



SPECIALIST | **COMMUNICATION**
CENTRE | **AND INTERACTION**



School

SET Saxmundham

Specialist Centre

Communication & Interaction (KS3 and KS4) - 18 / 24 students ratio 2:3 (teacher/teaching assistants)

Number of places

18

Address

Seaman Avenue
Saxmundham
Suffolk IP17 1DZ

Email

lsheehan@seckfordeducation.org.uk

Phone

01728 633910

Head of School

Lizzie Girling



SENDCo

Laura Sheehan



Description of Centre

All students will be in receipt of an EHCP.

Within the Communication and Interaction centre we have two structured learning classrooms with breakout rooms available for more 1:1 and small group work. Communication and Interaction students will have access to our sensory gardens and outside space.

All teachers and teaching assistants within the centre come with a wealth of experience working with children with additional needs, and will partake regular training from experts. External experts e.g. speech and language therapists will support any child that requires it.

The specialist centres will follow the Thrive Approach with a strong emphasis on trauma and attachment based learning.

The high staff to student ratio enables support to be personalised offering students every opportunity to learn and succeed.

Overview

Children arrive for 8.50am and go straight to the specialist centre through its own entrance; students have 20 minutes to register, eat breakfast if wanted and prepare for their first structured lesson at 8.50am.

Students will wear the same uniform as the mainstream school but we cater for individual children with high sensitivities to fabric and clothes.

Students will follow a full curriculum with a 'stage not age' approach to allow all students to be successful. All lessons will be 'hooked' around a central theme/topic. Each student's curriculum will be designed to feed directly into the student's end point qualifications. Specialised work will be in place to support students with their post-16 options; this will include support with life skills.

Where appropriate students will join in with their mainstream peers with support from their key person, this could either be 'in person' or virtually. We will be operating a 'two-way door' policy, this means students can be flexible in their access to learning in both the specialist centre and mainstream classrooms. The ethos of the Trust 'each and every student everyday' will be reflected in our approach to supporting students, clear and reasonable expectations will be crafted

around the trusts 6 C's to success. Praise will be an integral part of our school day with a time for reflection at the end of each school day in which students individual successes will be celebrated.

The use of assistive technology is a large part of our approach to supporting our young people. On a Wednesday afternoon the children will take part in enrichment activities alongside all students in the school. Students at the centre will also be included in all school trips as well as our own trips to support learning.

Lunches will be taken in either the mainstream restaurant or the centre depending on the individual needs of the student.

Students will be offered a bespoke curriculum, tailored to both their needs and their interests. The high staff to student ratio enables support to be personalised offering students every opportunity to learn and succeed. The curriculum will cover both the academic content whilst valuing and incorporating the development of life skills. It is our aim to prepare all of our young people for life after school and this will be reflected in our curriculum that will include life skills and PSHE.

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SET Saxmundham Specialist Centre Consultation Summary - February 2021

- **Number of responses: 88**
- **92% in favour of the specialist centres opening at SET Saxmundham**

Commentary

Through the consultation we were asked five main questions and we have responded to these questions below.

Why are you doing this?

- This initiative reflects the Seckford Education Trust's inclusive ethos and will allow students to receive the specialist teaching and support they deserve within their local communities.
- The delivery link with our existing specialist centres at our sister schools means that the work of SET Beccles will be enhanced whilst ensuring that SET Beccles continues to focus on its priorities and improvement and development plans.

Who are you working with?

- Suffolk County Council has undertaken a commissioning process where schools, who were interested in establishing new provision, provided information on how specialist places would be run and supported by the school.

- Schools who were successful in this process, like ours, are currently working with the council to ensure the appropriate infrastructure and support is in place to enable these new centres to be open in September 2021.
- The funding for capital works to our school is being provided by Suffolk County Council.

What does it mean for Teaching and Learning?

- The staffing and delivery of teaching and learning at the new centres will be the responsibility of the Seckford Education Trust.
- All teaching and support posts will be new and additional to the current staffing at SET Beccles.

How does this affect arrangements in the mainstream school?

- The timing of the school day for the centre will be different to that of the mainstream school in order to maximise the experience of students in both settings. Additional transport arrangements will therefore be arranged for students in our centre to facilitate the timings of each school day.

- Trustee and governance arrangements are in place; and the centres will report to the Seckford Education Trust and will be supported by our existing specialist centres at SET Ixworth and SET Maidstone and Causton.

Will you be taking fewer students into Year 7?

- Places in the centres will be in addition to the School's current PAN (Planned Admission Number). This means that there will not be a reduction in the number of places available in the usual admissions round.
- Allocation of specialist places will follow a separate admissions process and will be for students with an education, Health and Care Plan.

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