



# Mill Water School

Preparation for *their* best future

## SEND REPORT 2021/2022

Mill Water School is a Devon foundation school within a Co-operative Trust of nine other special schools. It has a clear approach to meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and is supported by the Local Authority (LA) and the SENTient Trust to ensure that all pupils, regardless of their specific needs, make the best possible progress in school.

An SEN information report will be updated annually to reflect changes and plans within the school. The report states the current provision offered by Mill Water School.

Admissions to the school are in line with our Admissions Policy which is published on the school website. More detail on our commitment to high quality educational provision for all our pupils is detailed in our Teaching and Learning policy.

### **What kind of special educational needs does Mill Water make provision for?**

Mill Water is a maintained special school. We can meet the needs of pupils with communication and interaction difficulties, cognition and learning difficulties, social, emotional and mental health difficulties, and sensory and/or physical needs. Pupils may also have autism and multi-sensory impairments.

### **What is Mill Water School's approach to teaching pupils with SEN?**

Our approach includes:

- Ensuring that all National Curriculum and statutory curriculum guidance is delivered to all pupils
- Quality First Teaching which is delivered using a total communication approach
- Providing a wide range of age appropriate learning experiences which are exciting and challenging
- Personalised provision with adapted resources and interventions
- Smaller class sizes and extra adult support
- Staff who have appropriate training and skills
- Secure and appropriate learning environments
- Promoting the pupils' spiritual, physical and emotional well-being
- An Attachment and Trauma Aware approach to managing relationships and behaviour
- Promoting independence and decision making
- Treating everyone with dignity and respect
- Ensuring ICT enhances the curriculum and communication for all pupils
- Holistic approach to provision of therapy
- Celebrating relationships with parents and families
- Celebrating communication at every level
- Safeguarding, to keep all school members safe

### **How do we evaluate the effectiveness of the provision made for pupils with SEN at Mill Water School?**

All pupils attending Mill Water School have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The provision is based on strong values:

- Communicate thoughtfully
- Celebrate achievement
- Behave kindly
- Respect one another

Pupil Progress is reported to the school Governors with responsibility for SEN. Mill Water School strives to deliver and constantly improve quality learning experiences for all pupils.

### **How do we assess and review pupils' progress towards outcomes, including opportunities available to work with parents and pupils as part of this assessment and review?**

Every pupil has an EHCP which is reviewed annually at a Review meeting. During this review parents, teachers, professionals and, where appropriate, the pupil discuss the pupil's progress and set actions for the following year. Mill Water uses a range of different assessment systems to support the varying needs and ages of its pupils. These include:

- Development Matters and Characteristics of Effective Learning for pupils in the Early Years Foundation Stage
- The Mill Water School Core Curriculum for pupils in KS1, 2, 3 and 4, with some KS3 & KS4 pupils working on a Nurture and Engagement Curriculum rather than the Core Curriculum, depending on pathway and progress.
- Personal Learning Goals (PLGs) – Mill Water's bespoke assessment system for all pupils. Targets are discussed at the Annual Review Meeting and subsequent termly parent meetings. Parents are encouraged to work on the targets at home, alongside the school. Targets are set in areas of need bespoke to the pupil such as self-care, sensory development or social skills. Progress for each target is tracked throughout the year and pupil progress data collected and monitored.
- EdExcel qualifications at Entry Level in Functional English, Maths and ICT at KS4
- Mill Water awards in KS5

We use Evidence for Learning, an online assessment tool, to make observations of pupil progress. Progress against the Mill Water School Core Curriculum and Personal Learning Goals is tracked. Parents are encouraged to take an active part in this process.

### **How are adaptations made to the curriculum and the learning environment of pupils with SEN?**

The curriculum is reviewed to ensure it is in line with statutory guidance and any new regulations. Mill Water School provides a curriculum that is primarily destination led, preparing pupils for their best future. The curriculum is relevant, broad and promotes independence, as well as enabling children to become functional in literacy, numeracy and communication. For some pupils, therapeutic interventions comprise a significant part of their curriculum. Learning environments may be adapted by:

- Ensuring Total Communication happens at all times
- Creating groups that target specific needs in order to make progress
- Incorporating differentiated resources and teaching styles
- Making appropriate choices of texts and topics to suit the learner
- Providing additional adult support
- Offering individualised timetables that allow for sensory breaks/regulation activities

### **What support is available for improving the overall well-being of pupils with SEN at Mill Water School?**

Pupils are supported by:

- An anti-bullying policy that is understood and implemented by all staff
- An Attachment and Trauma Aware approach to Behaviour Regulation, including Attachment Aware Support Plans and Responsive Co-Regulation Plans
- A robust safeguarding policy
- Personal care conducted discreetly and with dignity, fostering independence where possible
- Close working relationship with Devon's Children with Disabilities Team
- Staff trained in a range of support packages including Thrive, drawing and talking therapy, attachment disorder, forest school etc.
- Targeted support for individual pupils
- School Council

### **What expertise and training of staff, in relation to SEN, is in place at Mill Water?**

An audit of staff expertise in SEN is undertaken annually. We have staff who are trained in the following areas:

- Delivering support for Literacy and Maths
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs, ADHD, ASD, Code of Practice and specific learning difficulties, VI and MSI, OT
- Manual Handling, Safeguarding, Total Communication, PIPS and Makaton (all staff)
- Attachment Aware approaches to behaviour management

A core training programme related to work as a teaching assistant or teacher is provided. Training is specifically related to the needs of children in our school. Teachers undergo regular CPD training. All staff have clear job descriptions which detail the required qualifications for each post.

Specialist expertise in ASD, PIPS, Educational Psychology, CAMHS and therapy is engaged from external services.

### **How do we secure equipment and facilities to support SEN pupils?**

Mill Water is a purpose built school on one level which is fully accessible for wheelchair users. The shared areas such as pool, rebound and sensory rooms have fully accessible ceiling hoists. The wide corridors have trailing bars and the colour scheme has been chosen with VI pupils in mind.

The school receives support via:

- Devon County Council Support Services
- Charities
- Volunteers
- Enrichment

**What are our arrangements for consulting parents of children with SEN and how do we involve these parents in the education of their child?**

- Initial visits to school and home visit
- Introductory meetings
- Regular newsletters
- Parent workshops and training
- Coffee mornings
- Parent governor opportunities
- Parent involvement in consultations
- Home/School Book
- Parent View
- Parents Meeting/Structured conversations/Parent Forums
- Annual Report to Parents
- Annual Reviews

**What are the arrangements for consulting young people with special educational needs and how do we involve them in their education?**

All pupils at Mill Water School are treated with dignity and respect. There is full personalisation of the curriculum for each pupil in order for them to experience success.

- Pupil Voice
- School Council
- Annual Reviews
- Personal Interviews

**What arrangements do we have in place relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with SEN concerning the provision made at the school?**

If you have any concerns over your child's progress please get in touch with the school. The school also has a Complaints Policy. To view this Policy, visit our Policy Information page on our website.

**How does the governing body involve other stakeholders, including health and social services, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with SEN and in supporting the families of such pupils?**

The governors are aware of the wide range of staff working together within the school to support our pupils, young people and families. Some staff are employed directly by the school; others have different lines of management as can be seen below. Mill Water staff work closely with visiting professionals to provide consistency in approaches. There is monitoring of practice to ensure pupils' needs are met.

All classroom and administrative staff are employed directly by the school.

School nurses, Learning Disability nurses, physiotherapists, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists and CAMHS staff are NHS employees.

Behaviour support, advisory teachers and Educational Psychologists are employees of Babcock LDP. They provide staff training and advice on individual needs.

Multi Sensory Workers (MSWs) are employees of Babcock LDP. They provide one on one support to individual children as specified in their EHCPs.

Transport to school is provided by the local authority, not the school. Transport staff are employed by the transport companies.

There are social workers for pupils with additional needs based within the Children with Disabilities Team.

In addition, we have links with

- Clinical Commissioning Groups
- Health and Wellbeing Boards
- Therapy Departments

**Contact details of other support services for the parents of SEN pupils.**

Information of contact details and support services available: [devonias.org.uk/support](http://devonias.org.uk/support)

**How do we support your child when they are leaving this school or moving to another year?**

All transitions are well-planned for throughout the school as pupils move from class to class and phase to phase. Parents/carers always have the opportunity to meet the new teacher and class staff. Pupils are increasingly supported in planning for their transition from school to adult life. Careers South West staff attend meetings and work with families to advise on what is available after Mill Water.

We offer:

- Transfer Support
- Transition Arrangements
- Outreach Service
- KS5 Curriculum
- National accreditation
- Supported College taster days

For further information please view our Support Services section our website or contact the school directly on 01395 568890.

**Who are the best people to talk to at Mill Water School?**

Telephone the school on 01395 568890

Head teacher: *Sarah Pickering*

Chair of Governors: *Paul Charlton*

Deputy Head: *Lynne Hasell*

Assistant Head: *Kayleigh Price*

Or speak to your child's class teacher

**For information about the Local Authority's offer please visit:** [devon.gov.uk/send-local-offer](http://devon.gov.uk/send-local-offer)