



Farney Close School

Whole School Local Offer



Updated Sept 2023 (v9)

Farney Close School • Bolney Court • Crossways • Nr Haywards Heath • West Sussex • RH17 5RD
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The SEN Information Report requires schools to provide information to the local authority under section 69 of the Children and Families Act 2014 for the purpose of inclusion in that authority's Local Offer.

Overview of the provision named Farney Close School.

Farney Close is a Company limited by guarantee and registered as a Charity with the Charity Commission, registered number; 307024.

A Board of Governors/Directors/Trustees are in place and oversees the running of the Company. The Board ensures that the expectations of the Charity Commission are adhered to. The school's charitable status means that it is a non-profit making organisation and so all excess funds are used to develop the school's provision.

As of the 1st September 2021 the Senior Management Team comprises of the Principal (Sara Hack), the Vice Principal (Ray Lau), the Head of Care (Steve De Souza) and the Head of Education (James Mills).

Age range: 9 to 18 years. (National Curriculum Years 5 to 13)

Type of Placements: Day and Residential, Monday to Friday, 38 Week. We offer 5-day residential placements, part boarding (Monday to Friday) and day placements. We have capacity for 100 young people.

Location: Single rural site off the A23, 5 miles outside of Haywards Heath in West Sussex.

Which Local Authorities place young people at Farney Close?

Farney Close is regularly used by Local Authorities across the south, southeast and east of England including Surrey, West Sussex, East Sussex, Kent and Essex as well as by several London boroughs.

What does the school provide for young people?

Farney Close provides education, care, social development and therapeutic support to young people who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) and experience a range of needs including:

- Social, emotional and mental health needs (SEMH)
- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) (a sub-type of ADHD)
- Asperger's Syndrome (High level functioning)
- Autism (ASC) (where challenging behaviours are the primary need)
- Conduct Disorder (CD)
- Dyslexia
- Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)
- Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD)
- Oppositional Defiant Disorder (ODD)
- Speech and Language Difficulties including social communication and interaction.

We recognise that many conditions are applied to children and young people and are happy to discuss how we may be able to support individuals with differing needs.



What specialist services are available at Farney Close School?

The school has a specialist staff team offering additional services on-site: A SENCO, a School Social Worker, an Adolescent Counsellor, an Art Therapist, Dyslexia Specialist and support team, Speech and Language therapist, a Referrals and Inclusion Officer and a School Nurse.

Our SENCO and her team undertake thorough assessment of academic need when all young people start at the school, and this is revisited regularly. Individual packages are prepared and presented to identified individuals.

Our School Social Worker works directly with all young people that are Looked After by their local Authority, are on a Child in Need Plan, a Child Protection Plan or an Early Help Plan.

Beyond all this we have a hugely experienced educational and care team who are all dedicated and committed to the work that we do. The majority of staff across the school have worked here for many years.

We have small class groups, a maximum of 8 but rarely more than 6 to each group. We run the full national curriculum but offer vocational skills for those interested in subjects such as catering, Hospitality, motor car maintenance, construction, and media.

How are referrals made for a place at Farney Close?

Local Authorities normally make an initial application to the school to place a child that they believe may benefit from our provision. Parents, carers and advocates may contact the school directly requesting a visit or to talk to us about their child to ascertain whether our school might be suitable. In all cases, parents and carers are advised to correspond directly with their Local Authority.

The Referrals and Inclusion Officer deals with all referrals to the school. Upon receipt of a referral - and if we think we can successfully meet the young people's needs - he will meet with the child and their parents /carers either at their home or at the school, he will talk about the school and gain a clearer idea as to whether we would be the right placement. After this point if parents / carers, child and we all feel that we are likely to be the right provision we would arrange a visit to school and an assessment with our SENCO. Following this visit to Farney Close



the Referrals and Inclusion Officer will meet with a Senior Leader and a decision will be made as to whether we would feel it appropriate to offer a terms trial (all young people come to us on a terms trial initially).

For more information on our referral and admission process please contact us on 01444 881811 or by email: referrals@farneyclose.co.uk

How are decisions made about who can attend Farney Close?

Decisions about offering a place to a young person is made by one of the school's Senior Leadership team. They are supported in making these decisions by the Referrals and Inclusion Officer who assesses all referrals made to the school. If we are not able to offer a place, it is usually because:

- we have no vacancies in the respective year group
- we feel the applicant presents a level of risk to themselves or others beyond our ability to manage
- we feel that we do not have the specific expertise or range of resource to meet a child's needs.

Any decision made by the school can be discussed in further detail.



Is there a difference between the service offered to our day pupils to that received by the residential pupils?

We ensure that our day pupils receive the same care and input that our residential pupils get. The day pupils have a dedicated Link Worker, who is a member of our care team, whose focus is to support each day pupil at times that they may need some input above and beyond that that is offered by our teachers, teaching assistants and care team.

This person is there at the start of each day and is there when they leave to go home as well as being at hand throughout the day. They will also ensure that parents, carers and other relevant adults (e.g. social workers etc) are kept fully informed of progress and relevant incidents.

What involvement can Parents and Carers expect once their child is placed at Farney Close?

The school places strong emphasis on communication with parents, carers and others who work with and support the young people. We view good communication and planning as crucial to a young person's progress and recognise the importance of us all working together for the best interests of the child. All young people have a dedicated Link Worker. These dedicated people are the primary source of contact for parents and carers. This provides opportunities for parent/carers to share information or concerns, which are quickly passed on to the right person in the school in order to provide a response. We report regularly to parents and carers on young peoples' attainment and progress. Parents and carers receive regular calls on young peoples' progress and direct phone enquiries following holiday periods.

The school provides curriculum and other information on a child's engagement in the life of the school for the purpose of annual reviews. We converse regularly with parents, carers and others as appropriate, in order to maintain a positive focus on young peoples' needs and progress and in order to clarify any plans to support them.

Farney Close produces up to date information on its website about the general life of the school. Email is accessible through the site.

Parents, carers and others working with the young people can arrange to visit the school. Requests for visits are addressed promptly to prevent delay. We encourage parents and carers to maintain regular phone contact with their child in the evening.

Is there a school uniform?

Yes. All children and young people, whether day or residential, are expected to follow our uniform policy throughout the school day. Wearing a school uniform gives a sense of community and helps to separate the school day from social time.



The school provides the first sets of uniform tops and the PE kit. No trainers are allowed during the school day. Shoes must be black and be able to be polished.

Are meals provided by the school?

Yes. The school day starts at 9.15am each day for our secondary pupils and 8.45am for our Primary children. The Primary pupils have breakfast on the Primary unit when they arrive.

We welcome secondary day pupils from 8.30am to give them chance to have breakfast, catch up with friends, spend time with key adults and have some "chill" time to prepare themselves before lessons start. The residential pupils have breakfast on their houses.

Lunch is eaten in the dining room. This is a hot main meal served by our catering team. Wednesdays are the day that we celebrate other cultures. We serve main meals at lunchtime to give everyone the chance to learn about foods eaten in other countries. Our day pupils usually leave before the evening meal. The residential pupils have tea on their houses. This is usually this is a "light" meal e.g. baguettes, sandwiches, wraps, salad, baked potatoes etc. Supper is also eaten on the residential houses.

What extra-curricular activities are offered by the school?

Farney Close offers a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for young people whether they are day or residential, providing them with new experiences and challenges that help to enhance their levels of confidence and self-esteem. We have an Enrichment Lead that develops programmes that take place both during the school day (for younger pupils) and during each evening. After school clubs are also offered by our teachers which run for both our day or residential pupils.



There are three fishing lakes within the school grounds and a Forest Schools area. The school also has Archery on site, Mountain Biking, offers the Duke of Edinburgh Award and has a fully equipped Sports Hall. Locally the school uses places such as the Triangle Leisure Centre, the K2 Leisure Centre, Ardingly Reservoir, Hove Lagoon and is affiliated with the West Sussex Youth Club association which offer a variety of diverse activities. The extensive range of activity available to young people can be observed, in part, on the website.

Performing (acting, singing and dancing) The School Choir is also an important part of life at Farney with many young people and staff gaining from the experience of performing to parents, carers and visitors each Christmas.



What level of training do the Staff at Farney Close School have and receive?

All teachers are fully qualified or are pursuing degree and/or Initial Teacher Training. Teachers teach subject specialisms; thus, the standard of teaching is high. Two instructors teach vocational courses.

Care staff are qualified to at least a Diploma Level 3 in Residential Childcare.

All staff receive regular training in a range of areas to support young people including:

- Child protection and safeguarding
- First Aid
- Team Teach
- Health and Safety
- Fire Safety awareness
- a range of training to aid and assist continuing professional development of both the individual and teams.

How does the school identify young people's progress and/or additional needs?

Upon admission, young people pursue an initial screening process to assess current attainment levels and identify any additional difficulties that may affect their learning and social understanding. This assessment provides a baseline from which we measure progress throughout the duration of a young person's stay. This is monitored throughout the year using a range of assessments covering all curriculum areas which confirm young people's progress.

Members of the care team work with the residential young people on a new young person's care plan before moving them onto a more individualised plan which are used to develop individual young persons' independence, skill and social understanding.



The Head of Education, with the support of the Vice Principal and Senior Teacher, manages the education programme. Care matters are managed by the Head of Care.

The therapeutic team provides regular updates on their work with young peoples, informing colleagues about possible emerging issues and reflecting on young peoples' progress through their therapeutic programmes.

How does the school match the curriculum to each young person's individual needs?

Subjects are taught by specialist teachers. All classes that require additional learning support have a teaching assistant.

Classes are small, with a maximum of eight young people per class but typically no more than six. Young people with additional learning difficulties are supported through

programmes devised and delivered by our Dyslexic specialists and our Speech and Language Therapist.

Teachers are able and experienced in making work accessible to all young people. Members of the therapeutic team advise and inform teaching and care colleagues of their work, helping to ensure that teaching strategies can support particular learning styles and attend to potential difficulties before these emerge as barriers to learning.

The school offers a broad and balanced curriculum enabling young people in Key Stages 2 and 3 to access all national curriculum subjects.

In Key Stage 4, young people have a range of options in either academic or skills-based learning. These are taught to GCSE, Entry Level, and/or following a Lazer Skills course.



How does Farney Close ensure that all young people are kept safe?

Safeguarding our young peoples' threads throughout all aspects of life at Farney Close. We have a Safeguarding Team comprising of the Principal as the named Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), the Head of Care and School Social Worker as Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads (DDSL). The Vice Principal, Head of Education, SENCO, School Nurse and Referral and Inclusion Officer who are all also trained to DSL level and are part of the extended safeguarding team. All staff receive regular Safeguarding and Child Protection training. A robust recruitment process is in place and a detailed Safeguarding Policy guides staff in their everyday work with young people.

How does Farney Close promote its young peoples' well-being?

The staff team seeks to encourage young peoples' participation in school life, improve young peoples' access to the curriculum, expand and extend young peoples' ability to learn and encourage young people to feel more positive about themselves as learners and their potential to succeed. If young people experience success, they can improve their confidence and boost their self-esteem.

The school's therapeutic team provides opportunities for young people to consider and reflect upon their circumstances, make and implement plans to bring about change, whilst constantly promoting their wellbeing.



The therapeutic team works hard to maintain a safe and comfortable environment. They look to provide firm and consistent boundaries and they have clear expectations about young peoples' behaviour. They encourage young people to learn to trust responsible adults and respond to good guidance.

There is strong communication between the therapeutic team and the teaching, care and learning support teams.

The School Nurse further enhances the wellbeing provision. We have a well-being centre where the Nurse is based and offers health and welfare attention, advice and care to all young people and members of staff. Beyond this we have a wellbeing team, comprised of adult throughout the school that look at how best to support the wellbeing of children, young people and FCS employees.

Does Farney Close provide for young people in year 12 and 13?

The school has developed a post 16 provision. Students enrol for courses at local FE colleges or learn in the schools post 16 learning area; they receive additional support, advice and supervision from a dedicated Learning Mentor at Farney Close, who accompanies them to college and provides support throughout their period of post-16 provision.

In addition, the school provides opportunities to develop social and communication skills via courses provided by specialists in the field, independent living skills and, where appropriate, work experience. Continuing therapeutic support is made available to our post 16 students.



How does the school prepare young people for moving on from Farney Close?

Young people receive support in their preparation for college or other post-16 destination. Young people making visits to college open evenings within a reasonable geographical distance of the school can be accompanied by Link-Workers or other staff in order to help familiarise them. Young people leaving Farney Close are encouraged to maintain contact and the school will offer support and advice as young people begin to make the transition to young adulthood.

What is the level of accessibility of the school?

The school is located within a 32-acre site, with classrooms and residential Houses spread across the site.

Wheelchair access to the main house enables further access to the school dining room, several meeting rooms and bathrooms which are all situated on the ground floor.

There is no lift to the two upper floors of the main house, which accommodates some of the classrooms but exterior rooms can be access by wheelchair. The vocational building has a lift to enable the first floor to be accessed. The Sports hall and multi-gym is also fully accessible.

Residential unit are all ground floor accommodation and can be accessed via wheelchair although a portable ramp may be required to navigate steps into some of the Houses.

What professional links does Farney Close have?

Farney Close is a member school of the National Association of Special Schools (NASS).



What is the most recent Ofsted outcome?

Farney Close is judged to be Good by an Ofsted Education (October 2022) and Good with outstanding features by Ofsted Social Care (November 2022). The reports are available to read on our website and clearly reflects the journey that we are traveling.

Where can I find further information about Farney Close?

The school maintains a website which is easy supplies all relevant information www.farneyclose.co.uk

Parents, carers, or other people working to support a child, can contact us on 01444 881811 to arrange a visit or to talk to the Principal, Vice Principal, Head of Care or Head of Education.

Anyone with a professional interest in our work are more than welcome to visit the school; please phone or email to make a mutually convenient time to do so.



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