

Kingswode Hoe School
Sussex Road, Colchester, Essex CO3 3QJ

Principal: Elizabeth Drake

Kingswode Hoe School is a day special school, which caters for children from ages five to sixteen years. However, the primary part of the school is small and therefore the school is predominantly secondary aged. There are currently two KS2 classes 6 KS3 classes and 3 KS4 classes. The school is one of five special schools in Essex that form the SEAX Multi-Academy Trust.

All pupils have an Education Health Care Plan, and most have transferred from mainstream primary or secondary schools. Most pupils enter the school in Y7, although from September 2019 the school has been expanded to include a second primary class. Pupils come from an extended catchment area including Colchester, surrounding villages, Coggershall and Halstead. We also have some pupils from further afield such as Tendring and Braintree.

Kingswode Hoe School is designated as a school for pupils with complex learning difficulties, although many pupils have additional moderate learning needs such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, speech and language difficulties, emotional, social or behavioural difficulties and autistic spectrum disorders, particularly Asperger Syndrome. Over the last few years, numbers of pupils with social, emotional or mental health difficulties has increased.

Pupils are offered a broad and balanced curriculum adapted to the needs of our cohort, which includes the 6 Outcomes of: Accreditation; Community and the Wider World; Employability; Health, Lifestyle and well-being; Identity and Self-expression and Resilience and independence.

In Key Stage 4 we offer accredited courses (Entry Level, Level 1 and occasionally GCSE) in English, maths, computing and art as well as Arts Award, Sports Leader and the Duke of Edinburgh Award. Pupils have opportunities to access the local FE colleges and undertake work experience in Y10 and Y11. The majority of pupils move on to further education when they leave school.

Curriculum opportunities are enhanced by specific intervention programmes such as Read, Write Inc; Numicon, social skills groups and emotional literacy, outdoor learning including Forest School and speech & language groups. In addition, there is a variety of lunchtime clubs run by staff on a voluntary basis. There is a Student Council for pupils and the school is involved with the 'Jack Petchey' award scheme.

The school is situated in Lexden, Colchester, in a nineteenth century, converted property with pleasant grounds. Recent additions were completed in 2016 and further expansion is taking place over 2019 to replace three

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demountable classrooms with a two storey building for technology, food technology, music & drama and two class bases. It is within walking distance of the town centre and Colchester Institute and has easy access to the A12.

In September 2019 there are be 147 pupil places. There are 148 pupils on roll.

There are 13 full time teachers and a senior team of three (with one vacancy). In addition, there are 10 Higher Level Teaching Assistants- HLTAs, 13 Learning Support Assistants- LSAs, one site manager, one School Business Manager and six clerical staff (part time). There is also a school cook and catering assistant who staff the kitchen.

The school has dedicated areas for food technology, resistant material technology, science, art, music and drama, computing and a library. A specialist PE teacher enables all pupils to make use of the gym and extensive outdoor facilities. In addition, there is a programme of annual residential experiences for all pupils and various curriculum linked trips and visits.

There is a separate dining area, which allows full use of the hall for lunchtime activities. School meals are cooked on site and local produce is used whenever possible. Y11 pupils have access to the dining room area at break times. There is a breakfast club each morning.

Work with pupils is supported by a well-being mentor provided by a charity.

We are part of the North Essex Teaching School Alliance (NEETSA) and have trainee teachers placed with us through the year. We are also part of the NESP group of primary schools and are part of their peer to peer review system.

Parent partnership is strongly encouraged with daily links to home via pupil diaries. We host parent support meetings and have three formal evenings during the academic year to discuss pupil progress and share work completed in school, including the statutory Education Healthcare review meetings held once a year.

Kingswode Hoe is a popular, over-subscribed school, which provides a supportive and challenging environment for pupils with a range of special educational needs. The staff is totally committed to the school and is very well supported by an able Local Academy Committee and a forward thinking Trust. The last Ofsted inspection was in September 2014 - the school was judged to be good in all areas.

For a more detailed picture of the school and its work, a visit during the school day is essential.

E. Drake (Principal)

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