

SEND Information



There are fifteen members in the SEN team at Maria Fidelis and we all seek to ensure that our pupils feel successful and supported. We feel it is important that the support begins in Year 6 before pupils actually arrive in Year 7 as this helps the transition to secondary school. The key areas of support we provide are listed below.

Support for Vulnerable Pupils Before Joining Maria Fidelis

- Primary school visits and phone calls: these take place from the beginning of summer term and are used to gather useful information from key members of staff at primary.
- Taster classes: additional classes are arranged for the most vulnerable pupils so they can experience how our school works at the different times of the day. We also arrange personalised transition days looking at areas of anxiety.
- Sharing information: we inform primary schools of the pupils' keyworkers and send a photo of them to support the primary school with a transition pupil profile.
- Annual reviews: we attend these at the primary school to share good practice.
- Parent meetings: parents/carers are contacted and invited into the school to help address any concerns before school starts.
- Visual timetables: prepared in advance of pupils starting in September.
- Staff training: teachers given INSET sessions run by support staff in the different areas of need and are given helpful strategies to ensure pupils feel less anxious in lessons when they begin.
- CAMHS link: our CAMHS counsellor at KS3 liaises with the counsellor at KS2.

Support Whilst Attending Maria Fidelis

Once pupils are at our school, we will look closely at specific needs and tailor the support we provide. The list below is not exhaustive, but gives an idea of the support we provide.

- Teaching assistants: teaching assistants are assigned to specific departments enabling them to provide subject-specific support. Pupils may receive support in-class and/or be withdrawn from lessons for individual or small group work.
- Professional Agencies: a number of professionals come in to work with pupils, e.g. Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist.
- Counselling: in addition to CAMHS we have counselling sessions provided through the Catholic Children's Society.
- Break times: targeted vulnerable pupils are given the opportunity to spend their break and lunch time in a supervised room, which was specially renovated for the SEN team.
- Literacy Strategies: teaching assistants will work with pupils using the following programmes: Soundwaves, Rapid Reading, Achieve3000, ELKLAN.
- After-school: pupils are able to receive additional support in homework club three days a week.

If you would like to know more about what we can offer your child, please do speak to a member of the SEND team.