



School Offer 2023-24

1. How will I be involved in discussions about and planning for my child's education?

- The SEND Team are available at all Parents Evening, this gives parents/carers the opportunity to meet with key members of staff involved in your child's education. Information about how the school supports all students to reach their full potential is shared at this meeting. If parents/carers are unable to attend, staff are flexible when making appointments.
- We hold coffee mornings for parents/carers of students with special educational needs.
- For students with an Educational Health and Care Plan, annual review meetings are held where targets are set and progress is discussed.
- We have a very strong pastoral team, every student has a Form Teacher and Pastoral Lead and Manger who liaise regularly with parents/carers.
- Team Around the Child meetings are held when we feel a student needs additional support from outside agencies. Parents/carers are invited to discuss their child's needs.
- The SENCO and members of the Learning Support Team are available to discuss any issues you may have about your child.
- Parent/carer questionnaires are sent out and the feedback is used to improve the support we offer.

2. How will school staff support my child?

- All students with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities have a SEN Support Plan. These documents inform staff of students needs and give strategies to meet these needs within the classroom. Parents, subject teachers, pastoral teams, Learning Support Assistants and students are all invited to contribute to the profiles. The profiles are reviewed termly and amendments are made.
- All parents/carers receive reports on their child's academic progress.
- Identified students are given additional literacy, numeracy and SEMH support through withdrawal sessions in The ARC.
- We have a team of Learning Support Assistants who provide in-class support in identified classes to help to further meet the needs of students with special educational needs, including those students with English as an additional language.

- Student Progress Meetings are put in place for students who are not making expected levels of progress. These help to track students and ensure additional support is put in place.
- All students' progress is tracked through whole school tracking procedures.
- We have a school governor named in our SEND Policy who meets regularly with the SEND Team to discuss how we identify, assess and provide for all students with SEND.
- A Careers, Information and Guidance worker at the Academy advises students during their post 16 transition, including those students who stay on to attend All Saints Sixth Form College.

3. How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

- We understand that all students have different learning styles and learn at their own pace. To ensure that all students reach their full potential we place them in bands/sets according to need and ability. The pace and challenge in all lessons in all bands/sets supports all students to achieve expected outcomes and realise their true potential.
- The curriculum at the Academy is highly differentiated and encompasses all learning styles.
- Students' are assessed regularly throughout the academic year to ensure that teaching is effective and students are making expected progress.
- We provide GCSE support and vocational options for students.
- Student data is used daily to inform teachers planning and tailor their teaching to meet individual needs.
- Specialist outreach support is available for students who are identified as requiring additional and more specialised support.
- Subject specific intervention take place before and after school for identified students to help boost their skills.

4. What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

- The school's Pastoral Team is made up of Pastoral Leads and Managers for each year group alongside a Key Stage lead who is a member of SLT and a school chaplain.
- The Academy provides an extensive range of therapeutic provision. We constantly review this provision to reflect the changing needs of cohorts.
- Young Persons Advisory Service (YPAS) Wellbeing Practitioners are in school 1 day per week and students are referred for specialised support through the in-school referral process.
- Lunch time clubs operate for vulnerable students and students struggling with friendship groups.
- If your child has medical needs you will be invited with health care providers to contribute to a Health Care Plan. Your child's medical care will be monitored by their Pastoral Manager. Medication for students will be administered if required.

- Breakfast club is available for all students from 8am. The Academy provides a free breakfast for all students who wish to access it. Students are supervised by academy staff during this time.
- The Academy prides itself on its use of rewards; the reward system gives all students opportunities to shine in different ways.

5. What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

- At The Academy of St Nicholas a Higher Level Teaching Assistant, Learning Support Coordinators and Learning Support Assistants support students with special educational needs.
- The Academy has a Local Authority Educational Psychologist who visits regularly to assess students and provide advice to staff on how to meet students' needs.
- The academy accesses specialist services when appropriate, including: Physiotherapy, Sensory Service, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Young Persons Advisory Service (YPAS), Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service (EMTAS), Speech and Language.
- We have a designated school nurse who facilitates the immunisation programmes and who will also meet with students who are referred to her for more targeted support.
- The SENCO, SEND Team and Pastoral Team support students with special educational needs.

6. What training do staff supporting children and young people with SEND have?

- The SENCO has the National SENCO Award accredited by John Moores University.
- The Academy ensures that all staff are trained to support students with a wide range of special educational needs. This includes training in ADHD, ASD, dyslexia, behaviour management and medical conditions.
- Learning Support Assistants are trained in specific areas of need, their expertise is shared with teaching staff.
- CPD for teaching and support staff takes place regularly and good practice and expertise are shared during these sessions. There are dedicated sessions for CPD around meeting the needs of students with SEND throughout the academic year.
- All information and advice about students' special educational needs is readily available for all staff on the secure network.
- Designated teachers receive regular safeguarding and first aid training.
- Identified students carry information cards with specialist medical advice with them during their time at the Academy.

7. How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

- The Academy is a fully inclusive school.

- Full participation in the curriculum and extra curricula activities is expected for all students where possible. For some students a full risk assessment may be carried out in partnership with parents to ensure all aspects of health and safety are covered before a planned activity.

8. How accessible is the school?

- The Academy is fully wheelchair accessible; there are 2 lifts for access to classrooms above the ground level.
- There are disabled toilets throughout the school and changing facilities with a hoist to provide special support for students with physical disabilities.
- All desks in classrooms are adjustable and suitable for students who are wheelchair users.
- We have strong links with hearing and visual impairment services and seek their expertise and advice for individual students.
- Please see our accessibility plan on the website for full details.

9. How will the school support my child to join the school and how will the school support my child in transferring to the next stage of education?

- At the Academy we have a primary liaison team. The team visits all of the primary schools of prospective students; they talk to year 6 staff and students. Identified students are invited to take part in our transition programme. This involves students visiting the academy with the Year 7 Pastoral Manger/SEND Team and experiencing academy life prior to starting here.
- The Academy holds a free summer school for year 6 students.
- The Academy has strong links with primary schools and students regularly visit The Academy for taster sessions.
- We cater for the individual needs of our students by providing them with maps and photographs of key staff to ensure their transition goes as smoothly as possible.
- For students moving to college, sixth form or work based learning, transition plans begin in year 9 so that the new provision is fully aware of a student's support needs when they eventually transfer.
- A Careers, Information and Guidance worker at the Academy advises students during their post 16 transition, including those students who stay on to attend 6th form at The Academy.

10. How are the school's resources allocated and matched to a child's or young person's special needs?

- Decisions on how to allocate resources are made according to the needs of the student.
- The SENCO deploys LSA support to ensure that students benefit from specific interventions.
- The SENCO applies for outreach support for identified students.

- Budget decisions are made in conjunction with school governors at head teacher level.
- Regular TAC and EHAT meetings are held to ensure that students are receiving the appropriate support.
- Resources are reviewed and adapted to suit the changing needs of students through monitoring, assessment and student voice.

11. How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child receives?

- Students are tested on entry to the Academy. Further assessments are done for those students who we feel would benefit from additional support. The assessments target the support required.
- The progress of all students is monitored and tracked throughout the year.
- Additional whole class or small group support may be identified for individual students.

12. How are parents involved in the school? How can I be involved?

- Early transitional meetings and visits are available for all parents of prospective students with special educational needs.
- Coffee mornings take place to allow parents/carers to meet with key staff and discuss their child's needs.
- Parents are given the school contact details and encouraged to make individual appointments if they have any specific worries or concerns.
- Parents/carers have the opportunity to become parent governors and attend regular meetings.
- The Academy holds regular community events, festivals and celebrations.

13. Who can I contact for further information?

- Parents are encouraged to visit the school website for further information: www.theacademyofstnicholas.org.uk/send-provision
- Contact: 0152 230 2570

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- The Liverpool Local Offer can be found on the liverpool.gov.uk website as part of the Family Services Directory.

SENCO: Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

LSA: Learning Support Assistant

TAC: Team Around the Child

EHAT: Early Help Assessment Team