



LOCAL OFFER

	Question	Answer
1	<p>How does Heathermount School know if children need extra help? What should I do if I think my child/young person may need additional help?</p>	<p>All students attending Heathermount School will have a Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) that will initially define the extra help that your child needs.</p> <p>Heathermount’s admissions procedure includes 3 initial taster days, after which, if all parties agree, a full 12 week assessment takes place. It is during this time that support over and above what we usually offer is identified, Heathermount School is committed to providing holistic support for each student; therefore, in addition to the Statement or EHCP, we will provide a range of rigorous assessment and monitoring throughout the year to ensure that any additional support is provided in a proactive way. If our assessment and monitoring suggests that the learner is not making the expected progress, teachers, in consultation with the school therapy team, will decide whether additional and/or different support is necessary.</p> <p>Please contact the Headteacher to discuss individual needs</p>

<p>2</p>	<p>How will Heathermount School staff support my child?</p>	<p>Your child's class teacher/tutor will oversee and plan your child's education programme, following the National Curriculum and embedding our READY ethos as part of ongoing assessment (see question 5). Depending on the intervention required your child may be working, for example, in a small group with support during English and/or Mathematics. Sometimes a student requires additional support to access the curriculum or to manage their autism. A teaching assistant may be assigned to support your child in becoming a successful member of the school community. It may be appropriate for your child to have one-to-one support with a speech language and communication programme or support for English with the additional literacy support tutor. This will all be explained to you by your child's class teacher.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?</p>	<p>All teachers are teachers of children with SEN and can teach the National Curriculum. Work is provided and differentiated at the appropriate levels for all students to access their learning and make good progress. Planning is monitored rigorously by the Senior Leadership Team at least 3 times a year.</p> <p>Students at Heathermount follow the National Curriculum up to GCSE level, as well as having opportunities to choose a vocational pathway in Hospitality and Catering, Business Administration or Horticulture. Being a small school, it is not always possible to offer an extensive range of subjects. However, where it is appropriate, students are supported to take additional subjects at the local mainstream school, Charters.</p>

<p>4</p>	<p>How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?</p>	<p>We have an open door policy at Heathermount School. There are termly parents' evenings. Staff review the progress of each individual on a half termly basis and where they feel that a student is not making at least expected progress, an Intervention Plan will be put into place. This will be shared with you and your child. You will receive a written report at the end of the Summer term in addition to the Annual Review reports. We will always ask to see you if we have concerns about your child's progress or behaviour.</p> <p>Annual Reviews are held in accordance with the Code of Practice.</p>
<p>5</p>	<p>What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?</p>	<p>Wellbeing is a key feature of the school. We understand that for children and young people with autism, anxiety can have a major impact on their lives and the lives of the families.</p> <p>Heathermount uses an autism specific approach to supporting the students: READY.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regulating emotions and sensory • Environmental needs • Autism – me and others • Developing social communication skills • Your achievements and successes <p>We understand the impact a child's autism can have on the whole family. We have a Family Partnership Officer who you can ask to speak with about any other issues that may arise in or out of school. For example, concerns about behaviour, relationships with siblings, wider family difficulties, transport and looking at social and leisure activities in your area.</p>

<p>6</p>	<p>What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?</p>	<p>The school has well trained staff experienced in supporting children and young people with autism. We are supported in delivering education by working closely with our:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • clinical psychologist, on site • three speech and language therapists, on site • occupational therapist, on site <p>We are also able to call on the expertise of other services such as the autism specialist from within the Disabilities Trust.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>What training have staff supporting children and young people with autism had?</p>	<p>Regular in-house training and discussion takes place around Autism and the READY approach.</p> <p>Staff have also received training in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TEACCH • Attention Autism • Sensory integration • Comic strip conversations • Social stories • MAYBO – a conflict management approach accredited by BILD • Safeguarding & Child protection

8	How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?	<p>Heathermount is an integral part of the local community and we access it regularly to support learning and development. We have three people carriers and a large minibus and all classes are able to plan regular trips into the local community in order to practise the skills they have learnt at school.</p> <p>We make every effort to include all students in school trips. All students have an individual risk assessment which is signed by the parents and available to all staff.</p>
9	How accessible is Heathermount School?	<p>We make every reasonable adjustment possible. Most of the school site is across one level in three buildings but we would move a class to an accessible building in order for a student to participate in education.</p> <p>We have one accessible toilet and there are ramps that provide access to some areas of the school.</p>

<p>10</p>	<p>How will Heathermount School prepare and support my child to join the school and then transfer to a new school/college/work?</p>	<p>Parents are encouraged to do a school visit prior to seeking a placement and the Family Partnership Officer will show you around. This will be a chance for you to ask any questions that you may have. Once Heathermount's Admissions' Panel has agreed that Heathermount may be an appropriate placement for your child, with the agreement of the local authority, a three day assessment is offered. This may take longer than three days. Some students have been out of school for a significant length of time or they may be school refusers. When this is the case, Heathermount staff will work at the pace of your child so that their re-integration to education is successful. Following a positive three day assessment, with agreement from the local authority, a 12 week pre-placement is then offered. Again, this is taken at a pace so as to meet the needs of the child.</p> <p>At the end of the 12 week pre-placement a review meeting is held and if all parties are in agreement, a permanent place at Heathermount is offered.</p> <p>The Family Partnership Officer is available to support you and your family throughout the admissions process and provide you with further information or signpost you to the correct service within your local authority.</p> <p>When it is time for your child to move on from Heathermount, whether to college or to employment, our transition co-ordinator will help you and your child draw up a detailed Transition Plan so that you and your child can clearly see the next steps.</p>
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<p>11</p>	<p>How are the school's resources allocated and matched to students' needs?</p>	<p>All students at Heathermount have a Statement of Special Educational Needs/Education and Health Care Plan and places are fully funded by the student's local authority. All new students are assessed by the speech and language therapists and the occupational therapist regardless of whether the need is detailed in the Statement. Heathermount is in a position to be able to allocate resources reasonably flexibly across the school according to the needs of different class teams.</p> <p>We have the following educational areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Subject specialist classrooms for the secondary age students • A training kitchen • A sensory room • Art room • Horticulture room • Two full ICT suites • A music room • A cycle track • Outdoor play equipment • Sports hall
<p>12</p>	<p>How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?</p>	<p>Every term, the leadership team meets with each subject teacher to discuss student progress. If there is a need for some extra support this will be agreed by everyone that needs to help your child. This may take various forms such as additional literacy support, a modification to the Autism Support Plan, a revised reward system etc.</p> <p>Where we consider it appropriate, we allocate a child 1:1 staffing which could be in the short term or for a longer period of time. Where a child has 1:1 staffing, parents are advised that the member of staff working 1:1 with their child will rotate in order to reduce overreliance on one adult.</p>

13	How are parents involved in the school? How can I be involved?	<p>Parents and families can be involved in Heathermount School by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attending parents' evenings and social events • Being a Parent Governor • Reading the information on the website and in the Headteacher's newsletters. • Attending the regular parents' forum • Voluntary attendance of a governors meeting
14	Who can I contact for further information?	<p>Your first point of contact if you want to discuss something about your child is your child's class teacher</p>