



# Learning and Education through Alternative WAYS

Leaways School London is a thriving day school in Clapton, East London. The school provides education for boys and girls aged between 7 and seventeen years who have social, emotional and behavioural problems. There is also a separate ASC unit with specialist staff which supports those pupils who are on the on the spectrum.

The school provides a safe, educational and nurturing environment which meets the needs of all the students through bespoke, personalised curriculums.

Leaways School is rated “Outstanding” by Ofsted and provides specialist day placements for young people whose needs have not been met elsewhere.



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*“We ensure that every voice is valued and students feel safe. We have a thriving school community where parents and students are included and feel empowered. We are a family.”*

Dawn Jones, Head Teacher

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Ofsted  
Outstanding  
School

2015|2016

# Therapeutic Support



**The school offers a therapeutic approach to engaging young people in education and supporting them to achieve the skills and qualifications to move on.**

The diverse and creative staff team work in partnership with families, pupils, professionals and one another to meet the needs of each student. The staff team includes an occupational therapist, speech and language therapist and a therapeutic art therapist. The school is able to offer discreet interventions for those who require distinct learning strategies, including family and student support away from a school environment through outreach work. Cognitive Behaviour Therapy is being introduced for students who may benefit from this type of therapeutic input. Our flexible approach and “can do” attitude means that if required we can offer respite or sanctuary for students outside of London for a limited time in one of our sister residential schools.

The therapeutic team consists of:

- Occupational Therapist
- Occupational Therapy Assistant
- Speech and Language Therapists
- Art and Drama Therapeutic Facilitator
- Cognitive Behaviour Therapist
- Mental Health Lead

The clinical team works together with the teaching, pastoral and support staff to ensure that each young person has the right support in place to deliver care and education together as a wraparound approach. The clinical team receive regular clinical supervision.

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*The school is really proud of the success it has had, working as a team, to reintegrate the most complex and vulnerable young people back in to learning and full time education.*

**Rachel Hilton, Occupational Therapist**

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# Securing Education and School SES (Outreach)

The staff at Leaways understand that all of the students have had difficult experiences of education or school. Securing Education and School (SES) is Leaways programme developed specifically to support and re-engage the most challenging young people back in to full time education.

SES offers outreach mentoring for students struggling to engage, by matching them with a key worker who delivers sessions consisting of mentoring, project work and core subject lessons. This allows pupils to have a staged integration, supported by the therapeutic team, back in to school.

Following on from the SES programme the school implements its readiness for learning group and there are plenty of trips and visits which enhance and embed learning. The school follows national curriculum guidelines which are enhanced through project based learning, offsite opportunities and partnership working with other colleges and facilities.



## Leaways Curriculum Offering

### GCSE's

- Maths
- English Language
- Humanities – Geography

### Functional Skills – Entry Levels 1 & 2

- English
- Maths
- ICT

### BTEC

- Home Cooking Skills Levels 1 & 2
- Bricklaying Level 1
- Music Level 1

### Entry Level Certificates

- Science

### Awards

- Sports Leader Levels 1 & 2



*Every pupil at Leaways School leaves with a college placement, work or vocational course in place for them.*

**Richard Gadd, Executive Head Teacher**



## Outcomes

**The school supports students to gain the skills and qualifications from P-Level right through to GCSEs along with a large choice of other vocational qualifications.**

By the time a young person leaves Leaways School they will have gained a range of meaningful qualifications, had a positive schooling experience, completed a work experience placement where appropriate and gained the self-confidence and skills to be independent adults.

# Specialist ASC friendly provision



**Leaways School contains a separate specialist schooling provision for pupils who are on the autistic spectrum.**

The specialist ASC friendly provision is separate from the main school, with its own entrance and the environment is calm and low arousal. The ASC provision offers smaller classroom sizes, sensory friendly changeable lighting and soundproofed walls in order to enhance the low arousal environment in which students can learn.

## **Facilities include:**

- Large hall for dining, assemblies, drama and social time.
- Separate sound proofed classrooms for maths, English, humanities and PHSE.
- Access to the main school facilities such as food technology, design and technology and physical education for students who feel able to learn outside the ASC provision.

The specialist team within the ASC provision organise a residential trip each year to promote life skills and independence. For the majority of students this is the first time they have spent time away from home.





## The Environment

The school has been adapted to ensure it offers low arousal, minimum distraction learning spaces. It is well maintained offering small classes in a spacious environment. Facilities include:

- Music, recording and drama studio
- Therapeutic play room
- SES Hub
- Large learning kitchen
- Nurture and induction zones
- IT suite
- Gym and recreational room
- Design and technology workshop
- Science lab
- Mentoring suite
- Vocational skills workshop
- Canteen

The school follows national curriculum guidelines which is enhanced through project based working, offsite learning opportunities and partnership working with colleges and alternative providers.



# The Staff



**The staff team are diverse, creative and nurturing in their approach. They are qualified in a wide range a subjects and all have continuous professional development plans in place.**

Staff who teach and support students at Leaways have talents, skills and cultural diversity which they bring to the school community and are made up of musicians, a boxer and staff skilled in different languages.

## Training

**Leaways School is part of Kedleston Group Ltd and as such, is supported by a national and local training programme.**

The organisation offers both new and existing staff specialist training in addition to the induction and mandatory training which all staff complete. Centralised training includes and is not limited to safeguarding, SEND code of practice, online safety, equality and diversity and data protection.

All professional staff working directly with young people are trained in challenging behaviour, positive behaviour management, and Team-Teach. In addition to this Leaways provide staff with training in Prevent, FGM, Keeping Children Safe in Education, Attachment Disorder, Speech and Language, Occupation Therapy awareness, Autism and Mental Health. The school works in partnership with and accesses training and support from Hackney Learning Trust.

## Families

**Leaways School has a value based approach to education and work in partnership with the families the school is proud of the strong relationships they have built with families and external stakeholders.**

Family liaison workers can work directly at home with families to encourage a positive relationship between the family, student and the school. We welcome families who would like to be a part of the Leaways PTA, in particular those for whom, English is a second language. It is important that everyone's voice is heard in the Leaways community.



## Governance and Safeguarding

**Leaways School London is part of the Kedleston Group which has a governance body consisting of a senior team who oversee, Safeguarding and Compliance, the Quality of Education and the Quality of Care, Health and Safety and Estate Management, Human Resources and Training, Financial Management and Strategic Partnerships.**

The Senior Team are experienced education and care professionals who provide the organisation with the scrutiny and challenge required to ensure that the young people we support are educated and cared for in a safe, supportive and caring environment.

A Safeguarding Overview Committee meets monthly and is chaired by a non-executive Director who reviews all safeguarding across the group. These robust arrangements ensure that lessons learnt and examples of good practice are shared across the group. We continually review our systems in order to strengthen staff awareness and protect the young people in our care.





## Contact

Leaways School welcome visits from families and young people, professionals and other stakeholders.

Students are on hand show visitors round so they can see and hear for themselves what is on offer at Leaways School.



*It is unlikely that we would refuse a placement based on EHC plans alone, we would always seek to meet the young person and their family before any decision is made.*

**Charlene Eltis, Communication Manager**



The school has excellent travel links with easy access to the local community and strong links with further education colleges.

We can offer translation services and we can also provide information about the school in different languages and formats on request.

### For further information please contact:

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