

School: Gorseland Primary School

Specialist Support Unit catering for:

- Reception & Key Stage One - Specialist: 12 places



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Description of Unit

Our Key Stage One specialist unit has 2 classroom bases: our Nurture Base (a low stimulating environment with a focus on learning through play), and a classroom in the main school building. We base the children's class on pupils' stage rather than age with structured, small-group learning.

Our hardworking and dedicated team consists of SSC teachers, HLTAs, teaching assistants and three licensed Thrive practitioners. Our team has a wide range of specialist experience and recent CPD has included sensory needs, Thrive Approach strategies, FASD, working memory and ADHD. We also work very closely with outside agencies including speech and language therapists, social care and nursing teams.

Overview

The unit is part of Gorseland School - a two form entry mainstream primary school, plus nursery, in Martlesham, Suffolk. Our Specialist Support Unit is a specialist extended provision that caters for pupils aged 4-13 with Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) and complex additional needs. More specifically, our provision is for the following groups of pupils: KS1 specialist, KS2 cognition and learning, and KS3 (Year 7 and 8) cognition and learning. Specialist Support Unit pupils integrate regularly with mainstream pupils during playtimes, assemblies and weekly class meetings. Integration into lessons takes place when this is successful for all.

Pupils are encouraged to wear appropriate and smart school uniform: pale blue shirt/polo shirt (navy blue for KS3 pupils), a navy blue cardigan/sweatshirt/fleece, black or grey trousers/skirts and black shoes. PE kit recommendations are a white t-shirt, blue/black shorts and trainers.

Pupils in our unit arrive by Local Authority transport or accompanied by their parents/carers and begin the school day at 8.45. The start of each day is nurturing and focusses on getting pupils ready for learning through sensory download sessions, Thrive-based approaches to support emotion regulation, breakfast, sharing social stories and developing positive relationships.

Our broad, balanced and personalised curriculum is based on the children's needs to enable pupils to thrive and fulfil their potential. Highly differentiated lessons in line with the children's abilities and carried out through small group learning enables pupils to make small-step progress in core subjects. Our personalised curriculum provides interventions such as finger gym, gym trail, communication, emotions, social skills and Thrive to develop social emotional skills. Pupils also have access to foundation subjects in line with their ability, and opportunities to develop their independent life skills through sessions such as Forest School, gardening and cooking.