

SEN in the Sixth Form at JCoSS: Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

My child has a specific learning difficulty (for example, dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia.) What support will be available for them?

If your child has a formal diagnosis of a condition which impacts on their learning, you must inform the school at the time of application and provide us with a copy of their professional diagnosis report as soon as a place has been confirmed on enrolment day. We will use the recommendations to create a 'Pen Portrait' for your child – this is a summary document which outlines your child's diagnoses, strengths, needs and strategies for success. This is circulated to all adults in school working with your child. In this way we ensure that strategies needed to support your child's learning are put in place consistently across the school.

Although a diagnosis alone does not require us to put additional resources in place for your child, as a school we are required to use our 'best endeavours' to meet the needs of all students. The needs of the majority of students with specific learning difficulties are met by teaching staff, through 'Quality First' teaching. Our capacity to provide additional support for individual students is extremely limited and will look very different from the level of support in place in Key Stages 3 and 4.

How does JCoSS decide whether my child is making "adequate progress?"

We have clear, whole-school systems for monitoring and assessing all students, including those with SEN and additional needs, throughout the year and across the curriculum. Students have a target for each subject, which is the level or grade they are expected to reach based on their ALPS scores. ALPS (A-level Performance System) is a system that allows schools to get a measure of the value they add to a pupil's A level performance compared to what might be expected of them following their previous academic performance at GCSE. There are three points throughout the school year at which student progress data is analysed and any students working below expectations are identified. Interventions are put in place for these students, by individual subject faculties.

My child has access arrangements in place at their current/previous school. Will they continue at JCoSS?

If your child had exam access arrangements for their GCSE examinations, please let our Exam Access Arrangements team know that your child had access arrangements, what the access arrangements were and the school they attended. The Access Arrangements Coordinator will then liaise with your child's previous setting to acquire any relevant paperwork. Please note, we still require centre-based evidence from teaching staff at JCoSS in order to put any access arrangements in place. You can find out more about exam access arrangements and reasonable adjustments in our policy:

<https://jcoass.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/JCoSS-Access-Arrangements-and-Reasonable-Adjustment-Policy-Nov-2020-.pdf>

My child is currently at 'SEN Support' and is withdrawn from lessons for intervention. Will JCoSS implement the same level of support as my child currently receives?

We will use our 'best endeavours' to support your child as necessary, but we will not guarantee that the same level or type of support will be put in place for them.

My child has an EHCP. What is the admissions process?

If your child has an EHCP and you would like them to be considered for a place at JCoSS, the Local Authority which issued their EHCP will initiate a consultation with us in the Autumn term preceding secondary transfer. This is the process by which we are asked to give our view as to our ability to meet a child's needs, and although we do not make the decision, the Local Authority is required to give due consideration to our views. As part of the consultation process, your child's home Local Authority will send us detailed information about your child and we will carefully consider this in determining whether or not we feel able to meet their needs. Responsibility for ensuring that provision is in place for a child rests with their home Local Authority. As the consultation process is based on documents provided by the Local Authority, it is essential that this documentation is fully up to date.

My child has an EHCP. What support will they get at JCoSS?

Whilst JCoSS will endeavour to put in place the support outlined in Section F of an EHCP, the responsibility for this lies with the home Local Authority. It is essential that Section F accurately details the provision required to meet the needs of your child. For example, arrangements for Speech and Language therapy after transition to secondary school need to be clearly outlined in order for therapy to continue.

We take a team approach to learning support in the Sixth Form at JCoSS. We do not have subject specialist LSAs and as such, support takes the form of mentoring outside of the classroom.

My child is struggling with mental health difficulties. How will they be supported at JCoSS?

In Sixth Form, aside from students whose mental health needs arise from their SEN, students with mental health needs are supported by the pastoral team rather than by the Learning Support Department. The first point of contact will be your child's form tutor and then Head of Year.

I'm really worried about my child's transition to secondary school. How will you help them manage?

Year 12 students attend an Induction Day the day before other year groups (apart from Year 7) return to school in September. All new students are offered a buddy to facilitate their transition and are allocated form groups where there are students with similar interests. Informal coffee mornings are organised by the Sixth Form team. In addition, new students receive a check in after a few weeks for feedback on how they feel their transition is going. The Sixth Form pastoral team will offer additional, individualised support where needed.

My child has medical needs but they don't have an EHCP. How will they be supported?

Students with medical needs are supported by the Student Service team, not the Learning Support faculty. They will ensure your child has an Individual Health Care plan and liaise with you regarding medication etc.

Can I meet with the SENCo/Learning Support team at JCoSS before a place for my child is confirmed?

No, the Learning Support faculty does not have capacity to meet with prospective families. If your child has an EHCP, they will receive termly meetings, including an annual review.

JCoSS is a Barnet school but my child's EHCP is maintained by a different Local Authority. Does this make a difference?

The home Local Authority is responsible for the provision outlined in your child's EHCP. It is important to ensure that the EHCP clearly specifies the provision for therapies such as Occupational Therapy and Speech and Language Therapy. Your case officer should advise you as to how the Local Authority intends to deliver this provision in an out-of-borough school; for example, some Local Authority send their therapeutic staff to JCoSS, while others commission independent practitioners to deliver provision on their behalf.