

Little Heath School

Prospectus



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Little Heath School

Little Heath is a safe, friendly, caring school that is striving to be

- A centre for excellence in special needs education
- An innovative resource sharing good practice
- A source of inspiration working with the community

We aim to work in a creative and dynamic way to

- Empower everyone in our school
- Help everyone learn and achieve to their full potential
- Enable pupils to have a meaningful role in society and be role models for others

Breaking down the barriers to individual learning



Welcome to Little Heath Foundation School

About the school

Little Heath School caters for students with statements of general learning, social and communication difficulties and special educational needs (SEN) between the ages of 11 and 16. Some students who would benefit from staying at school longer do so until they are 19.

The full range of National Curriculum subjects are covered including religious education, and the school is increasing the range of national qualifications available to pupils. Additional needs are met by Personal and Social Education (PSE) and Social Use of Language (SULP) programmes. **Students' needs and strengths are identified through statements of special needs, these are reviewed annually.**

Little Heath School is situated to the east of London, near Romford in the County of Essex. With large numbers of London plane and willow



trees with views over open fields to the rear, the school provides an attractive rural environment for pupils with special educational needs from the surrounding urban areas.

Admission Procedures

Applications regarding students with statements of special educational needs should go through the Special Services Section at London Borough Redbridge. All prospective parents can view the school and meet with the headteacher. An appointment can be made through our office.

Organisation of classes

Although Little Heath is a school for students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs the school has three different types of curriculum delivery. For those with general learning difficulties the school is similar to a mainstream secondary school, for those with social, communication difficulties we are like an older primary school and for those with more complex autistic spectrum difficulties we provide a very specialised provision.

School Day

	Ks4 8.45 - 8.55	KS3 8.45- 9.45 KS4 8.55- 9.45	9.45-10.35	10.35 - 10.55	10.55-11.45	11.45-12.35	12.35 - 1.20	1.20 - 1.35	1.35-2.30	2.30-3.15
MON	R E G			B			L	A S S E M		
TUES	I S T			R			U	B L Y		
WED	R A			E			N			
THUR S	T I			A			C			
FRI	O N			K			H			

Pastoral care

We have a Home and Community Officer who conducts home visits to all successful new applicants in year 6. He will address any concerns you may have and provide you with all the information you require to ensure students receive a smooth transition from primary to secondary

school life. We have a series of induction mornings for all our new students from year 6 and details of these are sent to all new students prior to attending.

At Little Heath, we are concerned with the 'whole' person, and we place great emphasis on our student's social development. We aim to develop a sense of responsibility in our students within a caring and happy environment, and all students however difficult their needs are, will be given as many opportunities to develop and grow, gaining as much independence as possible.

Consideration will be made for individual students personal needs, but, they will be encouraged and stretched to achieve their potential, by the time they leave Little Heath School.

This could mean that in a very short space of time, students will be encouraged to enter school in the mornings on their own, and find their way to their classroom. Staff are always on duty in the playground and will watch and encourage them, or, they may walk alongside them to the classroom.

At times some students will be left at break times to help them integrate with others and form friendships. Again, staff will be at hand to assist if it becomes difficult for a pupil. We appreciate this can cause stress in families concerned about the safety of their child. Safety is always in our minds when we enable students to try out their freedom to express themselves. No student is ever put in a dangerous situation. Our whole aim is to encourage independence and responsibility through opportunities to try things.

There are some students that need a more structured and supportive environment for break and lunch times. Numerous clubs and activities are organised to provide such an environment.

We hope you will support your child's growing independence which will help them in their future life. However, if problems arise please do not hesitate to discuss them with us, and if you are aware of any worries or concerns your child has that may affect their learning or behaviour please report them to the school as soon as possible.

Recognition and awards

Little Heath recognises the importance of achievement. We celebrate achievement and the students benefit from our awards system. Students can gain awards in several areas, these include being recognised monthly by Jack Petchey, attendance awards, teachers awards, gold books, curriculum awards and Headteachers awards.

Anti bullying policy

At Little Heath we take the prevention of bullying extremely seriously—we have developed a talking culture to enable pupils to express their concerns. When incidents of bullying occur they are identified quickly and normally resolved effectively.

Copies of our anti bullying policy can be found on our intranet.

Transportation to and from school

The large majority of our students arrive at school via the provision of local authority provided transport. This should be arranged via your local authority prior to attending Little Heath School. Our Home and Community Officer can help and advise you on how to apply for transport. For older students we recognise and value independence and we have implemented an independent travellers scheme to encourage and assist students who are ready to travel to school independently.

Attendance and absence

Should your child be absent it is necessary for you to make contact with the school office as soon as possible on the first day of absence. All unconfirmed absences will be followed up by our office who will either call you or send a group call message asking that you make contact **with the school to confirm your child's absence. Group calls will be effected before 12 noon on the first day of absence.** Parents/Carers should make contact with the school on each day of absence to give a progress report. If the school has not been able to make contact with a parent regarding absenteeism for more than two days then the home and community officer will be informed. Little Heath School believes that lessons are of value and punctual attendance is very important for **students' learning. Students that are marked late 3 times in a period of 5 days will receive detention, which is supervised on a rota basis.**

Assemblies

We regularly offer a range of assemblies.

Monday – Celebration of achievement

Tuesday – Heads Assembly on a thematic basis

Wednesday – Social and communication department assembly

Thursday – General Learning Difficulties assembly

Friday – registration group led assemblies



After school club

Started in November 2009 our after school club runs each Wednesday,



at 3.30pm and finishes at 5.00pm. A rota outlining the various activities can be found on the intranet, these include construction activities, visits to local amenities, creative art, team games and nature walks. A timetable of after school club activities can be found on the intranet.

Breakfast club

Our breakfast club was set up to provide breakfast as well as an opportunity for students to meet up and socialise before lessons begin. This time also acts as a transition period from travelling to school and starting lessons. Students are provided with toast, cereal, fruit, juice, milk and hot beverages. Some games and daily reading literature is also provided.

School lunches

We have adopted a healthy schools policy and a hot meal is cooked fresh on the school premises daily. Students have a choice of vegetarian

and non vegetarian lunches. Copies of lunch menus can be found on the school intranet, these are provided on a monthly basis.

Included within the meal is a choice of bread, vegetables and salad. Milk is also provided at lunch time as an optional extra and there is a water cooler provided in the lunch hall for students to gain access to water independently.



Lunch times are staggered to enable our students from the social and communication department to take their lunches in family groupings with staff.

The current price of school meals is £1.50 per meal, and payment in advance would be greatly appreciated. All cheques should be made payable to Little Heath School. You may of course alternatively provide your child with a packed lunch.

If you are entitled to free school meals, please inform the school office.

Medicines, school nurse, doctors visits and first aid

Medical and Care Protocols are set up for students who need them in liaison with the school nurse. The school need to be aware of any medical issues prior to admission, please also advise the school if your child develops any medical conditions during their time at the school.

The school has regular visits and communication with the school nurse and paediatric doctors

Emergency contact numbers

It is essential that the school has the correct addresses and contact telephone numbers for the parents and carers of every student in case we need to make contact with you urgently. These should be noted on the forms supplied to you by the school. Any subsequent changes of telephone numbers and addresses must be notified to the school straight away. Alternative contact numbers are also requested, in case for any reason parents or carers are not contactable.

Open Evenings and annual review days.

There will be an opportunity for you to meet formally with staff once a year at an open evening. These dates are published annually and **appear in the student's diary. In addition to this there will be a settling** in evening for all year 7 parents in October.

Annual reviews are held normally during the term of your child's birth. This is an opportunity to discuss progress against their statement and any other areas of concern.

School council

Little heath operates a school council for the students. It provides a means of communication between themselves and the staff and it enables their views to be expressed and considered. It consists of

representatives from each registration group plus a deputy. The council meet each half term and have regular discussions which have included the



current school uniform and its design, the playground and how to improve it and healthy eating. Other issues explored have been how the school deals with bullying and raising money for various charities. The school council also vote three times a year for the Jack Petchey award winner and have made their views known regarding which parts of the school they feel need decorating. The school council carry out surveys **of the school's students to find out their views and opinions with a view** to improve the school.

Speech and language therapy

We are fortunate to have four days a week speech and language therapy taking place on site, provided for by the PCT. Therapy mainly consists of group based activities with some individual intervention.

For some students we have access to a music therapist for one day a week. This is done on a needs basis, normally over a six week period.

Sport at Little Heath School

The school believes that P.E is a vital **contribution to a student's physical and** emotional health, development and well being. We include a balance between individual and team activities and make

use of facilities in the surrounding areas such as the local tennis courts, Fairlop waters and cycling drome. We are also members of our local sports partnership trust and we have been presented with a school sports award.

We have an annual fun day, and encourage our students to join in our **various sports teams, which include girls and boys' football teams,** and an athletics team. We also send children to represent Redbridge in Pan London games.

Off site activities

Students enjoy many extra curricular activities which take place off site. These activities include pony riding, forest visits and sailing. As well as providing fun for our students, these experiences help them improve their self esteem and confidence, balance and stability, fine and gross motor skills; and having the opportunity to gain access to these ventures generally broadens their horizons.



Residential Trips

The school offers the opportunity for our students to experience trips which involve them staying away from home. These include the social and communication department's visit to Houghton, trips to France and in addition to this the sixth form enjoy a visit to Butlins.



Fundraising days

Little Heath is proud of our sense of community, and from time to time the school offers the opportunity for our school to come together as a whole in order to raise funds for various charities and causes. These

days include Red nose day, non-uniform days, fun days and the annual Little Heath sponsored walk.



These communal days have supported various different charities including Haven House Hospice, Children in Need and the raising of funds to supply the school with our most recent minibus. Our new bus benefits from a tail lift

which has helped our students with mobility difficulties gain access to our off site activities. The school was delighted that British television presenter and wheelchair basketball player Ade Adepitan MBE visited the school on the day of our minibus presentation.

The school also enjoys visits from drama groups, musicians, and dancers during the school year.



Charging for school activities.

We encourage children to learn by practical and first hand experience. Students have the opportunity to take part in educational visits and workshops. We do invite voluntary contributions in support of these activities to make them possible. Some extension and extra curricular activities are also charged. Some practical departments may ask for donations for materials used.

Sixth Form

At 16 the majority of students move onto local colleges. The school provides a small sixth form for students who would find local colleges difficult to access. The sixth form course is designed to enhance independence skills and further develop basic education skills. All students work towards an accredited course which includes elements of vocational studies.

Careers and work experience

In year 10 and the 6th form we offer several work related learning experiences to our pupils. Some of our year 10 pupils have attended a very successful construction course at Redbridge College which included painting and decorating, woodwork and even some bricklaying! Some of our students in year 10 and the 6th form have also completed a two week placement partly organised by ReBEP in various jobs including: retail, schools, farms, offices and own placements. The students gain valuable life skills through work related learning and it is seen as a positive experience for our pupils.



Concerns and complaints about the school

If you have a concern or complaint we would like you to inform us about it. We welcome your contact and take any concerns you may

have seriously. Most concerns can be sorted out quickly by speaking to a member of staff. If you have any further concerns you can speak with our Headteacher. Problems are usually resolved at this stage, however if you are still not satisfied you may wish to contact the Chair of Governors, you may do this by contacting the Clerk to the Governors who will refer your complaint to the governing body on your behalf. The governing body will contact you direct.

Equal opportunities

To ensure that all students in the school develop in a safe and friendly environment we have a clear school statement of equal opportunities which can be found on our intranet under policies. We consciously promote equality in the classroom, for example encouraging non-stereotyped learning, ensuring access for both sexes to all activities and making sure that our displays and resources reflect the cultural diversity of the school community.

All students should feel secure and safe enough to talk about their home backgrounds while in school. We oppose all forms of racism and other discriminatory or offensive behaviour, whoever it is directed towards. It is explained that racist, sexist and homophobic abuse is hurtful and action is always taken to deal firmly with any such behaviour.

All school policies can be found on the school intranet, or obtained from the office.

Headteacher: Mr J. Brownlie
Chair of Governors: Mr C. Raynor