



Parent and Carer Guide



About the school...

Leaways is a day school situated in the heart of a bustling and diverse community.

Our school has a science laboratory, art and design room, construction workshop, gym, computing and technology suite, a food technology kitchen, music & drama studio, therapeutic intervention room and a literacy and numeracy nurture base. We teach groups of no more than 6 and every voice is valued and heard through day to day interactions and our student council.

The school follows the national curriculum where appropriate and each pupil has their

own timetable designed to take into account their individual educational and learning needs.

Pupils enjoy studying for a wide range of qualifications including functional skills, GCSE's and BTEC, there are both on and offsite learning opportunities.

We celebrate success and support young people in their life choices. We help young people find stability and purpose by exploring and helping them do the things they enjoy while they learn.

The following questions have been developed by parents and may be of interest to Leaways School parents and carers.



Welcome from the Head Teacher, Dawn Jones and Head of the ASC Provision (ARC), Melanie Whitfield

Leaways School London is a vibrant, safe and welcoming day school and we provide effective education solutions for young people affected by social emotional and mental health difficulties as well as autism.

The school follows the national curriculum where appropriate. Each pupil has their own tailored timetable which takes into account their individual learning needs.

Here at Leaways our principles and ethos are safety, kindness, individualism and respect. We offer a learning environment and a curriculum that can meet the needs of every learner. We work closely with families and carers to make sure we get the best outcomes for pupils at Leaways.

“F has improved dramatically since he started Leaways. I like how the school have supported his behaviour issues and the change in him is amazing.”

F’s mum, 2016

“This is such a special place to enable children to reach their potential and grow into adults.”

Placement Officer 2016

The following questions have been developed by parents and may be of interest to Leaways School parents and carers.

How does the school know if my child needs extra help?

Before your child starts at Leaways we receive lots of information which is put together by those who have identified your child as needing more support. This information is called an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and every pupil at the school has one.

We will look at this plan before we meet you and your child. We will then begin working on how we can best educate and support your child. Together we will discuss and find out what works best for your child and how they like to learn. From this meeting we will create a learning and development package which is right for your child.

How will the school staff support my child?

When your child arrives at the school we will look at where they are up to in their education. We will complete some assessments, and plan realistic targets together with your child. Your child’s teacher, tutor and keyworker will work with them to set targets for their learning and development. They will keep you well informed of your child’s progress throughout the year.

If your child needs extra support we may seek help from an educational psychologist, speech and language therapist or the school nurse. All input from these people is monitored and assessed regularly to ensure that it is the most effective support we can give.

Leaways is part of the Kedleston Group. The Kedleston Governing Body visit the school regularly and make sure that standards in education, safeguarding, welfare and health and safety are compliant at all times.



How will I know how my child is progressing?

We measure your child's progress against their targets and make sure that they are kept up to date in each lesson through personal learning outcomes and annual reviews of their overall progress. We will ask your child to tell us what they think about their progress.

Each term we send a report home with updated information about how your child is doing we will also talk with you about their progress at our termly parent's mornings.

How can I get involved with my child's learning?

When your child is referred to Leaways you are invited to come and visit as part of the placement process. You will be given the name of your main point of contact for the school should you need to talk to someone.

Each year there are termly open days for parents, carers and professionals, to access the school and meet those involved in your child's education. This provides all people involved with your child an opportunity to discuss personal and social progress.

You are welcome to contact the school at any time to discuss the how you can get involved in school life.

What support does the school offer for my child's overall wellbeing?

When your child arrives at the school they will be assigned a keyworker who will give your child pastoral support during the school day. They will guide your child to make positive choices about their education, behaviour and planning for their future.

At school we follow the five steps to wellbeing and where possible incorporate them into our curriculum. Our learning Outside the Classroom approach to education means that the pupils spend time being active, engaging in the community and visiting new and interesting places of cultural significance. Studies show that this approach raises children's sense of personal wellbeing.

If your child is identified as needing some extra support, they will be assessed by one of our therapists as early as possible. The school has many specialist services and expertise they can access such as the school nurse, SRE advisors and career advisors as well as specialist therapeutic support.

All teaching staff are trained with the skills and experienced to work successfully with young people who have been out of school for some time and disengaged from education. Every member of staff is trained in safeguarding and child protection and the school designated safeguarding leads.



How will the school support my child to start college or training?

Your child will be given the opportunity to begin college and vocational courses while they are with us. This makes the change from school to college or training less of a leap. We will make sure that as much help and planning is in place before your child moves on to college, training or the workplace. Every young person who leaves Leaways does so with a college or work placement in place.



Who decides what type and how much support my child will receive?

The support your child will receive at school will be based on the recommendations from their statement or EHCP, your input as parents or carers and the baseline assessments when your child first arrives at school.

The decision is not just made by the school alone but with input from you as parents or carers and also in consultation with your child. If your child's needs change and are different from the recommendations on their original plan then we will consult with your education authority to see how we can access more help.

You will be involved all the way through the process and will receive updates about your child's progress. There will be regular reviews of support plans for your child to assess the impact of the support they are receiving. From these reviews we can plan whether to reduce support, increase it or make a new plan. The targets in every plan are how we can track the progress being made.



We are rated “Outstanding” by Ofsted and these are some of the things which Ofsted have said about the school.

“The Headteacher and the staff are passionate about supporting pupils with special educational needs to become independent adults.”

“Teaching in all subjects motivates pupils to engage effectively in their learning and make outstanding progress from their exceptionally low starting points.”

“The curriculum is highly individualised to meet all pupils’ needs. The high focus on English, mathematics and science prepares pupils effectively in the basic skills.”

“The school ensures that all the policies and procedures for pupils’ welfare and safety are fully implemented and that pupils are safe.”

“Pupils behave exceptionally well in lessons and around the school.”

“Relationships across the school are outstanding and pupils get on well with their peers and staff.”

“Staff take swift action to support pupils who occasionally get emotionally upset and find it hard to behave appropriately in lessons.”

If you have any questions or concerns you can speak to us at any time.

We welcome feedback from families and carers, please go to <https://kedlestongroup.com/feedback> where you can submit your comments on line. If you prefer a printed version for you to post then please ask at the school and they can provide you with this.

For further information:

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