

Overview

The Autism Resource is located within Trinity School; a mixed comprehensive with a sixth form. The Autism Resource caters for 15 students in years 7 to 13 with Autism as the primary need on their EHCP. The resource supports students to access all lessons within the mainstream school. Students must be capable of accessing mainstream lessons and have an academic ability that reflects this as lessons are not taught within the Resource. All students are allocated to a house and tutor group on joining Trinity and the house system helps students to feel part of the school.

Within our Resource, there is a specialist team who get to know students well and will support students within mainstream lessons. To meet the provision outlined in the EHCP, there are some regular interventions including emotional literacy, social skills groups, and unit clubs like Lego club, which are run and adapted according to the needs of individuals within the Resource.

Some of our students may elect to drop one GCSE option to include study periods to help with overlearning and enable students to do the best they can with the subjects they study. All students within the Resource must study at least 8 GCSEs from year 9 and all these lessons are taught within mainstream lessons.

There is an emphasis on preparation for adulthood and life after Trinity. Students are encouraged and supported to actively play a part in life at Trinity; taking part in sports clubs, performing arts opportunities, and attending school trips.

We believe it is important to have a close relationship between school and home to ensure that students see that we work as a team, with the needs of each individual at the heart of all we do. We want the best for all the students both academically and emotionally.

Eligibility Criteria

The Resource caters to students with Autism as their primary diagnosis on their EHCP and is working broadly at age-related expectations for secondary school. Admission to the Resource is via the West Berkshire special educational needs (SEN) panel which is held in the Autumn term each year. Most students enter the resource in year 7. An EHCP should therefore be in place by year 5 in order for Trinity Autism resource to be named as the preferred placement for secondary education on the EHCP. Students cannot apply for a place at Trinity school and then get a place within the Resource as the school does not have the ability to move students at Trinity into the Resource.

How much time does a pupil spend in mainstream classes?

Students must be able to access mainstream classes at Trinity for 70% of their lessons. The other 30% may be made up of homework periods or specialist sessions dependent on the requirements of the EHCP.

We aim to provide students with TA support for around 50% of their mainstream lessons. Students will attend the rest of their lessons without a specialist TA.

What support is provided specifically by the provision and how is this organised?

We provide pastoral support for all students within the resource as needs arise. We are a close-knit team that works like a family to get the best outcomes for the students within the resource. We liaise with specialist external agencies that support our students where necessary.



What qualifications/experience do staff in the provision have?

A qualified teacher oversees the Resource and liaises with the mainstream school regarding individual students and strategies. Staff in the provision complete training regularly to keep up to date with best practice for the students within the Autism resource. They also undertake all statutory training in line with that required by Trinity school. We have a positive relationship with staff in the Autism team at West Berkshire so talk collaboratively to ensure the needs of our students are met the best way we can.

What training and support are offered to mainstream staff?

Staff within the Autism Resource work closely with mainstream teachers and support staff to ensure we are giving each student the best experience they can have. Teaching staff are kept up to date with the needs of our students. We use the student's SAP to share EHCP targets and strategies that are helpful for mainstream teachers. These are discussed with students throughout the year to ensure they are accurate and relevant. Staff are encouraged to seek advice on meeting the needs of the students.

Are parents/carers charged for the provision?

There is no charge, the provision is funded by an EHCP plan.

How do I apply for a place?

Parents and carers of potential students living in West Berkshire are welcome to contact the school to arrange a convenient time to visit. If a place in the Resource is requested, the request would be considered by the LA SEN panel and a decision would be made in line with the Code of Practice. If a placement is agreed it will be named on the student's EHCP.

Contact details:

Mrs R Raybould

Tel: 01635 510500

Email: r-raybould@trinity.newburyacademytrust.org

Further information can be found at

www.trinitynewbury.org

Or Via the West Berkshire Local Offer:

<https://directory.westberks.gov.uk/kb5/westberkshire/directory/service.page?id=B4b0GBIzbFo&localofferchannel=4>

Frequently Asked Questions

What does a resource offer that mainstream can't?

Students are able to use our resource space which includes a sensory room, a quiet room, and a common room. Students can use this space for break and lunchtime if they choose. We also have a trained ELSA who runs some small group or 1-1 sessions where required.

What transition process do you have?

We like to be involved in SAPs and EHCP Reviews as soon as a pupil's place has been confirmed. We may then arrange meetings to discuss the transition to Trinity. This would include extra visits and tours as well as taster days (full days or half days). These are bespoke and dependent on individual circumstances.

How do you manage behaviours that challenge?

We follow the Trinity school mainstream behaviour policy and support our students with this. We take time to reflect on behaviour and support students through consequences that arise from this.