

Plymouth Studio School

Our Local Offer

What is a Local Offer?

As the Children and Families Bill became law in 2014, local authorities were required to publish and keep under review information about services they expect to be available for children and young people with special educational needs, aged 0-25. This is the “Local Offer”.

The intention of the Local Offer is to improve choice and transparency for families. It will also be an important resource for professionals in understanding the range of services and provision in the local area. A further key role for the Local Offer will be to inform the joint commissioning for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities by setting out in a single place what is available locally.

How does the School know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child/young person may have special educational needs?

At Plymouth Studio School we aim to be inclusive by working towards an ethos of quality first teaching. Teaching and learning is of a high standard and our mission is to enable all students to access a broad and balanced sports based curriculum, to foster independent learning and to develop lifelong skills. We believe that students achieve and learn best when they feel safe, healthy, confident and happy, therefore self-esteem and personal fulfilment are key factors in success.

For students who need extra support, work is differentiated (adapted to individual learning styles) in subject departments, with advice and support from the SEND team (Special Educational Needs & Disabilities). Plymouth Studio School excels at early identification of additional needs in our students due to our small community feel, and our excellent team of professional and caring staff. Students who are identified to have additional needs are regularly reviewed and monitored to ensure we are fully fulfilling their every educational need, and that our support is not only evolving continuously but growing with our students.

Identification and assessment

When students are working within the Plymouth Studio School, our outstanding staff body are able to accurately pinpoint those who may need to have further support put into place. These students are then assessed to help us highlight which possible boundaries there are within their learning.

At Plymouth Studio School we use a tried and tested methods such as:

- The analysis of information, including entry profiles, reading ages, and student assessments.
- Parental concerns and experience.
- Tracking individual student progress over time in academic subjects.
- Communication with feeder schools before transfer.
- Information from previous schools.
- Information from other services including specialist assessment and professional advice.
- The students own views.

Students who identify as having additional needs are added to a school database, which allows us to monitor their progress throughout their time with Plymouth Studio School.

How will School staff support my child?

While your child studies with Plymouth Studio School, they will be supported in the following ways:

- Setting of aspirational targets so that all our learners with additional needs achieve the very best, with continuous review of their progress through tracking, academic mentoring and regular meetings with students and parents.
- Subject staff are all teachers of students with additional needs and it is their responsibility to meet the needs of all the students in their class, through differentiation, teaching styles, resources, organisation and identifying when a student may require some additional support. Staff at Plymouth Studio School share best practise on a regular basis to ensure a seamless and professional approach across the entire curriculum.
- Whole School monitoring of literacy and numeracy, with intervention strategies for those who require some extra assistance.
- The classroom teacher will take responsibility for the daily provision for students and will be supported and advised by Tutors, SENCO and the SLT team. The SENCO and SLT team meet regularly to discuss students using real life examples and data..
- There is support for students with additional needs who may transfer mid-year including individual meetings, tours, information transfer from previous school/college and personalised timetables.
- The SENCO staff, and the inclusion of some of the amazing services in and around the Plymouth area.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Quality first teaching in the classroom which includes adjusted plans and resources for individual students, is the first step in responding to students who may have additional needs. This will enable all students to access a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.

- If a student is not making the expected progress and has specific gaps in their understanding he/she may work within a smaller group. These groups, also called intervention groups, may be:
 - Run in the classroom or in the SEND Department, including literacy and numeracy.
 - Run by a teacher or a trained teaching assistant within a Subject area.
 - Run by a specialist from outside the School, such as a speech and language therapist, hearing impaired or English as an Additional Language (EAL) specialist
 - In some cases, a student will need to be part of a particular teaching group that serves their educational needs..
 - Plymouth Studio School also benefits from experience intervention specialists and agencies which aid us in giving a vast support structure for all of our young people.

How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

Plymouth Studio School see it as a priority to maintain effective communication with Parents/ Carers. Plymouth Studio School prides itself on its ability to give each and every student that personal approach and all members of the staff body are well versed in liaising with parents and carers on a daily basis. There are many ways in which learners with additional needs are supported, including:

- Three data assessment points per year (Progress Reviews) and reporting system;
- parent "Information, Advice & Guidance" evenings;
- outside services involved with some students provided with reports and information about attainment and expected progress for health based needs, such as speech and language or physical development;
- Friendly and approachable staff, who are always happy to answer questions, and do all they can to help.
- annual reviews of support strategies for more advanced individual needs.

What specialist services and expertise are available at, or available to Plymouth Studio School?

The small school allows the staff to get to know our students in a unique and holistic way. Plymouth Studio School enjoys a strong and productive relationship with multiple agencies. These include:

- The Educational Psychology Service
- The Communication & Interaction Team
- The Educational Welfare Service (EWO)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- Occupational Therapist
- The Youth Service

You can find out more about the full range of services who work with Schools at Plymouth City Council's Website

How accessible is the School environment?

The School is aware of the access needs of disabled children on roll, and adaptations to the school environment are made accordingly. Plymouth Studio School boasts a variety of accessibility options including a spacious lift, large toilets both downstairs and upstairs and state of the art classroom design including breathable classrooms and open spaces

For more info:

See <https://www.gov.uk/definition-of-disability-under-equality-act-2010>

and the School Disability & Equality Policy

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

Once a potential SEND is identified a cycle of assess, plan, do and review will be put in place. These actions form part of a process through which decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the student's needs, and of what supports the student in making good progress and securing good outcomes.

For certain students who need support beyond that provided by the classroom teacher, this will be assessed through procedures put in place within the school.

If it is agreed to make a proposal for an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) then application will be made to Plymouth, Devon or Cornwall LA, depending on home address. This may involve requesting additional funding above that allocated to the School directly.