

Cherry Garden Outreach Support Service (COSS)

We are a small team of specialist outreach teachers from Cherry Garden School offering support to children in mainstream schools who have SEN and are working significantly below their peers. They may have a range of needs, including Down's Syndrome, chromosomal disorders or Global Delay (support for children with autism is provided through Southwark's Autism Support Team). Cherry Garden is Southwark's primary school for children with severe or profound and multiple learning difficulties and communication difficulties. Two of the outreach teachers are based at Cherry Garden but seconded by Southwark part-time. The third outreach teacher provides training programmes and supports the Satellite Class. The outreach service is available to all maintained primary schools.

What support is offered?

The support given varies depending on the needs of the child and the school, and may include any of the following:-

- **Observation and consultation:** getting a picture of the child and discussing with the SENCO, teacher and support staff which strategies would further support their learning.
- **Modelling and coaching:** introducing strategies, programmes or types of activity that will support the child, and training support staff in using them effectively.
- **In School Training:** the outreach teacher may offer training directly to the school or refer them to the training programme at Cherry Garden.
- **Training:** a range of courses are offered throughout the year. For further information go to www.cherrygardenschool.co.uk
- **Planning and assessment:** planning individually for the child with the teacher and supporting with assessment.
- **Groups:** involving the child in collaborative work with peers.
- **Working with other professionals:** e.g. working collaboratively with the speech and language therapist on a child's communication.
- **Input** into annual reviews/ TAC meetings.
- **Supporting transition** from nursery to school, between key stages and from primary to secondary school.
- **Satellite Class:** delivers a high quality of specialist teaching for twelve pupils who attend mainstream primary schools in Southwark. Please see further information below.

The support is given in a block of visits, but the teacher may return to see the child at a later date at the request of the school, for example to support with transition to the next year group.

The outreach teachers' records of their visits are shared with the school and the local authority, and the schools can also pass them on to the parents or use them to input into a child's EHCP.

How to refer a child for support:

Children are referred to the outreach team through Southwark's SEN department, or schools can directly request support for a particular child, using the referral form available on the Cherry Garden website (<http://www.cherrygardenschool.co.uk/Referrals>). All referrals are subject to approval by Southwark's SEN department and need parental approval.

(NB: support for autistic children is provided through Southwark's Autism Support Team).

Preferred contact: email (as we are an outreach team we are usually out and about)

aparsons@cherrygarden.southwark.sch.uk

lmitchelmore@cherrygarden.southwark.sch.uk

training@cherrygarden.southwark.sch.uk

Satellite Class:

The Satellite Class is funded by a grant through Schools Forum.

- Based at Oliver Goldsmith Primary School
- Pupils attend two sessions a week:
 - 2 x mornings (9.30am – 12.00pm)
 - 2 x afternoons (1.00pm – 3.00pm)
- Pupils who attend are on P-levels and are in Key Stage 2 (please note the Satellite class is not for children with autism)
- Pupils on P-levels will be at least 2 levels below where they should be and have reached a plateau in their learning
- Focus is on literacy, numeracy, independence and social skills
- The class is for mainstream children who need some specialist teaching to ensure they are reaching their full potential
- Activities are functional, motivating and appropriate to each pupil
- Teaching Assistants are given one hour per week to make resources to support pupils learning in the mainstream setting
- Teaching Assistants are given one hour per week to ensure their record keeping is up to date and next steps are identified for the pupil
- Ongoing training programme for Teaching Assistants focusing on:
 - Makaton (signing)
 - Using symbols to support learning
 - Communicate: In Print
 - Observations
 - Record keeping
 - Encouraging verbal communication
 - TEACCH
 - P-level assessment
- Modelling of how to use symbols and sign to aid learning and understanding

Process for identifying pupils

COSS works closely with the Southwark SEN team to identify pupils who fit the criteria. To be considered pupils must:

- be in Key Stage 2
- have a diagnosis other than autism
- have a Statement of Educational need / EHC Plan
- be achieving on P levels and reached a plateau with their learning

Each year a list of pupils who will start in Year 3 in September is created. Pupils who fit the criteria are then identified. Pupils in Year 4 – 6 are identified by:

- school referral
- SEN Specialist Teacher case load
- SEN case workers

SENCO's are then emailed, requesting current P levels. Pupils who still fit the criteria are then visited by the Satellite teacher to assess their suitability. A final list is agreed and schools are sent a confirmation letter. A pupil has a definite place once permission forms and reports are received from the school.