

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Information Report

What sort of school is BCCS?

Bristol Cathedral Choir School (BCCS) is a mainstream inner city academy; our vision of inclusion is to support students in their mainstream classes to follow the National Curriculum at Key Stage 3 & 4. We are a fully comprehensive school, based in the heart of Bristol, offering a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum. BCCS is proud to welcome neurodiverse students to our school. We make provision through reasonable adjustments in the four areas of SEND; Cognition and Learning; Communication and Interaction; Social, Emotional and Mental Health; Sensory and/or Physical Difficulties. We do not have a resource base.

How will we know if your child needs extra help?

We aim to identify any barriers to learning or participation as soon as possible, to ensure the very best education for your child.

| Before your child starts with us, we will attempted to have consulted with, and gathered information from: | Thereafter, we use information from: | If your child needs to be assessed, we may: |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Primary schools and end of KS2 SAT levels ● Your comments on the application form ● Any external agencies involved with your child ● Our attending any transfer meetings ● Your child's comments when making a visit to Primary school/home | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Assessments from subject teachers ● Our own testing of progress in reading accuracy, reading comprehension and spelling numeracy ● Any parental or external agency observations & reports | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Use one of a range of specialist assessments to gather further information, depending on area of need ● Refer to an external agency, with your permission and involvement ● Offer additional family support via an external agency |

How will we support your child's learning?

At BCCS, all teachers are teachers of students with SEND. All of our teachers plan lessons to meet the needs of all of the learners in each class, in particular the needs of students with SEND are considered to ensure that all students can access the learning.

- For children on the SEND register with additional needs, tutors and subject teachers are provided with student 'Passports' which detail individual needs, providing a pen picture of your child and strategies to maximise the effectiveness of their learning. These are reviewed once a year.
- Teachers deliver lessons that are informed by the EEF's guidance 5-a-day approach, see [here](#) for more information
- Chrome books are available for identified students.
- The needs of the students on the SEND register are overseen by a lead teacher according to their primary area of need, this lead teacher is a point of contact for teaching staff. Ms L Phillips is Head of communication and interaction (including autism spectrum conditions) , Mr J Terrington is Head of cognition and learning (including dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties), Ms H Stevens is head of Social Emotional and Mental health (including ADHD) and Ms A Seymour is Head of physical and sensory (and SENDco).

Our students follow a traditional and academic curriculum. However, for a small number of students requiring a more personalised approach:

- Smaller groups' in Maths and English.
- Additional interventions running after and before school are offered to students
- An ASDAN course is available as an alternative to one GCSE option
- As your child enters KS4 (Years 10 & 11), if we think that they may need support with their GCSEs examinations, a specialist assessment will be carried out by a trained assessor. This assessment is then sent to the Joint Council for Qualifications for their consideration.
- For those requiring additional support in their class as specified according to their EHCP, we have a team of Learning Support Assistants who work in class with individual and small groups of students.

What pastoral support is available to my child?

At BCCS, we take our pastoral responsibilities very seriously. There is a high level of support and guidance provided through our Tutoring system. We aim to keep students with the same tutor as they move through the school, to provide continuity and build strong, supportive relationships.

Our skilled pastoral team provide much additional support to those who require it. This includes:

- A lead teacher for looked after or previously looked after students
- A lead teacher for students who access the pupil premium funding
- An Attendance Officer
- Pastoral Support Leader for each year group
- Counselling

- School Nurse
- Access to external agencies as necessary and available (eg Police, Youth Offending Team, CAMHS)
- Abbey House 'Hive' offers a small safe and supervised area at break/lunch times for those who require a quieter time.

How will my child be included in co-curricular activities (including physical activities)?

All students are encouraged to take part in the many break, lunchtime and after school clubs that are on offer. Day and residential trips are open to all students. Any specific/medical needs can be discussed prior to any planned visits.

How accessible is the school?

BCCS consists of an eclectic mix of buildings. There are the new Rectory and Parsonage buildings, which are fully accessible. However, the medieval nature of the Pates building and preservation orders do cause some accessibility issues.

Bristol Cathedral Choir School sits in the centre of the city, with easy pedestrian access to College Green, Harbourside, and Brandon Hill. There is no fixed boundary fence around the site. The school site is dissected by a service road which is frequently used throughout the day, including by members of the public. Students are expected to navigate the road throughout the school day, and classes are not accompanied by staff. Members of the public are able to walk through the site at all times during the day; therefore, students are regularly exposed to strangers. Furthermore, there are over 1100 students navigating the site (and we share the site with the Cathedral Primary School), and transitional points are busy and crowded. As a result of this, the site is always noisy: you can always hear the road, the primary school students play out on the play area during our lesson times, and you can often hear instruments as we are a music specialism school. Our Local Authority links recently commented that the noise of the site was overwhelming. During a fire drill, students are expected to line up off-site in front of Bristol Cathedral.

The below image shows a birds eye view of the buildings, and the different varied buildings across the site. Please note that the central wooded area now contains a playground. Additionally, the site poses health and safety risks due to the variation of buildings. It is a multiple level site with slopes and gradients that are challenging. Older buildings, such as the Deanery, do not have a lift. Many of the buildings are listed, and others are 1960s and 1990s build. Each has unique accessibility.



This map shows the location of Bristol Cathedral Choir School in the city centre. For vulnerable students who may react by running away, the site poses a safeguarding risk.

What training do school staff have?

All staff receive standard training on induction delivered by trained teachers of SEND. BCCS is committed to a comprehensive training programme with a focus of inclusive teaching. Staff receive training from external professionals, for example the Educational Psychology team and Speech, Language therapists. Regular teacher meetings are held for staff working with high needs EHCP students.

| | Communication and Interaction | Cognition & Learning | Social, Emotional & Mental Health | Physical & Sensory |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Head of area | Lauren Phillips | Jamie Terrington | Holly Stevens | Amy Seymour |

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|-----------------|---|--|---|--|
| Training | 2 x LSAs trained in Lego therapy Autism awareness trained LSA/Head of area | Head of area has post graduate certificate in Dyscalculia MELSA (Mediating Learning Support Assistant trained LSA) Phonics training (That Reading Thing) Maths specialist LSA Dyscalculia/maths anxiety awareness trained LSAs working alongside guidance from Down's syndrome specialist teacher | Supporting students with Emotionally based School avoidance awareness ELSA trained LSAs x 2 (emotional literacy support assistant) | LSA working alongside guidance from specialist teachers of visually impaired and hearing impaired LSA working alongside guidance from NHS physiotherapist |
|-----------------|---|--|---|--|

How can you as parents/carers contribute?

- Attend review meetings.
- Read reports and discuss the contents of them with young people.
- Attend Information Events and Parent/Carer Evening.
- Communicate with the relevant member of staff
- Have an appreciation that the more time we spend communicating with parents and carers the less time we can spend with our young people.

What should you do if you have any concerns?

In the first instance, please contact the tutor or subject teacher. They can refer your concern to senior or more appropriate staff, if necessary. The school has a formal complaints policy which can be found on the website 'policies'.

A useful point of contact which is independent of the school is sendandyou
<https://www.sendandyou.org.uk/>

What services are available through the school?

In summary, BCCS seek to access a wide range of services, including:

- CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- EP (Educational Psychologist)
- BAT (Bristol Autism Team)
- Social Care
- Careers Advice
- The HOPE School
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Sensory Support Service

How will we support your child's transition before and after secondary school?

We liaise with all our feeder schools and pastoral staff try to visit as many students as is possible, prior to their coming to us. All students attend a 'taster day' during the Trinity (summer) Term prior to their starting in Year 7.

For students leaving us: The SENCo or another appropriate member of staff is invited to attend Year 11, 13 statement/EHCP reviews for those looking to go onto another school or college. The school buys in careers advice and guidance in Year 11. Support is provided for university applications by a dedicated member of staff.

How can you get further information?

- Contact us by phone or e-mail
- Look at Bristol City Council's Local Offer
- Look at the school's SEND Policy

Contacts:

Ms. A Seymour - SENDCo (and Head of physical and sensory) aseymour@bristolcathedral.org.uk

Ms L Phillips Head of communication and interaction lphillips@bristolcathedral.org.uk

Mr Jamie Terrington Head of Cognition and learning and maths SEN specialist teacher
jterrington@bristolcathedral.org.uk

Ms H Stevens Head of SEMH hstevens@bristolcathedral.org.uk

Ms. C Jeffery - Administrator for Learning Support Team cjeffery@bristolcathedral.org.uk

Ms. E Messinger – Deputy Headteacher emessinger@bristolcathedral.org.uk