



The Orchard Centre

The following information may help you decide if The Orchard Centre is a suitable provision for your child.

The Orchard Centre is a 16 place moderate learning difficulties (MLD) centre at The Hermitage Junior School. Historically, we used to be known as a Learning and Additional Needs (LAN) Centre. The resources provision remains the same, the acronym has just been changed.

Specialist centres for MLD in mainstream schools support children who have:

- Moderate learning difficulties.
- A slower pace of learning than other children of their age.
- Additional needs such as physical disability or sensory impairment, autism, speech, language, and communication needs, medical needs.

As per the Surrey Local Offer, MLD specialist centres are best suited for children who would benefit from attending mainstream classes and having regular interaction with other pupils there, but who require additional specialist support in small groups in a quiet setting away from mainstream school, to achieve their educational goals.

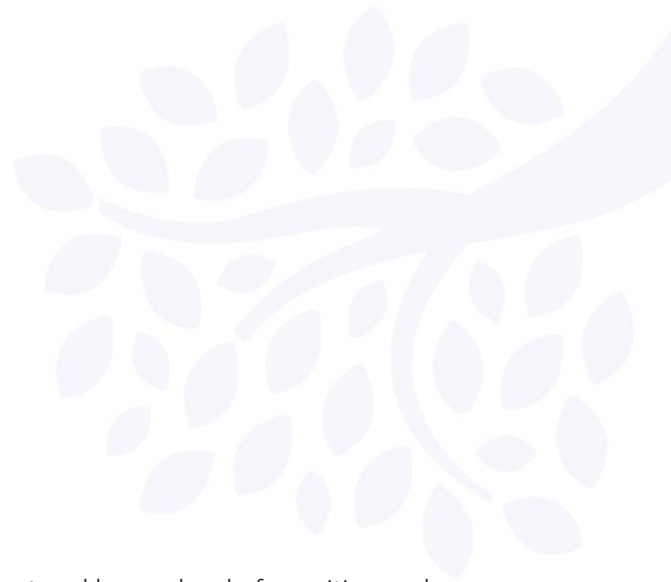
Please note, the decision whether your child should attend an MLD specialist school or specialist centre will depend on whether they will benefit from some mainstream teaching alongside their mainstream peers.

We have a high staff/low pupil ratio, meaning we can offer a more personalised curriculum for each child. Pupils are usually taught English and Maths in The Centre, as well as life skills and PSHE, and are included into their mainstream classes as much as they are able to.

The pupils attending the Specialist Centre

All young people attending the provision will:

- Have the potential ability to access the mainstream curriculum and be comfortable in a mainstream but, for reasons primarily associated with their learning needs, be unable to make sufficient progress or fulfil their potential in a full-time mainstream placement.
- Have a completed Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) or a draft EHCP which makes it clear that they will benefit from the arrangements in place at a resourced provision catering primarily for the needs of pupils with learning needs.
- Access a curriculum that is personalised to their needs relating to the outcomes in their EHCP.
- Be able to move around the school safely without endangering themselves and others, remaining within the site.

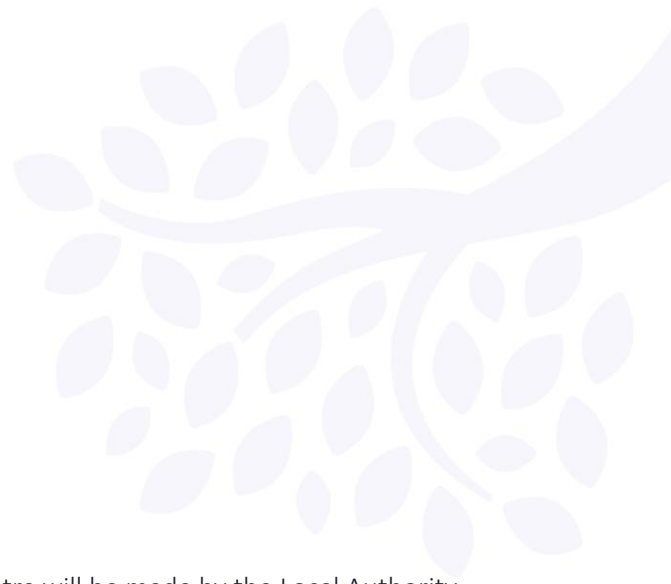


Our provision is suitable for

- Children who are comfortable in a mainstream environment and have a level of cognition and language that enables them to access at least some of the mainstream curriculum and learning environment.
- Children who would benefit from small group intervention work to meet their needs identifies within their EHCP.
- Children who are able to move around the school safely without endangering themselves and others, remaining within the site.
- Children in The Centre will benefit from attending some mainstream classes and form regular social interaction with their mainstream peers but additional specialist support is also required in order to successfully achieve their educational outcomes.
- Children that may benefit from regular sensory input and breaks built into their school day.

Key features of the provision

- A sense of belonging within the whole school community, based on the values of the school.
- Highly structured low stimulus environment with the use of visuals and practical learning opportunities.
- Regular additional specialist support in small groups in a quiet setting (Centre classroom) away from mainstream classes.
- A structured and enabling environment with additional strategies to support pupil understanding.
- Speech and language interventions built into the school day with individualised programs as required.
- Careful planning of and preparation for transition between phases of education and settings. This includes close liaison between staff, parents/carers, external specialist support and other involved professionals.
- A personalised curriculum with learning divided between the Specialist Centre and mainstream classroom learning.
- Access to a national curriculum modified to meet the needs of the individual.
- The curriculum is based on the whole needs of the pupil with effective communication and promoting independence as key principles.
- Emphasis on language enrichment.
- Individual sensory needs met with the advice of an Occupational Therapist.
- Designated calming areas and safe spaces offered for children who need time and space to manage their emotions.
- Teaching of play, leisure and social skills.
- Qualified and experienced teaching staff working closely with therapists and other specialists to support pupils in achieving individual targets



Placement in the Specialist Centre

Decisions about which children will be placed in The Orchard Centre will be made by the Local Authority, Surrey County Council. They will decide where the child's needs are best met from the arrangements which can be provided. This is part of the Annual Review process or consultation for Key Stage transfer. You will not receive a placement by applying directly to the Hermitage Junior School.

Inclusion

The Orchard Centre children are included in whole school and year group mainstream class activities as much as possible, but with their individual needs in mind. The Orchard Centre shares the values and ethos of the school. Centre children are included in visits, assemblies and performances that are offered to their year groups. They wear the same uniform, share most of the same playtime arrangements and are an integral part of The Hermitage Junior School.

Children are supported in their mainstream classes by a member of support staff in small groups. Centre staff work closely with all class teachers to ensure that all children receive a broad and rich curriculum which can help them to achieve.

Staffing and facilities

The Centre Manager leads the resourced provision and is also the class teacher. The Centre Manager plans for meeting the needs of the children and ensuring there is good progress. All our support staff support the children both in The Centre and in their mainstream classes, on trips and during playtimes.

We have two Speech and Language Therapists who visit the school weekly to work with the children who require more specialist support with their communication and interaction skills, as per their EHCP's. Other outside professionals such as Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Educational Psychologists will also visit The Centre to offer advice and carry out further assessment if necessary.

The Orchard Centre consists of one main classroom, a group room and a small sensory room. We have access to our own quiet enclosed area on the playground.

Progress Monitoring and Exit Criteria

Upon placement in the resourced provision, the expectation is that the education of the young person will continue in this setting until the end of Key Stage 2, unless through the Annual Review process it was found that:

- The young person was now adequately equipped to take up a full-time mainstream place; or
- Required further specialist support that cannot be provided through The Centre; and/or;
- It is accepted by the Local Authority, from recommendations made at the Annual Review, that there is a need for change of placement.