



Leaways School London

# Parent and Carer Guide



## Welcome from the Head Teacher, Mr Richard Gadd

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.

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 rated “Outstanding” by Ofsted and provide safe, educational and nurturing environments which meets the needs of all students through personalised curriculums. Every pupil at Leaways leaves with a college placement, work or vocational course in place for them.



## Welcome continued...

Leaways School contains a separate specialist schooling provision for pupils who are on the autistic spectrum. This is called The ARC, named by the pupils. It has its own entrance and there is a calm, low arousal environment including smaller soundproofed classrooms.

## A message from the staff team

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

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. There is plenty of space to learn and discover new things and quiet space where young people can take time to reflect. We teach groups of no more than 6 and every voice is valued and heard through day to day interactions and our student council.

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

*The following questions have been developed by other Kedleston 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 begin working on how we can best educate and support your child. We will then meet with you, your child, your child's social worker, if they have one. Together we will find out what works best for your child and how they like to learn. From this meeting we will create a learning and development plan 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 and by completing some baseline assessments, we will plan realistic targets together with your child. Your child's teacher, tutor and keyworker will work with your child to set targets to develop 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 the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

The school follows the national curriculum where appropriate and each pupil has their own tailored timetable designed to take into account individual educational and learning needs.

Curriculum learning is enhanced through project based working, offsite learning opportunities and partnership working with colleges and alternative providers.

## 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 in supporting 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 child's tutor and keyworker and they will be the main point of contact for you if you need to talk to someone at school.

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.

You are welcome to contact the school at any time to discuss the how you can get involved in school life and the planning of activities and trips.

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

The school offers a therapeutic approach to engaging young people in education. The diverse and creative staff team work hard to ensure the needs of each student are met. The school offers discreet interventions for those who require distinct learning strategies including family and student support away from a school environment. Leaways School in house therapeutic support consists of occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, art and drama therapy, cognitive behaviour therapy and a dedicated mental health lead.

## What training do the staff supporting pupils at the school have?

The staff team at Leaways are diverse, creative and nurturing. They are qualified in a wide range of subjects and all have continuing professional development programmes in place. Staff who teach and support students at Leaways have talents, skills and cultural diversity which they bring to the school community. Staff are made up of musicians, a boxer and staff skilled in different languages.

Every member of staff is trained in safeguarding and child protection and the school has 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 schooling 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. Each 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 recommendations from their statement or EHCP, your input as parents or carers and the baseline assessments when your child first arrives at school. The type and level of support is planned by members of the senior management team, the support professionals, educational psychology, speech and language therapy and key workers.

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.

We are rated “Excellent” 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.”

**Leaways has prepared a parent and carer information pack for you, which you will receive once your child has enrolled at the school.**



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

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