



Support for Mainstream Schools

Holmwood School is a school for children with a wide range of special needs. It caters for children from Reception age to the end of Year 6.

Holmwood specialises in educating children with challenging behaviours.

The pupils come from the whole of the Middlesbrough area and beyond, which includes a wide social mix and an average ethnic representation. We cater for 80 pupils, however, we currently are significantly over subscribed.

During the last two years, our Outreach Team supported over thirty primary schools.

Our Outreach Team consists of a Senior Specialist Outreach Worker (Level 3) funded by Holmwood School and two Specialist Outreach Workers (Level 1) funded for 3 years by the LEA (2017-2020).

Dennis Ley (Headteacher) can provide training on managing challenging and vulnerable pupils.

The Support Centre

The new provision has been developed in partnership between Holmwood School, the Access to Education Team and SEN & Vulnerable Learners Services of Middlesbrough Local Authority.

The Support Centre is intended to complement existing provision not intended to replace existing SEN provision or procedures.

The main aim of this development is to provide additional capacity to support pupils with additional needs.

As part of this development, via advice, Holmwood School will support initiatives intended to help Mainstream settings manage challenging behaviours which sometimes emerge across a wide and diverse population. Through placement opportunities plus the advice and support for staff, it is hoped that this development will help build capacity for not only a support place at Holmwood School, but also the sharing of expertise and good practice to enable Mainstream settings to meet the needs of their diverse population.

Purpose

The objective of the Support Centre is to develop a pupil academically, socially and emotionally which would allow them to transfer these skills to become successful within an appropriate provision.

Number of Places

Capacity of the Support Centre will be 10 full-time equivalents across KS1. Each placement is to be assessed after 6 weeks to discuss the future steps. The review process will be arranged by Holmwood School with the primary school and a LA officer.

Funding

The proposal is for Holmwood School to provide the above services to Middlesbrough Borough Council on a commissioned basis.

Capital Costs - The design and capital costs will be met by Middlesbrough Borough Council.

Placement and Outreach Support costs - The revenue costs to provide the service outlined above will be met by Middlesbrough Borough Council.

A minimum funding agreement has been agreed.

Staffing

Holmwood School will recruit the staff necessary to operate the service and manage this from within from the annual revenue budget provided, liabilities for staff exit and pension costs to be the responsibility of Middlesbrough Borough Council. The Support Centre will have a SEN Teacher, Senior Specialist Teaching Assistant and two Specialist Teaching Assistants.

Criteria for Access

Access to places will be through agreement from each of the 4 Clusters and by agreement with Holmwood School's Headteacher.

Basic Principles:

- Holmwood School's Headteacher will make the final decision regarding whether or not a place is offered.
- All Pupils allocated places will be kept on roll at their existing setting as main registration and be recorded as 'B' code whilst attending the Support Centre.
- Holmwood School will operate full safeguarding procedures for staff and the pupils.
- It is expected and understood that prior to requesting a place, the setting will have demonstrated a graduated response to meeting the needs, including the whole range of initiatives and support networks available, including SEN Support Plans, managed transfers, use of High Needs funding etc.
- All Stages of the admission procedures must be followed.
- This will be a route to Statutory EHCP Assessment, although it is acknowledged that some of the potential pupils may already be undergoing assessment or that a setting may request EHCP assessment. It will be the responsibility of the Mainstream school to follow the EHCP Assessment Pathways.
- Prior to entry to the Support Centre, the Mainstream Headteacher will confirm agreement that the child will return to their home school as a first option, unless another option is agreed with all concerned eg parent, both schools and the LA.
- Unless a pupil moves into an alternative setting at any point, the pupil remains on the role of the home school and attendance is recorded as such.
- The home school is expected to 'own' the responsibility for each pupil's overall provision and must maintain ongoing communication links with Holmwood School.
- The place may be withdrawn at any point by Holmwood School's Headteacher.

Admission Criteria

The following must be established prior to consideration for support:

- A graduated response and access to the range of strategies and resources available within the school has been applied.
- The current placement of the pupil, despite steps within a graduated response to meeting the needs, would be detrimental to the child or other pupils.
- The incident or series of incidents leading up to the referral is of a very concerning nature and is outside the established school's support options and mechanisms.
- The placement is in the best interests of the child.
- The parents agree to a placement.

The Support Centre Process

Phase 1 – Outreach Support

A request for Outreach Support is required via the Headteacher at Holmwood School by phone, 01642 819157 or email HW Dennis.Ley@holmwoodschool.org.uk with the child's details and a brief description of the concerns.

One of our Outreach Support Staff members will try and contact the school to arrange a visit within the first 48Hrs.

Outreach Support Agreement is to be completed by School and parents.

During the visit, an in-depth discussion will occur on the challenging behaviours being shown and how they could be managed.

A visit to Holmwood School is required by the staff members who are working directly with the pupil. During the visit, they will participate in a guided tour and then will be able to observe in the classrooms. While Holmwood School may be slightly different from the school they have come from, the purpose of the visit is to “magpie” strategies that could support children with challenging behaviour within their setting. A written report may be given to the school.

Phase 2 – Further Outreach Support

If the staff are unable to use the strategies to make an impact on the pupil's challenging behaviour, then further observations and support is offered via the Outreach Support. This can be arranged by phone.

Phase 3 – Fair Access

Each Cluster will have two places to allocate. The remaining two spaces will be Holmwood School's Headteacher's decision to allocate.

Stage 4 – Inform Holmwood School on the Fair Access Decision

The Mainstream Headteacher will ensure the criteria has been followed. Holmwood School's Headteacher has the right to question the decision and with a valid reason overturn the decision.

Stage 5 – Parents and Pupil visit

Parents/Carers will visit the Support Centre and Holmwood School. They will receive information about our ethos, policies, procedures and what the Support Centre could offer. If the parents/carers would like a placement, consent forms will be completed. (Parents/carers have time to consider the placement).

Stage 6 – Transport

We will liaise with Middlesbrough Transport/Access to Education to arrange transport to/from Holmwood School if they meet the transport requirements.

Stage 7 – Education

Child begins at Holmwood School's Support Centre. The staff aim to improve the child academically, socially and emotionally which would allow them to transfer these skills to be successful within an appropriate provision.

Stage 8 – Review Meeting

After 6 working weeks, a review meeting will take place to discuss the next steps towards reintegration to a Mainstream provision and what support is needed. This may include additional time at the Support Centre to further develop the child's skills.