

School: Elveden C of E Primary Academy

Specialist Unit: The Barn Owl Nest

(Communication and Interaction – Speech and Language)

Number of places: 18



Address: Elveden C of E Primary Academy, London Road, Elveden, Thetford IP24 3TN

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Headteacher: Mrs Zoë Maguire

SENDCo: Mrs Zoë Maguire

Key Contact:

Mrs Nicola Platt-Nolan (lead teacher)

Mrs Anna Howlett (Highly Specialist Speech & Language Therapist)

Description of Unit

The Barn Owl Nest is a specialist Communication and Interaction provision for children in EYFS and Key Stage 1 whose primary area of need is Speech and Language.

Children will be known to the NHS Speech and Language Disorders Outreach Team (SALDO) and have a diagnosed Speech Sound Disorder and/or Language Disorder. The child's clinic/school speech and language therapist will liaise with the SALDO team in the first instance to discuss therapy options. The child will have an EHCP in place or an EHCNA initiated by their current educational setting.

The unit is staffed by a specialist teacher/SENCo, Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist, HLTA, Speech and Language Therapy Assistant, Speech & Language Therapy Apprentices/Teaching Assistants and a Nurture Support Practitioner.

Specialist teaching and therapy are integrated throughout the school day within a supportive, language-rich environment, with therapeutic approaches embedded within everyday classroom practice.

Overview

The Barn Owl Nest is an integral part of the wider school. Children wear the same school uniform and are included in whole-school life, including assemblies, celebrations, playtimes, trips and special events, with appropriate support.

Children follow an adapted curriculum based on the mainstream EYFS and Key Stage 1 curriculum – the same destination, but a different pathway. Learning is carefully adapted to provide additional repetition, practical experiences, visual support and opportunities to develop speech, language and communication throughout the day.

Children receive intensive speech and language therapy, including three dedicated therapy sessions each week, with speech and language strategies also embedded throughout their everyday learning.

The provision aims to secure strong foundations, address gaps in learning and develop independence so that, wherever appropriate, children are prepared to successfully reintegrate into mainstream provision for Key Stage 2.