



School Information:

Address:	Oxford Spires Academy, Glanville Road, Oxford OX4 2AU
Contact Number:	01865 428200
Website:	www.oxfordspiresacademy.org
Ofsted Grading:	Good (November 2023)
Number of students on the SEN register:	309 (January 2026)

Contact Details:

SENCO: Mrs Charlotte Coley	ccoley@oxfordspires.anthemtrust.uk
Headteacher: Mrs Louise Cowley	lcowley@oxfordspires.anthemtrust.uk

Introduction:

Oxford Spires Academy is a comprehensive mainstream school catering for students aged 11-19. We believe every child of every background in every classroom in every subject at Oxford Spires deserves a world class education. Oxford Spires is an inclusive school where truly ALL students succeed and thrive in all aspects of their lives. It is our moral and ethical obligation. Our students may have special educational needs (SEN) which have been identified before joining Oxford Spires, while others may be identified while attending Oxford Spires.

This SEND Information Report outlines the key information with regards to SEN at Oxford Spires Academy, and how we support our students with SEND to succeed and thrive.

Key Information:

What is SEN defined as?

The Code of Practice (2014) defines SEN as:

“A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age; or
- b) Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.”

Students may have learning needs in areas of Cognition and Learning, Communication and Interaction, Sensory and/or Physical and Social, Emotional and Mental Health.

For these students we will provide provision that is 'additional to or different from' the normal differentiated provision, intended to overcome the barrier to their learning.

How do we identify and assess students with SEN?

Oxford Spires Academy takes a whole school approach to identifying and assessing students with SEN; it is everyone's responsibility.

When students first start at Oxford Spires academy, information is gathered from multiple sources. This includes, but is not limited to, parents, primary school teachers, external agencies and specialist teachers (Speech and Language Team, Communication and Interaction Team, Physical Disability Team etc.), KS2 data, Cognitive Ability Tests and NGRT. A member of the SEN team visits primary schools and meets with the SENCO, teachers and students to ensure a comprehensive handover.

If a staff member has a concern about a student, they can refer this to the Student Panel Team (made up of Mrs Coley (SENCO), Ms Clay (Behaviour Lead), Miss Baker (DSL), Mrs Hughes (Director of Behaviour and Inclusion) and Mr Boyd (Behaviour Support Manager). This team meets weekly to discuss key students, whole school data and staff referrals. From this they decide next steps (observations, referrals to external agencies, internal interventions, SEN testing etc.) and input appropriate provision or support.

Oxford Spires has two staff members who are qualified to complete diagnostic testing. This provides information to enable support to be put in place or exam access arrangements to be implemented.

If a parent has a concern about their child, they are encouraged to raise this via specified student consultation evenings or SEN coffee mornings, their child's tutor or teacher or by contacting the SEN team directly.

Oxford Spires also has a trusted adult scheme in which every student identifies a trusted adult they can approach if they have a concern or worry or require additional support. Students identify this trusted adult as part of their tutor time Character Education sessions which also support students with anti-bullying, emotional regulation and relationships and sex education. Students also have access to physical 'whisper boxes' and online 'whisper buttons' which are checked daily by the safeguarding team and where students can record any worries or concerns.

What is our approach to teaching students with SEN?

At Oxford Spires Academy we understand that high quality teaching is the best way to support our SEN students. We offer our students a broad and balanced curriculum and promote an inclusive learning environment. The curriculum is differentiated in its delivery in order to achieve this. Each student registered as SEN is classified as a high priority student' and teachers are provided with information of a student's barriers to learning, their strengths and interests and personalised strategies which state how they can best be supported in the classroom environment.

How do we adapt our curriculum for students with SEN?

We aim to offer all our SEN students a broad and balanced curriculum. We do this in our classrooms by: Providing an inclusive learning environment that maintains high expectations for all; having understanding and knowledge of our learners' needs; ensuring students receive high quality teaching in all their lessons and teaching our pupils with SEND alongside their mainstream peers.

For a small number of students, it may be decided that it would support them better to undertake a reduced curriculum, i.e. they may not study a language or a humanity or may study one less option at KA4. All of these decisions are made in conjunction with both the student and their parent/carer. When they would be accessing these lessons, students will follow a personalised timetable and will be scheduled to work either in our Academic Support base or complete an intervention.

At KS3, programmes run within year groups to support students struggling with their key academic skills. Upon entry, year 7 students requiring support with their fundamental literacy skills are identified to partake in additional literacy lessons in place of studying a language. In year 8, this takes place alongside positive behaviour for learning and mentoring sessions.

At KS4, a SEN pathway has been implemented. Students still follow the same curriculum as their mainstream peers for English, maths and science. This will be further personalised each year depending on the needs of the students. In year 11, there are three SEN option blocks: additional English and maths, AQA unit awards and hospitality and catering. In year 10, there are two additional English, maths and science option blocks and one AQA unit awards. Students can complete the full pathway or opt in to a particular option block.

How do we support our SEN students in their exams?

Access Arrangements are pre-examination adjustments for candidates based on evidence of need and normal way of working. Access Arrangements allow candidates/learners with special educational needs, disabilities, or temporary injuries to access the assessment without changing the demands of the assessment.

Students are identified both through testing and teacher referral to student panel. This likelihood is added to their Bromcom profiles and becomes their 'normal way of working'. From year 9 onwards, students are formally screened and tested and applications submitted.

A referral to be tested for Access Arrangements is not a guarantee of exam access arrangements. Adjustments can be made in the classroom, but these must then be proven by diagnostic testing before the access arrangements can be granted.

Any specific equipment e.g. laptops, coloured overlays noise cancelling headphones are purchased by the exams team to ensure students have access to these during exams.

What interventions and support do we have for our SEN students?

At Oxford Spires we are proud to offer a broad range of interventions to support our students. These include (but are not limited to):

- Art Therapy
- Play Therapy

- Counselling / Psychotherapy
- Targeted literacy and numeracy support
- Reading – phonics, comprehension, fluency, peer reading
- Social skills
- Positive play
- SALT
- Communication and Interaction team
- Hearing Impairment Team
- Physical Disability Team
- Mentoring (to include sixth form mentoring)
- SEN Pathways
- Mental Health Support Team
- Forest School
- Act 2 Improve

The following supports are also available in the form of student passes:

- Time out
- Early exit (this may be between lessons or all lessons)
- Toilet pass
- Academic Support
- Lift key
- Uniform adjustments

In addition, Teaching Assistants are deployed within subjects to support students in lessons. This may be academically e.g. breaking down tasks and instructions, socially e.g. engaging in pair / group activities, emotionally e.g. giving rest / movement breaks or physically e.g. scribing. The school also has an Academic Support base which is run by teaching assistants. This is open during all lessons and during tutor and break times. Students may be timetabled in Academic Support during specific lessons to access additional support or may access the space for a 'time out' if required. During break times this is a quiet space for students to access who may struggle with the sensory aspects of these times.

All students at Oxford Spire are provided with equipment packs. These include a Scholars Guide, mini whiteboard, whiteboard pen and reading ruler. In addition, the SEN team has access to a specific SEN budget which can be used to purchase any physical supports required for students. This may include, but is not limited to fidget tools, coloured overlays, iPads, writing slopes, resistance bands and weighted blankets.

All interventions and support follow the assess, plan, do, review cycle and are monitored and regularly reviewed, through student panel, in order to assess their effectiveness and suitability for each student. Students can be moved in to or out of an intervention at any point during the school year, depending on their level of need.

How do we monitor the effectiveness of our SEN provision?

All teaching, interventions and support for our students with SEN is regularly monitored and reviewed. All teachers receive regular lesson observations by either the SENCO, Deputy SENCO or Assistant SENCO across all three cycles to ensure they are best meeting the students' needs and feedback provided to both individual teachers and

heads of departments. Our students complete regular assessments (both informally and formally throughout our whole school assessment weeks) both in the classroom and before, during and after an intervention to ensure they are making at least expected progress. Attendance, behaviour and exclusions and progress data are all reviewed half termly in conjunction with the relevant staff and support and/or reasonable adjustments put in place. The school also receives monitoring visits from both governors and Anthem Trust. Parents, students and staff are all consulted and asked to provide their feedback on the effectiveness of provision.

How do we work in partnership with parents and involve them in their child's education?

At Oxford Spire we believe that parents know their children best and are committed to involving them in all discussions and decisions regarding their child's education. The SENCO and deputy and assistant SENCOs are contactable throughout the school day via email and appointments can be booked with them. At Parents' Evenings there is also the opportunity to book an appointment with the SEN team. Specific SEN parent coffee mornings are also held regularly throughout the school year. These may have additional, specific themes to them e.g. careers advice for KS4 students. High priority student actions are regularly reviewed, and parents are encouraged to request and review these. On top of this, students who have an EHCP will receive an Annual Review each year. Students who have CWCF status have a termly PEP which the SENCO, Deputy SENCO or Assistant SENCO will attend.

If parents have a concern regarding their child's SEN provision they are encouraged to contact the SENCO directly. Additionally, any concerns or complaints can be raised to OSA's complaints coordinator by contacting them at Complaints@anthemtrust.uk

How do we work in partnership with students and involve them in their education?

Involving students in discussions and decisions regarding their education is integral and it is an expectation that this happens at Oxford Spire. Students are encouraged to give their views on their academic and pastoral experiences in school, and these are listened to by our staff. The Deputy SENCO oversees student voice and holds regular student voice meetings. These discuss individual feedback from students alongside whole school initiatives e.g. anti-bullying, society days etc. Students' interests are sought and added to their high priority information for all of their teachers to see. With any key decision making, students are involved in this and explained the rationale and supportive nature of any major decisions. On top of this, students who have an EHCP will receive an Annual Review each year, for which their views will be sought. Students who have CWCF status have a termly PEP which the SENCO, Deputy SENCO or Assistant SENCO will attend.

How do we ensure students with SEN are included in all aspects of school life?

Oxford Spire is an inclusive school where truly all students succeed and thrive in all aspects of their lives. It is our moral and ethical obligation. No student with a Special Educational Need or Disability should be treated less favourably than other students. All of our students with SEN are encouraged to take part in extra-curricular activities, termly society days, enrichment week and go on school trips. If necessary, adjustments may be made to support some students with accessing these. These may be, but are not limited to, SEN specific sessions and TA support. Our students with SEN are also

encouraged to be part of the school council, sports teams, school plays and open days/evenings.

How do we support the transition of our SEN students?

The transition of students with SEN starts in Year 6. The Deputy SENCO will visit all students in their primary setting to observe and meet with both them and their teachers. If a student has an EHCP that is due to name Oxford Spires, we aim to be a part of their Year 6 Annual Review. Students with SEN are also given the opportunity to attend additional transition days. This gives them a chance to meet the SEN team, customise themselves with the school and view our Academic Support base away from the mainstream school.

Any in-year admissions are communicated to the SENCO, who will liaise with the student's previous school to ensure information is shared. Where a student leaves Oxford Spires in the middle of an academic year, their Pupil Profile, Exam Access Arrangements and any other relevant information is forwarded on to their new setting.

When a student with SEN is transitioning to KS4, parents will be invited to attend an Options Evening which the SENCO will also be in attendance to discuss any queries or concerns. There may be a small group of key students who the SENCO will meet with both the student and their parents/carers to discuss option choices and any reasonable adjustments that may need to be made (e.g. taking one less option and having extra English, maths and science support).

For our Year 11 students with SEN, support will be offered to transition into either further education, employment or training. Students will all have the opportunity to complete work experience in Year 10 and meet with a career's advisor. Students are encouraged to attend all open days and events and will be supported by the SEN department with researching courses and completing application forms. Where a student will be attending a local college, extra transition meetings and days are set up in advance. For students with an EHCP, an Annual Review is held early in Year 11 to determine their next steps and the transition support that is required.

How do we support staff with regards to SEN?

TeachMeets focus on high quality teaching strategies and whole school approaches to ensure consistency across staff. For those with an inclusion focus, the SENCO and Deputy SENCO will be involved in planning and delivering sessions which are utilised to give staff key information regarding SEN. Staff also receive regular updates via a weekly whole staff briefing email.

The SENCO, Deputy SENCO and Assistant SENCO complete weekly learning walks, each visiting every department across the course of a twelve-week cycle. Feedback is shared directly with teachers via email and heads of department via logging on Progress Teaching. Following the SENCO's learning walk, a meeting is set up the following week to share key strengths and a focus point for the department. This is shared with the whole department, and a follow up learning walk takes place four weeks later to see implementation. Regular learning walks are also completed by heads of department, senior leaders, and Anthem Trust staff, with a focus to provide support for teachers with their SEN students.

All SEN students are classified as 'high priority students' and their Bromcom profile outlines their areas of needs and strategies for teachers to support them in the classroom.

All staff have access to a student referral form - here they can record any observations or concerns and request additional support from the SEN team. These are then discussed weekly at a Student Panel Meeting, which the SENCO attends. Appropriate support is then implemented (this may be, but is not limited to, an observation from a member of the SEN team, a referral to an intervention or further testing or investigation). The staff member receives feedback of next steps within the week following their referral. All referrals are logged and monitored by the student panel team and any trends acted upon accordingly. Any staff member is welcome to attend the student panel meeting to discuss their referral in person. Heads of Year and their Year Team Support Manager / Pastoral Lead attend one meeting a half term to discuss key students in their year.

The SENCO attends half termly key student meetings with each head of year and the Deputy Headteacher overseeing behaviour. In these meetings they discuss key students in their year groups and any support or provisions that are required based on behaviour data. This is an integral part of the assess, plan, do review cycle. The SENCO also attends KS4 raising standards meetings and is part of the keep up, not catch-up panel at KS3; both aimed to support staff and students who are not making progress academically.

All staff are encouraged to discuss any concerns or queries they have regarding students with the SEN team at any point during the school day and are welcome to visit the Academic Support base to ask any questions. Staff can request an observation by a member of the SEN team to gain any strategies or assistance to support students.

How do we involve outside agencies in planning for and supporting our students with SEN?

At Oxford Spire we work closely with a variety of outside agencies. These include, but are not limited to, SENDIASS, Educational Psychologists, Specialist Teachers, Speech and Language Team, Communication and Interaction Team and Occupational therapists. These agencies will regularly attend the school to undergo observations and interventions with our SEN students and provide specialist feedback and training to the SEN team. We also work with some alternative provisions to support our students (Meadowbrook, local colleges and RAW etc.). Some students also complete work experience as part of their 25-hour offer. All external settings undergo rigorous safeguarding checks before they are used, and students receive half termly visits while attending them. The SEN team also works with CAMHS and Social Workers to best support our SEN students. Both students and parents/carers are consulted in all liaising with and feedback from external agencies. Contact details for the agencies listed above can be found on Oxfordshire County Council's Local Offer website below or by contacting the SEN team directly.

Where can Oxfordshire County Council's Local Offer be found?

Oxfordshire County Council's Local Offer can be found here: <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/residents/children-education-and-families/education-and-learning/special-educational-needs-and-disability-local-offer>