



## Specification of Provision

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### Rowan Gate Primary School

Finedon Road, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 4NS (01933 304970) Hayway, Rushden, Northamptonshire NN10 6AG (01933 351200)

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### Type of Provision

Rowan Gate Primary School is a community special school for pupils aged 2 to 11 years. It can accommodate 264 pupils. The school has 2 main sites in Wellingborough and Rushden. 3 Satellite classes are based at Tennyson Road Infant School. From September 2023, satellite provision will also be at Stanton Cross primary School – this will be 5 classes. The school has 2 main sites in Wellingborough and Rushden. 3 Satellite classes are based at Tennyson Road Infant School. From September 2023, satellite provision will also be at Stanton Cross primary School – this will be 5 classes.

### Rowan Gate Primary School is for pupils whose primary needs are:

- Cognition & Learning Needs - Severe Learning Disabilities (SLD)
- Communication & Interaction Needs - Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

### Pupils may also have (as secondary needs):

- Communication & Interaction Needs - Speech, Language & Communication Needs (SLCN)
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs
- Social, Emotional & Mental Health (SEMH) Needs

### The school meets the needs of pupils who:

- Have attainments well below the expected range of their peers. They may have physical disabilities, speech and language delay, low self-esteem, sensory impairment and under-developed social skills.



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- Have significant or severe learning disabilities.
- Have a diagnosis of autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) that requires structured teaching and may require discrete provision.

## **Admission Criteria and Arrangements**

- Admission to Rowan Gate Primary School normally follows the completion of a statutory assessment. Pupils will have an Education Health Care (EHC) Plan.
- The Local Authority will determine the pupil's admission to the provision. It will consider parental preference and consult with the governing body and headteacher.
- Most admissions take place at the start of the academic year. If a pupil needs to start at a different point in the year, the Local Authority will liaise with the school. They must ensure the placement will not disrupt the education of other pupils or interfere with the efficient use of resources.

## **School Characteristics**

Rowan Gate Primary School is organised into age-appropriate and ability-appropriate class bases. It aims to meet the needs of each child (as far as possible) within their local community.

Facilities in Wellingborough include:

- A hydrotherapy pool
- A soft-play room
- A sensory room
- A well-equipped medical room
- A library
- Therapy Space (for physiotherapy, occupational therapy, play therapy, music therapy, and speech therapy)

There is a large school hall, which serves as a multi-purpose area. The Wellingborough site has extensive grounds for outdoor educational and play pursuits (including playgrounds, adventure play, climbing equipment, and a wheelchair roundabout). It also has outdoor covered areas for younger pupils and a sensory courtyard.



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Facilities in Rushden include a soft play room, a sensory room, and library space. Each class base has access to a quiet room for individual or small group activities.

There are specific rooms that are used by visiting therapists, including speech and language therapists (SALTs), occupational therapists, physiotherapists, a play therapist, and a music therapist. There is also a room provided for, and used by, Rowan Gate Stay and Play School. The Rushden site has two playgrounds, which include equipment for climbing (for older pupils) and an outdoor covered area for younger pupils.

Rowan Gate Primary School has 2 minibuses with tail lifts and equipment to clamp wheelchairs. They can be used to extend the pupils' education in the community. Staff are trained under the Minibus Driver Awareness Scheme (MiDAS).

## **The New Rowan Gate Primary School Curriculum**

### **A Passport to Learning**

- **Thematic** - Linked-together learning through vibrant termly topics.
- **Relavant** - Adapted to the needs of each unique individual pupil.
- **Aspirational** - Encouraging all pupils to achieve their true potential.
- **Varied** - Activities and opportunities encouraging depth and breadth of knowledge.
- **Engaging** - A personalised curriculum that enables success and builds self-esteem.
- **Learning** - Based on pedagogical reconciliation and innovation.

The staff at Rowan Gate Primary School endeavor to equip pupils with life skills as they travel through the school. They provide pupils with an engaging, creative, and flexible curriculum that accommodates their ever-changing needs. The school's thematic approach offers various contexts for pupils to develop and consolidate their skills. It also ensures there are opportunities for enquiry, independent investigation, and learning.

Rowan Gate Primary School has a framework for learning and improvement that underpins its curriculum. '5 Keys: Roots to Growth' celebrates the pupils' learning journey in five key areas:

- Personal Success
- Courage to be Creative
- Curiosity and Wonder
- Working Together
- Decisions and Choices



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The framework is implemented in weekly 'Good Work' assemblies and termly '5 Keys' assemblies. Pupils are awarded coloured wristbands for achievements in the five key areas.

Rowan Gate Primary School's whole-school curriculum incorporates the National Curriculum and the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum. The programmes of study for each subject are followed where they are relevant and accessible. However, this may occur at a different Key Stage.

The amount of time spent on National Curriculum subjects will depend on the needs of individuals and class groups. The school's broad and flexible curriculum has been created to enable all pupils to progress along whichever route they travel along. Rowan Gate Primary School has a variety of curriculum routes for pupils to ensure all abilities and needs are accommodated:

- **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):** Pupils follow a thematic curriculum through which they access the seven key areas of learning.
- **Key Stage 1 (KS1):** Pupils follow a semi-formal thematic curriculum, with English and Maths introduced as discrete subjects.
- **Key Stage 2 (KS2):** Most pupils follow a semi-formal thematic curriculum, with English, Maths, and Science taught as discrete subjects.
- **Upper Key Stage 2 (UKS2):** Some pupils follow a formal curriculum in which all subjects are taught discretely.
- **KS2 Pre-Formal Curriculum:** Some pupils follow a thematic curriculum in which the learning is personalized to suit the needs of individual pupils (under the themes of 'Cognition and Learning,' 'Communication and Interaction,' 'Social, Emotional, and Mental Health,' 'Independence,' and 'Sensory/Physical').

Throughout the school, responsibility for learning is encouraged through making choices and demonstrating an ability to understand routines and reach expectations. The ability to work independently is directly taught where appropriate. There is a strong emphasis on learning through practical approaches and real experiences. For the youngest pupils, the curriculum is delivered through the medium of play. Activities are carefully planned and structured (with specific objectives in mind) to develop the pupils' learning.

Pupils with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) follow a highly-structured

timetable designed to help them understand or recognise familiar elements throughout the day. The curriculum is delivered through a multi-sensory approach. There is support from a range of professionals who work together to support the pupils' learning.

Pupils with autistic spectrum disorder (ASD) are taught using the methods of TEACCH. TEACCH enables pupils with autism to access the curriculum. If the pupils have good visual skills, they are taught to follow visual information to help them become independent. They may be taught in a structured class or in classes with a wider range of need (where the structure and the principles of TEACCH are still central to the provision and organisation).

Education staff work closely with a range of therapists to develop programmes and ensure they are integrated into the school day. Pupils with physical disabilities or delayed coordination development are supported by the teacher (in conjunction with therapists) who structures programmes to improve coordination, dexterity, and organisational skills.

Rowan Gate Primary School incorporates QCA modules and EQUALS Schemes of Work into the National Curriculum. This particularly benefits pupils with Severe Learning Disabilities (SLD) or profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD).

### **Key Skills**

All pupils participate in daily 'Key Skills' sessions. These are intensive individualised teaching sessions that focus on developing confidence and skills in critical areas.

### **Wellbeing**

All pupils participate in a weekly 'Wellbeing Afternoon,' which is based on the '10 Keys to Happier Living' programme from Action for Happiness. The programme is a scientifically backed set of actions that can help improve levels of happiness. The actions can be used at any level and are suitable for both pupils and staff. The 'Wellbeing Afternoon' sessions teach pupils tools that promote emotional resilience and happiness during their time at the school. More information about the '10 Keys to Happier Living' programme can be found on the Action for Happiness website: [www.actionforhappiness.org](http://www.actionforhappiness.org).

Personal, health, and social education (PSHE) and Personal, social, and emotional development (PSED) are essential elements of Rowan Gate Primary School's curriculum. The school links them to their '5 Keys: Roots to Growth' and the '10 Keys to Happier Living.' Relationships and sex education (RSE) is also incorporated.



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## Healthy Lifestyles

All pupils access two weekly physical education (PE) sessions, one of which is led by a sports coach. Pupils based in Wellingborough may swim in the hydrotherapy pool at the Wellingborough site. Pupils in UKS2 have swimming lessons at their local pool (Waendel Pool and Splash Pool.) Rowan Gate Primary School enriches their pupils' experiences by providing additional lunchtime and after-school activities such as football, tennis, boccia, hockey, speed stacking, and basketball. Pupils and staff take part in 'The Daily Mile' initiative three times a week.

Pupils are encouraged to participate in an extra 30 minutes of exercise a day (as part of the UK Chief Medical Officer's 'Active 30' initiative). The school runs five six-minute activity sessions each day (which serve as lesson-starters in English, Maths, and active playtimes).

Every child at Rowan Gate Primary School has an Individual Education Plan. It is devised with parents and colleagues at review meetings.

The school regards parents/carers as essential partners in their child's development. Regular involvement is encouraged through formal and informal meetings, telephone calls, parents' evenings, workshops, social events, and parent groups. In addition to the teachers and learning support staff employed at the school, additional specialists may be commissioned (and involved in the pupils' education) as appropriate.

Creative activities are very important at Rowan Gate Primary School. The school ensures high-quality provision is made for drama and music. Some pupils may access music therapy, and Play Therapy if considered appropriate.

## Reviews

### Role of the School:

- Review arrangements for pupils with EHC Plans are set out in the [Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 Years \(2015\)](#). Rowan Gate Primary School will adhere to them, ensuring that due process is followed and relevant timeframes are adhered to.

### Role of the Local Authority:

- The Local Authority will review a pupil's EHC Plan under the SEND Code of



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Practice. It will ensure that due process is followed and relevant timeframes are adhered to.

## **Assessment and Monitoring**

### **Of the Pupils:**

- Pupils are admitted to Rowan Gate Primary School with up-to-date assessment information about their special educational needs and a recently issued EHC Plan. Initial objectives are agreed with parents/carers based upon the information received.
- The statutory review of each pupil's plan is carried out at least annually at a formal meeting with parents/carers and other concerned professionals.
- The school curriculum allows for accurate assessment and monitoring of pupil progress in all subjects. The parent consultation evenings allow for discussions on all aspects of a pupil's school life.
- Transition reviews take place in Year 5, with a focus on updating all information prior to secondary admissions choices being made in the autumn term of Year 6.
- The first set of objectives is agreed at the Admissions meeting and then at review meetings. Reviews of individual EHC Plans take place at least annually and are accompanied by advice detailing the child's achievements and progress. Where a child's needs have changed significantly, further advice may be requested.
- At the Annual Review (AR) meeting, the priority areas for the coming year are agreed and objectives set to meet the pupil's needs. Teaching staff then devise Individual Educational Programmes to plan for (and monitor) the small steps of progress that will lead to achieving the agreed objectives. The recommendations from the Annual Review are forwarded to the Local Authority for approval. Class teachers monitor performance on a termly basis. The school uses 'Onwards and Upwards' and Pupil Progress Meetings to track progress and manage performance data. Data is evaluated termly by the Senior Leadership Team and is shared with staff and governors.



## **Of the School:**

- Rowan Gate Primary School is inspected and graded by OFSTED. Latest report: Outstanding (26 March 2019).

## **Exit Criteria and Arrangements**

The needs of individual pupils are considered paramount. If reintegration into mainstream school is appropriate, it will be discussed in full with parents at the Annual Review. A plan will be drawn up, and it will be forwarded to the Special Needs Assessment Panel for agreement. If reintegration into mainstream school is not appropriate, pupils usually transfer to secondary special schools at the age of 11.

## **Future Plans**

The school aims to maintain the current high standards of achievement and attainment. The school aims to continue and further develop the new provision in Rushden.

## **Staffing Details**

The well-qualified and experienced staff can meet the wide range of pupils' personal, educational, and social needs. Staff who support children with ASD have undertaken further training in the TEACCH method and the use of PECS. All staff are trained in positive handling (Norfolk Steps - September 2021). The school has a Family Support Team (led by a member of the Senior Leadership Team) and is supported on both sites, and the Satellite classes by three Family Support advisers.

**For more information about Rowan Gate Primary School, please visit their website:**  
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