



Farney Close School

Local Offer Statement - January 2015

What does Farney Close School do ?

Farney Close is a very successful 5 day week residential special school that has achieved 11 Outstanding Ofsted reports for the quality of its education and care provision since 2006. The school has existed for nearly 70 years and is a non-profitmaking, charitable organisation.

We accept boys and girls 11-18 who are normally referred because it is felt through their Statements or Education, Health and Care Plans that they would benefit from residential schooling.

We provide education, care and social development to pupils who experience Social, Emotional and Behavioural difficulties, Asperger syndrome, Tourette's syndrome, or Moderate Learning Difficulties. We also accept pupils who experience cognitive learning difficulties, such as Dyslexia, or problems with Speech and Language. We also recognise that there are many "labels" given to children and young people, so we are happy to discuss how our school may be able to meet their needs.

Where is Farney Close located and where do its pupils come from ?

The school and residential accommodation is located on one single 32 acre site near the A23, mid-way between Brighton and Gatwick airport. It is used regularly by up to 30 different Local Authorities across the south and south east of England.

How are decisions made about who can attend the school ?

Decisions about inviting pupils to attend the school are made by the Head, Deputy Head, or the Care Manager, following a referral from a Local Authority. Parents and carers are welcome to visit or contact the school to see if we are a possible suitable place for their child. Contact can be made by phone on 01444-881811 or email the Head at: head@farneyclose.co.uk

How do parents / carers communicate with the school and how can they be involved in the decision making and planning ?

The school strongly values communication with parents/carers and others who work with and support the child. We see mutual communication and planning as a fundamental part in any child's progress. Within school all pupils will have a link worker, who is the first contact for parents and carers. This provides opportunities for parent/carers to have regular contact, and for information or concerns to be passed quickly on to the right person in the school to provide a response.

The school reports to parents/carers three times a year on a pupil's attainment and progress, and there is a very detailed end of year report in the summer term. Parents and carers also receive Care Plan summary sheets and a feedback sheet every term, which means that parents and carers have at least six opportunities to be formally involved in decision making and planning for their child. Once parents and carers have worked with the school to identify areas for development, they will receive copies of their child's Education, Health and Care Passports, which set out the objectives and outcomes in each of these areas.

We also provide information for annual reviews of the Statement of Need / Education, Health and Care Plan, and naturally we talk with parents, carers and others where appropriate, helping maintain a positive focus on pupils needs and to clarify or adjust any plans to support them.

The school produces newsletters and information on its website about the general life of the school and email is accessible through the site and through the normal channels. We provide parents evenings and event evenings, which are opportunities to discuss your child with the staff that teach and care for them.

Any parent, carer or anyone else working with a child can arrange to visit the school and all requests for this are dealt with promptly to prevent any delay. We encourage parents and carers to maintain regular phone contact with their child by phoning them during the evening.

Is the school fully accessible ?

The school is made up of a range of old and new style buildings which are spread across the site which varies in terrain. This means that in certain areas wheel chair access can be difficult, though we do have an Access Plan that caters for visitors who may be wheel chair bound, or who may have difficulties with walking in general.

What training do the staff supporting the pupils have ?

All teachers are qualified and teach their subject specialism, meaning that the standard of teaching is high. All Care staff are qualified to at least NVQ Level 3 in Children and Young People, or The Diploma for the Children and Young People's workforce Level 3, and we have a number of qualified Social Workers in the Care team. All staff receive regular training on a wide range of subjects to support the pupils they work with, including working with pupils with ASD, supporting pupils with Speech and Language difficulties, Children Safeguarding, Self-harming, Attachment Theory, understanding bereavement, Handling Prescribed Medications, First Aid, and, of course, training on a wide range of curriculum subjects to improve teaching and learning.

How do we identify pupil progress or that they may have additional needs ?

When pupils come into the school they participate in a range of tests provide by our Speech and Language and SEND specialist to identify any additional difficulties that might have an impact of on the child's learning and social understanding, and to identify the attainment levels at which they are consistently performing. Teachers will also observe pupils work and interaction and will use this information to set a baseline from which we measure progress throughout the time a pupil attends. At the same time, our Residential Social Care Workers will begin to form Care Plans which aim to

develop individual pupils' independence skill and social understanding. All areas of education are overseen by the Deputy Head and all care matters are dealt with by the Care Manager.

How will the curriculum be matched to each child's individual needs ?

Subjects are taught by specialist teachers and in many cases classes have a teaching assistant to support them. Classes are small, with no more than eight pupils. Those pupils with additional learning difficulties are supported through programmes devised and taught by our Speech and Language therapist, or our SEND specialist. Teachers are experienced in making work assessable to all pupils and they work closely with our therapists to ensure that they use teaching strategies that support particular learning styles or difficulties.

The school has a broad and balanced curriculum which allows pupils in Key Stage 3 to access all national curriculum subjects. In Key Stage 4, pupils have a range of options in either academic or vocational subject which are taught to GCSE, Entry Level, or NVQ.

Does Farney Close cater for young people in Years 12 & 13 ?

Yes. In school these young people have their own specific accommodation which supports a three pronged approach based on developing higher level independence living skills, supported attendance in local further education colleges, and supported work experience. The overall aim is to try to ensure that by the end of the programme pupils are less fragile and more resilient and responsive to the demands of Further Education or work.

What can the school offer to support a child's well-being ?

The schools approach to education and care is to improve pupils' access to the curriculum and to make them feel positive about themselves as learners who can succeed in class and be successful socially. By making pupils feel successful we aim to improve confidence and self-esteem and where necessary we look to support this through 1:1 Counselling, Art Therapy, Music Therapy, Speech & Language Therapy or Dyslexia/literacy support. Although the school is not a "Therapeutic Community" there is a great deal of therapeutic support that provides a wraparound provision to develop pupils' wellbeing. This is achieved by creating a safe environment that provides firm and consistent boundaries and clear expectations of behaviour, through which pupils learn to trust adults and accept their guidance. As they progress pupils are helped to identify and clarify their difficulties and provided with high levels of support to move on and develop.

How can children and young people start using Farney Close ?

Local Authorities will normally make an application to the school to place a child they think is suitable. On other occasions parent/carers contact the school directly and ask to visit or talk to a senior manager about their child to see if the school might be suitable. After this they are advised to go back and talk to their Local Authority.

Once an application has been made, and if we think we can meet the pupil's needs, we will ask to visit the child wherever they might live and then arrange for them to visit the school if we feel that we could meet their needs. Usually we can complete our side of the process in about two to three

weeks. More information about our Admission process can be found on our website www.farneyclose.co.uk or by contacting the school directly on 01444 881811

How can you get further information about the school ?

The school has a good website www.farneyclose.co.uk which is easy to follow. Parents, carers or other people working to support a child/young person who they think would benefit from the school can telephone us on 01444 881811 to arrange a visit, or to talk to the Head, Deputy Head or Care Manger to discuss a possible application.