

School: **Elveden C of E Primary Academy**

Specialist Unit: **'The Barn Owl' Nest Reception & Key Stage 1**

Area of Need: **Expertise in Communication & Interaction**

Number of places- **18**

Address: **London Road, Elveden, Suffolk, IP24 3TN**

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Head of School: **Mrs Zoe Maguire**

SENDCo/Setting Provider's Representative: **Mrs Zoe Maguire**



Description of unit: **The Barn Owl Nest**



This dedicated unit is specifically designed to cater to pupils with Speech, Language, Communication needs (SLCN) within Reception/key Stage 1 (KS1).

This specialist unit is for pupils with speech and language difficulties that require support to develop the social, emotional and communication skills required to access learning in mainstream classes.

All teachers and teaching assistants within our unit are dedicated, knowledgeable and fully trained staff who deliver focused teaching for children with Speech, Language and Communication needs. Our enthusiastic and reflective team come with a wealth of experience working with children with additional needs and will partake in regular training from experts to ensure their skills remain up to date and relevant, so they can effectively support the pupils in our setting. During the week, children within the unit will be supported by the SALT team to participate in their individual programme of speech and language therapy.

Staff:

- SENDCo/Setting Provider- Fully qualified and experienced SENDCo.
- Unit Lead Teacher
- On site Speech & Language therapist/ speech & language therapy assistant from the NHS.
- ELSA/Thrive Practitioner
- Play therapy support assistant
- Teaching Assistants

Within our 'Barn Owl Nest', we have two structured learning classrooms with additional rooms available for more 1:1 and small group work. All pupils will also have access to our sensory room, nature garden and outside space designated for OPAL (Outdoor Play & Learning). They also could spend time at our Forest School site on the Elveden estate and where possible, many of these pupils will be able to integrate into everyday school life, such as accessing mainstream lessons such as Phonics/Reading, being involved in Collective Worship, School trips, Family group activities and taking part in Sports events etc. Children are expected to come to school wearing appropriate uniforms in line with the school dress code. Behaviour expectations are high within the unit and the pupils will be able to earn 'Dojos' like their peers in mainstream.

The unit is a Suffolk unit and as per the council's admissions procedure, priority will be given to Suffolk children. However, placements from surrounding counties will also be considered.

Placement decisions for the Specialist Unit are made by the local Authority, usually via a Specialist Educational Panel meeting, including a speech & language specialist. Some pupils may have an EHCP, although this is not a requirement.

Please note that pupils with communication and interaction difficulties already within our school community will not be at an advantage when considering admissions and would need to apply for a place in the same way as any other child.

The unit is scheduled to welcome its first cohort of pupils in January 2026.