



## **SEN Information Report**

The Skills Hub is a co-educational Alternative Provision that caters for students in the London Borough of Hillingdon who cannot attend mainstream school for a variety of reasons; predominantly permanent exclusion – those that access the main centre of the provision, and serious medical issues – those that access peripatetic tuition via the Pupil Support Team.

### **Our leaders and staff**

Our highly experienced and qualified staff includes specialist teachers, learning support assistants, skills coaches and therapists. Our leaders' names and qualifications can be viewed on our website at: [www.theskillshub.org](http://www.theskillshub.org)

### **The curriculum**

We recognise that the majority of our students thrive via a varied curriculum that is practical based and introduces students to and enhances their experiences via an enrichment programme.

The school adopts a therapeutic approach to helping students to develop the social skills and emotional resilience needed to become successful both as learners at school and subsequently in later life. The Enrichment programme is designed to work in conjunction with other therapeutic interventions to help develop social skills, build confidence and self-esteem, improve communication skills, learn new skills and enhance teamwork.

At Key Stage 4 students have the option of studying vocational courses in preparation for future careers such as: Construction, Mechanics and Catering.

### **Therapy**

A range of therapies is a central and integrated aspect of our offer and is provided on an individual, group and sometimes whole-class basis.

Our therapists are fully qualified and experienced professionals who work collaboratively and seamlessly with teaching & support colleagues to maximise impact on improving students' social, emotional & mental health.

Our therapy offer includes:

Speech and Language Therapy – Speech and language therapy is concerned with the identification, assessment and support of speech, language, communication needs of students.

Occupational Therapy – The role of the Occupational Therapist (OT) is to work with students who for a variety of reasons have difficulty engaging in the curriculum and daily routines.



The difficulties may be related to fine and gross motor difficulties, attention difficulties and/or sensory needs. An Occupational Therapist will aim to enable the student to be as independent as possible.

Drama Therapy – Drama therapy is a type of psychotherapy which can be non-verbal (as well as verbal) and offers a creative form of expression using drama and theatre techniques to facilitate a change of

perspective/behaviour, to adapt to disability, to deal with difficult issues and to promote personal growth and mental health.

Psychologist – Psychologists support children that are experiencing mental health related difficulties or learning difficulties (Education Psychologist). These difficulties may impact on their education and life in general. They will also work with parents/carers, teaching staff and liaise with agencies such as CAMHS and MASH.

Whilst we contract or employ all of our therapists directly, we work with the multitude of agencies in as joined-up, efficient and effective a way as possible. This includes local authority SEN & EHC teams, NHS colleagues and social care services.

## **Approach to behaviour**

We understand that many of our students arrive at The Skills Hub having had very difficult experiences of school in the past. With the skill and dedication of our staff, we aim to reconnect them with education so they can make progress to becoming successful adults via a reflective approach. Reflection and restorative practice, as opposed to detentions and exclusions, is used to help students understand what is currently happening, what they are trying and using well, and how they can move forward.

## **Student progress**

Students' progress is measured by:

- Half termly assessments (academic, personal and social development)
- Termly target setting meetings with solution teams and parents and carers

## **Facilities**

We acknowledge that our premises are outdated and do our best to maintain a building that has long since outgrown its purpose. Therefore, we look forward to a purpose built rebuild planned to open in 2020.



Facilities currently consist of:

- Design technology and construction area
- Science lab
- Outdoor sports area
- Gym
- Dedicated therapy areas
- Meeting room to meet with and support our families
- Art studio
- Music/recording studio
- Dedicated reflection rooms
- Mechanics workshop

## **Support for families**

We actively encourage a strong partnership between home and school and involve parents and carers as much as we possibly can. Solution Teams negotiate the level of desired contact with families, which can be as frequent as daily.

We operate an 'open door' policy to see the school's leaders and offer both informal 'drop-in' sessions with therapists and family workers as well as more formal bespoke therapy for parents & carers who would benefit, such as 'Positive Parenting Programmes – Triple P'.

Accessible, simple progress reports are provided every term to parents. Our admissions process is centred around the family and the child, as is our termly review process via target setting days.

## **Complaints**

The Skills Hub wishes to communicate effectively with our parents, students and wider community. However, we accept that we can on occasion make mistakes or fail to communicate as well as we would wish.

The Skills Hub is committed to dealing with complaints promptly, fairly and carefully. We encourage parents, carers and other members of the school community to raise (on an informal basis) any concerns they have at the earliest opportunity. In most instances, this will involve speaking directly with the member of staff concerned, who will try to resolve the issue as quickly as possible.

You can get in touch with us in the following ways:

- By letter – The Skill Hub, Providence Road, Yiewsley, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 8HJ
- By email – [info@theskillshub.org](mailto:info@theskillshub.org)
- By telephone – 01895 447 102
- Or in person, after making an appointment



If you remain dissatisfied, the school has a formal Complaints Policy which sets out a structure under which your complaint can be heard. You can access the policy on our website at [www.theskillshub.org](http://www.theskillshub.org)

In the first instance all complaints should be brought to the attention of the Executive Principal, Miss Laurie Cornwell **Tel:** 01895 447102 or **Email:** [lcornwell@ypacademy.org.uk](mailto:lcornwell@ypacademy.org.uk)

Or alternatively, if the complaint is with reference to the Executive Headteacher the complaint should be made to John Prior, Executive Head (Quality and Development)/Deputy CEO, Orchard Hill College Academy Trust, Quadrant House, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor The Quadrant, Sutton SM2 5AS

### **The Local Offer**

We offer placements to Hillingdon Local Authority and are included on its Local Offer as a providers of Alternative Provision.

### **Contacting us**

The Skills Hub	Providence Road, Yiewsley, Middlesex, UB7 8HJ 01895 447102 <a href="mailto:info@theskillshub.org">info@theskillshub.org</a>
Executive Principal: Laurie Cornwell	01895 447102 <a href="mailto:lcornwell@ypacademy.org.uk">lcornwell@ypacademy.org.uk</a>
Designated Safeguarding Lead: Isobel Callaby	01895 447102 <a href="mailto:icallaby@theskillshub.org">icallaby@theskillshub.org</a>
Attendance Assistant: Katie Donegan	01895 447192 <a href="mailto:kdonegan@theskillshub.org">kdonegan@theskillshub.org</a>
Clerk to the Local Governing Body: Suzanna Challenger	<a href="mailto:schallenger@orchardhill.ac.uk">schallenger@orchardhill.ac.uk</a> Orchard Hill College Academy Trust, Quadrant House, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor The Quadrant, Sutton SM2 5AS
Executive Head (Quality and Development)/Deputy CEO OHC&AT: John Prior	Orchard Hill College Academy Trust, Quadrant House, 8 <sup>th</sup> Floor The Quadrant, Sutton SM2 5AS