back to 1937. Since that time many alterations and additions have been made to make the school as accessible as possible to all students.

How else can you be involved?

We need you to support us by encouraging your child 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 the planner
- Attending parents meetings
- Attending any meetings specifically arranged for your child

How can your child contribute?

Students are encouraged to:

- Take part in pupil voice activities
- Attend review meetings
- Contribute to target setting and reviewing

What should you do if you have concerns?

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

You may also contact the SENDCo directly at send@williamellis.camden.sch.uk

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

What additional support services are available for parents of young people with SEND?

There are a range of additional support services available for parents of young people with SEND, as detailed below:

Camden Local Offer: localoffer.camden.gov.uk

SENDIASS – Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service
Website: <http://www.sendiasscamden.co.uk/>

Camden Special Parents Forum: kids.org.uk or www.facebook.com/CamdenSpecialParentsForum

How will we help your child's transition into secondary school and beyond?

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

All children receive advice on careers and are supported with 6th form applications.

Where can you get further information?

- Look at the Camden Local Authority's local offer: localoffer.camden.gov.uk
- Look at the School's policy on SEND which can be found on our website.