

Local Offer 2021/22

Moorcroft School

A member of the Eden Academy Trust family of schools

Introduction to the School

Moorcroft School is a secondary school for pupils aged 11-19. We cater for pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties, Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Profound and Multiple Learning difficulties. In September 2021 there are 109 pupils on roll with 11 additional Key Stage 3 pupils educated at Sunshine House Specialist Education Setting.

Headteacher: Andrew Sanders
Eden Academy Trust CEO: Susan Douglas
Moorcroft School, Bramble Close, Uxbridge UB8 3BF
W: www.moorcroftschoo.co.uk
E: info@moorcroftschoo.co.uk
T: 01895 437799

Table of Contents

The purpose of the Local Offer	3
How does a child get a place at Moorcroft School?	3
What type of placement is available at the School?	3
How much support will my child receive?	3
How accessible is the School?	4
What resources are available at the school?	5
How do children travel to the School?	5
What specialist services are available at the School?	5
What will my child learn at the School?	6
Key Stages 3 and 4	6
Our Sensory Learners	6
Sixth Form Students	7
Courses	7
How will I know what progress my child is making at the School?	8
How will my child's health and well-being be supported?	9
What training do staff at the School have?	9
How does the School support families?	9
What activities are available to children outside of the school day?	10
How will the School support my child at times of change?	10
What might my child do when they leave school?	10
Who was consulted about this Local Offer?	11
What can a parent do if they feel that The Local offer is not being delivered or if their child's needs are not being met?	11
How will The Local Offer be reviewed?	11
Who can I contact for further information about the School?	11

The purpose of the Local Offer

The Local Offer has two key purposes:

1. To provide clear, comprehensive, and accessible information about the provision available.
2. To make provision more responsive to local needs and aspirations by directly involving children and young people with SEN, parent carers, and service providers in its development and review.

How does a child get a place at Moorcroft School?

Moorcroft School is based on two sites. The main school is situated on Bramble Close in Uxbridge and the second setting is on Dene Road in Northwood.

Parents are welcome to contact their local authority if they wish to seek a place for their child. The Headteacher invites parents / carers, if they have not already done so, to make a visit to decide whether it provides a suitable placement. The child will also be invited to the school or will be assessed at home by a member of the Senior Leadership Team.

New admissions to our school will have an Education Health Care Plan or be undergoing the statutory process towards such.

All admissions to Eden Academy Trust schools come from the local authority in which the family lives.

Sunshine House

Some Moorcroft School pupils may attend our Sunshine House specialist education setting on a full-time basis. This setting caters for Key Stage 3 pupils who are blind or partially sighted and who have additional complex learning and physical disabilities. If parents or carers feel their child would be suitably placed at Sunshine House, they should raise this when contacting the Headteacher at Moorcroft School.

What type of placement is available at the School?

Most pupils are offered full time placements. We can offer assessment places if a Local Authority wishes to evaluate the appropriate provision for a child. For example, if a Local Authority wishes to secure a placement, when a child's needs are not being met by their current school, then a pupil could be accommodated part-time for a limited period, while an assessment is made.

How much support will my child receive?

All pupils are taught in small class groups with the average class size being eight pupils. Every class is staffed by a teacher and has an average of 4 qualified and experienced Teaching Assistants, depending on class size. This helps to ensure that all pupils receive an appropriate balance of whole class, small-group and individual teaching.

There are three creative therapists on site, who are employed for 80% of the school week. Creative therapy is allocated according to need.

There are 3 Speech and Language Therapists who works for a total of 5 days per week and two Occupation Therapists, who work a total of 6 days per week. The

Occupational Therapist supports pupils with physical and sensory needs.

We have two physiotherapists who support the school for a total of 5 days per week. They implement programmes that are then carried out by classroom staff. We have an educational psychologist who visits the school regularly to support pupils to achieve their best.

Sunshine House

At Sunshine House there is a desired ratio of 7 pupils to 5 staff (1 teacher, 1 Senior TA and 2-3 TAs dependant on needs).

The weekly therapy provision at Sunshine House for 2021/22 consists of:

- 43hrs Physiotherapy (28hrs Physiotherapists, 14 Physiotherapy technicians)
- 20hrs Music Therapy
- 32hrs Speech and Language Therapy (2 Part-time)
- 20hrs OT
- 35hrs Habilitation Specialist

The above are further supported one day a week by a senior TA to help implement strategies or develop new resources to integrate therapy into class-based learning. All therapists, specialists and class teams work closely together to ensure that therapy programmes are embedded into the child's learning

At Sunshine Houses pupils with sensory impairment and additional needs are supported by qualified teachers for visual impairment (QTVI) and qualified teachers for multi-sensory impairment (QTMIS),

The class teacher will ensure that all staff that work with your child enjoy a positive relationship with them and staff will meet regularly to ensure that they are always using consistent and effective approaches in their interactions with your child.

If a child's needs are deemed to be exceptional even within our special school setting the School Leadership Team will ensure that further support is available to them.

How accessible is the School?

Moorcroft School is on one level. It is purpose built and designed for disabled young people. The doors are wide enough for wheelchairs to pass through. When taking part in Food Technology lessons; cookers, sinks and work surfaces can be adjusted to wheelchair level. There are overhead hoists throughout the building, so all pupils can fully engage in learning.

The Moorcroft building is light and spacious, with large well-equipped classrooms and a number of specialist teaching areas. Moorcroft has a large outdoor playground, and there are several, fully secured garden areas.

Sunshine House

At Sunshine House most classrooms are situated on one floor with immediate access to outdoor spaces. There is lift access to other areas of the school. There are additional tactile signage and location markers to support pupils with their orientation given their sight loss. Sunshine House site is also light and spacious with large well-equipped classrooms and a number of specialist teaching areas particularly designed for those children with visual impairment.

Both Moorcroft and Sunshine House sites are safe and secure. Each site has an

entrance system to ensure pupils are safe, and outdoor fences are high.

What resources are available at the school?

ICT provision is excellent. All teaching areas have at least one computer. All computers can be touch operated and are installed with a range of appropriate software to enhance learning. We use “Communicate in Print” to produce resources for pupils. We have 8 interactive plasma screens. These are all touch-operated and can be adjusted to the level of the pupil. Wi-Fi is available throughout Moorcroft and Sunshine House.

Most pupils have access to tablet computers and many of these are loaded with software that enable pupils to develop their communication skills. Some pupils are provided with their own communication devices, following an assessment by the Speech and Language Team. We also provide switch access to enable pupils with multi-sensory needs to communicate better.

At Moorcroft and Sunshine House, pupils with have access to small spaces where they can work quietly and without distraction. ASD pupils at Moorcroft have their own workstations and follow a programme based in the TEACCH (Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication Handicapped Children) system. Classrooms on both sites have shared “quiet rooms” for individual work.

Moorcroft and Sunshine House both have their own hydrotherapy pool. Minibuses are available for community visits. Both sites offer rebound therapy in the school hall.

Moorcroft and Sunshine House also have sensory gardens.

Sunshine House

At Sunshine House site there are curtained dark areas in each classroom which can be used for sensory light work. There is also a sensory theatre and a soft playroom.

How do children travel to the School?

Most of our pupils are eligible for free home to school transport, which is provided by their Local Authority.

Pupils may travel on a mini bus or a taxi with other children from their locality. In addition to a driver, all pupils who travel on home to school transport have an escort who is employed to support the child throughout their journey.

Pupils that live nearer to the School are often brought to School by a parent.

For Hillingdon pupils, further details regarding home to school transport including eligibility can be obtained from School Transport Department on 01895 250008.

What specialist services are available at the School?

A wide number of professionals work across both sites each week to support our pupils’ health and education, these include:

- Speech and Language Therapist
- Physiotherapists
- Occupational Therapist

- School Nurse
- Health Care Worker
- Music and drama therapists
- Specialist teachers for visual impairment and multisensory impairment
- Habitation specialist

In addition to the above, clinics are regularly held in School for pupils and their families, and these include:

- Orthotics clinics
- Wheelchair clinics
- Dietician's clinic
- Dental Clinics
- Medical appointments carried out by Paediatricians and other Consultants
- SeeAbility – clinical visual assessments

A range of other experts are invited into School, these include:

- Musicians
- Artists
- Sports Coaches

What will my child learn at the School?

Key Stages 3 and 4

Key Stage 3 is for pupils from years 7-9 and Key Stage 4 is for pupils in years 10 and 11. The curriculum is personalised to individual pupil needs with the clear aim of taking them on the next step of their learning journey.

Lessons are in English, Maths, Science, Physical Development. As well as Arts, Music, PSHE, RSE, Community, Cooking.

Promoting independence is one of the core aims of the curriculum and giving the opportunity to our pupils to experience the real world. When pupils reach Key Stage 4, there is greater emphasis on developing functional and life skills as well as work experience.

Key stage 4 pupils follow a range of course accredited by AQA©.

Our Sensory Learners

At Moorcroft we have specialist classes for sensory learners. We also have provision for pupils with Key Stage 3 pupils with sensory impairments at the Sunshine House setting. All pupils follow a sensory curriculum. Lessons include a range of activities including sensory exploration, sensory stories, and use of specially adapted technology. Our curriculum strands focus on the development of expressive and receptive skills, problem solving and exploration, skills for learning

and life and body control.

Our pupils also have opportunities to integrate within both the school and the wider community. This takes place through educational visits, weekly assemblies, cross-school curriculum enrichment events and school performance.

Sixth Form Students

At Moorcroft Sixth Form our overall aim is to make our pupils as independent as possible in their own lives. A significant amount of time is spent on Home and Community Skills whilst continuing to ensure pupils reach their personal potential in the core areas of Communication, Literacy and Language. Teaching takes place in modules – some of which are compulsory – but pupils are also to make choices about what they study.

Courses

Sixth Form pupils follow core subjects and can choose to study non-core subjects relevant to their needs. We offer a range of accredited courses in Key Stages 4 and 5. They include, AQA, Asdan and Equals courses.

Sixth Form courses on offer consist of:

1. Core skills
2. Digital Literacy
3. Current affairs
4. Health and fitness
5. Hobbies (chosen by the pupils) – e.g. gardening, cooking, creativity, dance, beauty etc.
6. Enterprise
7. Work experience
8. Work training
9. Social relationships – e.g. link with DASH and other Sixth Forms
10. College links
11. Self-reliance
 - i) home management
 - ii) food preparation
 - iii) looking after myself
 - iv) shopping
 - v) community access – e.g. shopping, eating out etc.
 - vi) travelling

We also run residential trips for our Sixth Form students which give them a chance to be more independent, develop their friendships and try something new.

Sunshine House

The curriculum at Sunshine House covers every opportunity for learning from the during the day. It is designed to support pupils to grow and flourish as confident and inquisitive, life-long learners. It extends beyond the classroom and is evident in each carefully planned environment, the shared and individual daily routines we follow. and the interactions between all pupils and staff around the school grounds. The curriculum is supported by solid VI-friendly approaches and collaborative multi-professional working, our targeted curriculum areas stretch out to provide an

appropriate and balanced breadth of learning experiences, Each pupil will develop in their own way and draw on the strength of different components.

The school uses several different, but similar, curriculum structures that can be adapted to suit a pupil's age, stage of development and pace of learning. These support new pupils whose learning is more explorative and play-based, those who require enhanced consistency and repetition in their activities or those that are working towards independence and more learning out in the local community. Each curriculum area is supported by our team of therapists and specialists who have direct input to target-setting and activity planning, integrating their support into the normal class day where possible.

Aside from focussed, personalised activities, aimed at developing key skills, pupils will encounter a range of topic themes that present a breadth of new and familiar experiences. These are repeated on a two-year cycle, allowing learning to be revisited, ideas extended and familiar themes to be explored in different ways.

How will I know what progress my child is making at the School?

Pupil's progress and achievement at Moorcroft School is recorded and monitored daily and weekly using evaluations in curriculum folders. Annual progress and achievement are reported in 2 ways during the assessment month of June.

- 1) Key Stage 3 & 4 pupils' current standards for English, Maths and Science are assessed during moderated assessment meetings between teachers and specialist staff. Levels are assessed using an assessment system established within the school. Scores are then compared against a range of benchmarks for the key stage to understand who is 'on track' to achieve their target and those who are likely to miss this high expectation. This enables us to ensure appropriate provision is put in place for those whose rate of progress is slower than desired.
- 2) All pupils including sixth formers are also assessed against their personal targets (Learning Aims) These are written by the teacher at the end of the previous year to ensure continuity of teaching across year groups. Pupils' progress against targets is assessed using MAPP (Mapping and Assessing Pupil Progress). In September, each target is base lined, and then a target set to describe 'good' progress on a 1-10 scale, in one or more of the 4 MAPP continuums. In June, pupils' current position on each continuum is recorded by staff working with the pupils, using evidence in pupil's curriculum folders. Achievement for individual pupils is graded as met, exceeded, or not met.
- 3) School leavers will also graduate with a range of accreditation.
- 4) These achievement judgments can then be combined to make a final overall judgment about progress.

Sunshine House

At Sunshine House progress is tracked throughout the year using a range of assessment tools including monitoring of personal targets, developmental skills tracking via Routes for Learning, holistic personal growth using our own Staff Judgements tool and reporting on progress against P-levels.

How will my child's health and well-being be supported?

Children's emotional well-being is paramount to us, and we take great care to ensure that all of our pupils enjoy School and have positive learning experiences throughout their time with us.

Considerable emphasis is put on the teaching of Personal Social and Health Education, and pupils are given many and varied opportunities to enjoy a range of Spiritual Moral Social and Cultural experiences during their time at school.

We aim to support pupils in learning to behave appropriately. We believe that behaviour should be addressed proactively not reactively, and that pupils should be treated as individuals with respect and dignity. We believe that pupils' behaviour will be much improved when they have a high self-esteem and clear communication. It is important that pupils are respected for who they are as well as what they can do, that they are listened to and taken seriously, praised when appropriate and shown, by verbal and appropriate physical contact, that they are liked and valued.

Moorcroft has adopted the philosophy of "Team Teach", a holistic approach that focuses on de-escalation of situations using communication skills, humour, distraction etc... We aim to manage pupils' behaviour through effective communication and by celebrating achievement. There are positive handling plans in place for pupils who are struggling to manage their own behaviour, and these are agreed between the class teams, and parents or carers.

If we have concerns about a child's emotional wellbeing, we will refer them to our multi-professional team once we have discussed these concerns with parents or carers. We will then discuss how best to support the child, which may include a fast-track referral to the Creative Therapy Team or support from our Family Services Team.

What training do staff at the School have?

Our teachers are fully qualified teachers within the school or are on an accredited training programme to achieve qualified teacher status. We have a comprehensive induction package for new staff and offer a wide range of professional training. These training opportunities develop staff skills when working with pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and Multi-sensory Impairments. School and Academy staff, together with outside trainers, deliver the training. All staff receive regular manual handling and Team-Teach training. We have two Team-Teach trainers.

All staff receive at least annual safeguarding training.

We have designated safeguarding leads and duties on both sites

How does the School support families?

We have a dedicated Family Services Team who run After School Club once a week. We also offer holiday clubs during School vacations. We run regular parent coffee mornings or afternoons and offer an annual parenting course.

At Sunshine House the Family Services Team run After School Club twice a week, family swim on Saturdays plus holiday clubs during School holidays and regular parent coffee mornings or afternoons and offer an annual parenting course.

What activities are available to children outside of the school day?

In addition to the above services, the Eden Academy Trust provides other activities such as sibling groups.

How will the School support my child at times of change?

Pupils starting Moorcroft in year 7 undertake a comprehensive transition programme. This involves regular visits to the school during the term before entry. We also meet with professionals from feeder schools to exchange vital information.

Annual Reviews from Year 9 onwards focus on helping families prepare for post 16 and beyond. Most pupils in years 13 and 14 at Moorcroft attend a college link course once a week. Our transition worker provides advice to pupils and parents about options available when they are 19. She can arrange college visits and assessments days, when exploring suitable placements. All school leavers also have access to a wide range of careers advice. Pupils leaving the school have opportunities to visit their future placements during their final year, and we invite service providers to attend our summer parents' evenings.

Sunshine House

For pupils at Sunshine House, we know it is important to maintain a balance of familiar and new at times of change. All transition work is planned around the child to ensure it is delivered at the right pace and in the right way for it to be positive and exciting experience.

Transition into Sunshine House normally starts with a visit to the site with parents, followed by a multi-professional meeting where all information about your child can be shared. We aim to find out what will help your child settle, what will motivate them best, and what they will need to help them do this (i.e. equipment or routines). Ideally parents will spend a half day in class with their child for both to get to know the setting and vice-versa. We will continue to work with your child's other professionals as long as is appropriate to ensure continuity of support. We will then meet with parents after 6 weeks of attendance for a progress review and address any questions or worries.

Transition around a move to another school will be dependent on the needs and abilities of the young person and the setting they are moving on to. Our preference is to host staff from their next setting to see the best of the young person in a familiar environment. This allows us to show their work and current support in action. Next, we will seek to arrange a series of visits to the new setting with our staff, followed by social stories, resources and work back at Sunshine House to help prepare for change.

What might my child do when they leave school?

Most pupils at Moorcroft go on to college placements when they leave at 19.

Sunshine House

Pupils at Sunshine House will move to a new setting when they reach Key Stage 4. In the last few years these pupils have moved to the main Moorcroft site. A transition plan is developed for each child every year as they move classes.

Who was consulted about this Local Offer?

Trustees, members of Moorcroft School's Local Advisory Board, members of Sunshine House's Dene Road Committee, parents and local authorities.

What can a parent do if they feel that The Local offer is not being delivered or if their child's needs are not being met?

Please contact the Headteacher at Moorcroft.

Sunshine House

If your child attends Sunshine House, please contact the Head of Sunshine House.

If you still have concerns you should follow the Trust's complaints procedure, available from the school.

How will The Local Offer be reviewed?

The Local Offer will be formally reviewed and updated on an annual basis each July to ensure that it is relevant for the following school year. Members of the Local Advisory Board, parents and staff will be invited to take part in this process.

Who can I contact for further information about the School?

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the Moorcroft School office on 01895 437799 or email info@moorcroftschoool.co.uk