

4. Education Policy

OUTCOME

“The education of children is actively promoted as valuable in itself and as part of their preparation for adulthood”

Amicus sees the child’s learning as an essential part of their individual development and an inseparable part of the holistic, therapeutic living experience. To this end we will provide an education programme that is integrated with the child’s Therapeutic Placement Plan and daily care and treatment programme. An important part of this is to provide or support an education that is appropriate to the child’s developmental stage. Careful attention will be paid to an educational experience that acknowledges emotional development whilst ensuring that intellectual growth is also encouraged

The Amicus School has a HeadTeacher, Deputy Headteacher, Assistant Headteacher, six Teachers, Three Senior Therapeutic Education Practitioners (HLTAs) and seven Therapeutic Education Practitioners who offer a complete education programme at our school. Education is carried out in our offsite DfES registered, fully equipped SEN independent school. It is guided by the National Curriculum and all the children are taught at the key stages appropriate to their level of attainment. Every child is also provided with a full and regularly updated educational assessment.

The decision as to where the child will be educated will only be taken after a full discussion between the Amicus Managers and the Care and Education Team and also those involved with the referral, including where appropriate the child’s parents/carers. Discussion with the child’s past or present educational providers will also be included. The final decision will be based on the child’s needs , group dynamics of the current child group, placement availability and receptiveness of our therapeutic model with both the child and their parents / carers. Part of the referral process to determine suitability into our school is carried out from the referral information and also Amicus carrying out an Assessment Visit.

The eventual aim is to integrate the child back into mainstream school or a less specialist school with appropriate support. At the same time it is vital the child understands that the Amicus School provision is full and complete in itself, different from, but in no way inferior to, external or mainstream provisions. It will be provided on the basis of different needs and not lesser ones.

All of our residential children attend our school. A member of the on duty therapeutic care team will meet formally with the child’s teacher before and after every school day. With our day students, this is done via a weekly phone call and via their home/ school communication book, thus enabling the integration of the child’s education with their daily living experiences. The Teacher will also keep the therapeutic care team and parents /carers well informed of the child’s educational needs and development. This

will aid them to support and help the child with their formal education/homework and any problems around these and support required. It will also help the therapeutic care staff (for our residential children) with the more informal and spontaneous learning and creativity that will be an important part of the culture and life of the homes. Members of the therapeutic care team will remain on duty to provide help in the class where needed and support outside it for those children who are unable to manage within the classroom.

For each child there will be termly internal case reviews. These will include the child's Link Worker, Teacher and the Headteacher. This will not only further the integration of home life and education but allow agreed targets between them to be set and reviewed. The Teacher, Link Worker and child will initially meet weekly to discuss and think about the child's educational experiences and feelings around these.

Where appropriate the child's parents/carers will be regularly informed of the child's educational development. They will also be invited to three end of term open days at the school where they can meet with the Teacher, see the child's work and share in their achievements.

Each of our residential homes has an area set aside specifically for private study and homework. A desk and necessary equipment including art and craft materials will be provided. Books will be available within the homes and the children will have membership to various local libraries. Both houses will have a computer with supervised internet access.

Where the children's education is provided externally, staff will take responsibility for the child's safe transitions to and from the school. An Amicus staff member will always remain on-call. The continued integration between the child's home and school life will also be maintained. For example it is proposed that, with the school's agreement, there will be a regular fortnightly meeting between the child, their Teacher and their Link Worker. Alongside this the Amicus Teacher will be regularly available to meet and discuss the child with the external agencies / network professionals. Amicus will maintain good, open and clear communication with the parents and carers of the children who attend our school. Where needed Amicus therapeutic carers will remain in the school to provide extra support. They will attend, where appropriate accompanied by the child's parents/carers, all relevant school events and meetings which will be recognised as both important and significant to the children.

Reviewed: July 2022

Next review date: July 2023