



Outreach Policy

Status:	Non-statutory
Policy reviewed by:	M Davies
Policy ratified by:	Headteacher
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Links to other policies:	
Signed:	

Red Gates School Outreach Policy

Introduction

Red Gates is a maintained primary special school for children aged 2 – 11, who have Autism (ASD) and/or severe learning difficulties (SLD). We are a large staff team who are experienced in working with pupils with a range of educational needs. We recognise that successful schools employ a proactive approach to removing barriers to learning.

Service

We support staff in mainstream schools to develop their understanding of ASD and SLD, and the skills necessary to support the inclusion of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) in mainstream settings. We utilise the knowledge and skills of staff members in order to advise and support mainstream schools to foster the inclusion of pupils with SEND.

Our vision for outreach support is as follows:

- To promote inclusive practice for pupils with SEND;
- To build upon the knowledge and skills of practitioners supporting pupils with SEND in mainstream schools;
- To support Croydon's local offer for SEND provision;
- To celebrate successes and share best practice across the Croydon borough.

Service provision

Outreach offer

The service is led and managed by our Outreach Coordinator. The Outreach Coordinator collaborates with schools to organise support for pupils who have SEND. We aim to enable pupils to fully access the curriculum through appropriate and differentiated learning activities, thus enabling pupils to learn and make progress.

Outreach support will be delivered by Red Gates staff members who have specific expertise in the area requested, e.g. ASD. We can offer support with a variety of issues, including:

- Strategies to support pupils with ASD;
- Strategies to support pupils at a sensory level of learning;
- A positive approach to behaviour support & access to learning;
- Strategies to support communication, e.g. use of symbols;
- Supporting independence in life skills;
- Supporting parents;
- ICT to support learning;
- Planning for and assessing pupils who are not yet working within the National Curriculum (including Mathematics and Literacy).

We offer a variety of Outreach services, details of which (including costs) can be found in the school's outreach offer and obtained by contacting outreach@redgates.croydon.sch.uk.

Outreach support may include one or more of the following:

- Information and guidance on up-to-date teaching approaches to support pupils with SEND;
- Advice on curriculum content and design;
- Support with differentiation of the curriculum;
- Advice on the use of physical resources/equipment to support learning;
- Modelling of best practice;
- Support to implement specific external agency advice;

- Advice on specialist programmes, resources and interventions;
- Mentoring for school practitioners.

The most common outreach support is a package of support, which costs £250. This is inclusive of all services and expenses, and includes:

- An initial telephone consultation between the outreach coordinator and referrer;
- Three visits to observe an individual pupil within his/her school setting in order to gather information, model strategies and evaluate impact;
- In-reach visit for up to two staff members to Red Gates, to observe practice and meet with relevant staff member(s);
- Two reports containing recommendations for future reference (after 1st and 3rd visit).

Additional outreach services are available, including bespoke training for school staff and an annual programme of workshops for professionals held at Red Gates, details of which can be found in the school's outreach offer.

Effective partnerships

We believe that in order for outreach to be effective, schools must work collaboratively with a shared purpose. Therefore, the following is required from both the outreach provider and the outreach receiver:

- A commitment to collaborative working;
- An open, honest approach to working;
- Transparency when communicating with both parents and professionals;
- Agreed intended outcomes and timescales;
- Planned opportunities for reflection, engaging in professional discussion and problem-solving;
- Clear modes of communication and key points of contact;
- Commitment of appropriate time and personnel;
- An understanding that suggestions are made with good intentions and are based on both experience and an evidence-base; however, these may not be effective in every scenario. Where this is the case, alternative interventions will be discussed and next steps will be planned.

Outreach support is not:

- Crisis intervention;
- Teaching physical interventions to support behavior;
- Separate 1:1 work with an individual learner;
- Securing a place in a special school or other specialist provision;
- Replacing provision, as detailed in a learner's EHCP.

Referral process

Schools can contact our Outreach Coordinator at Red Gates via email outreach@redgates.croydon.sch.uk. A 'Request for Outreach' form can be obtained via the school website: <https://redgates.croydon.sch.uk/outreach/>.

Requests for support will usually come directly from the school's SENDCo or other appropriate school staff. However, the Local Authority School Improvement Advisor and the SEND locality leads can also make/support with referrals. Confirmation of parental permission and a Request for Outreach form must be obtained before proceeding with outreach support. It is vital that parents/carers are aware that their child may be observed by a practitioner from Red Gates School.

Outcome

The success criteria of a successful Red Gates Outreach Service includes schools working in partnership to enhance the quality of provision for pupils with SEND in Croydon. Monitoring and

evaluation is built into the process and feedback from schools will be requested at the end of the process in order to record the impact on pupils and improve the overall quality of the service.