

At Honywood School we have a resourced provision (known as an Autism Support Centre - ASC) for 15 pupils. The ASC supports autistic pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan (where the primary need is Autism) in accessing mainstream school.

What is the Autism Support Centre (ASC)?

Some mainstream schools across Essex have extra support available for pupils with special needs and disabilities. These are called 'Resourced Provisions'. These are not the same as special schools: Resourced Provisions provide a safe space for pupils to overcome their barriers to learning within a mainstream school. The dedicated ASC teams support pupils to build their attendance in mainstream lessons over time. When in the ASC, pupils can access their work and complete timetabled interventions that meet their specific needs.

Across Essex, there are primary Autism Support Centres and secondary Autism Support Centres.

To have a placement in one of the Autism Support Centres a child must have:

- *a diagnosis of autism*
- *a finalised Education Health and Care Plan with autism as the **primary need***
- *The **cognitive ability to access the mainstream academic curriculum** with appropriate support from the autism support centre to overcome their barriers to learning.*

Places within the ASCs are requested when a new plan is being finalised or via the annual review process. All requests are carefully considered by the Essex Autism Panel.

The purpose of the ASC is to ensure that the pupils attending the centre make progress as detailed within their Education Health and Care Plan. The ASC provides resourced support using evidence-based strategies, to enable the pupil to spend increasing amounts of time accessing the classroom and engaging with their peers in a mainstream setting.

Please note that pupils who are currently educated within Honywood School mainstream setting must follow the same process, to ensure equity for all students in the county.

What does a day in the ASC look like for our pupils?

ASC pupils are greeted every morning by the ASC team. Pupils who are not yet able to attend morning class time remain in the ASC to complete structured activities.

Throughout the day, pupils are encouraged to complete their individualised timetables. These visual timetables are created with the pupil's input and are tailored to meet the pupil's particular interests and provisions set out in their EHCP/One Plan. Most pupils will attend core subjects, or complete the work set in the ASC. All pupils have the option to return to the ASC should they become dysregulated- the ASC is a supervised safe space where they can regulate with access to the right resources. To help avoid dysregulation, pupils have timetabled regulation time built into their timetable.

ASC pupils can attend break and lunch time in the ASC. Some pupils prefer to be accompanied to the school dining hall to collect their food. Some use mainstream areas to socialise with their

peers. During social time, pupils are encouraged to engage in Social and Communication activities. Activity stations enable pupils - who may at times struggle to interact with peers - to work in pairs or small groups to complete activities such as card games, jigsaw puzzles and board games.

The amount of time spent in the ASC will vary for each child, depending on their needs. The overall aim is to support each child to overcome any barriers they face in attending the mainstream classroom. Therefore, the amount of time spent in the ASC will reduce overtime, as the child is more able to spend increasing amounts of time in their mainstream classroom.

If you have followed the Admissions application process and you have further enquiries, these must be made directly with the Admissions Service on telephone number: 0345 603 2200.

If you would like to make an appointment to visit or chat about the ASC and discuss its suitability for your child please email admissions@honywoodschool.com stating interest in the ASC.