

## Ocker Hill Academy

### Focus Provision for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder



Opened in September 2017, Ocker Hill Academy's Focus Provision offers 10 places for children with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder. Our newly refurbished provision offers a specialist environment in which children with ASD can thrive. We have a long and proud tradition of children with special needs making outstanding academic and pastoral progress. Our highly trained staff work extremely closely with specialist teachers from the local authority and parents to implement bespoke programmes of work for each child.

### Our Environment

Our focus provision is located, on our academy grounds, adjacent to our main academy building. When our site manager retired in 2017, his on-site house was converted into a specialist environment to specifically meet the needs of children with ASD. Purpose built rooms include flexible classroom space for both individual and small group work, a wet room, shower facilities and a sensory room. The focus provision also has a large garden which has been recently transformed into a wonderful outdoor space for the children. While the environment is ideal for children with ASD, it is always our intention for every child to spend as much time in the mainstream aspect of school as is possible. Every child, with adult support, is encouraged to play as big a role as possible in every aspect school life with their class (academically, socially and trips).



## **Our Staff**

Every member of staff working in the focus provision has a rich history of working with children with ASD. They work extremely closely with specialist teachers from the local authority, our in-house speech and language therapist and SENCo to deliver bespoke programmes of work aimed at supporting both pastoral and academic progress. Most importantly, the staff meet regularly with the parents of children in the focus provision. Parents constantly provide invaluable support to staff on how to get the best out of their children.

## **How to gain a place in the Focus Provision**

Children must have a formal diagnosis of Autism and an Education and Health Care Plan to be considered for a place. The first step is to discuss your child's placement with their current school. If you feel that a focus provision place may be appropriate, discussing the placement at your child's annual review is the next step. During the annual review, agencies will discuss provision, and if appropriate a request for a focus provision place can be made through the annual review or Education and Health Care Plan assessment to Sandwell SEN. This will then go to resource panel who will review the request against their banding criteria for specialist provision. They will then decide whether they can offer a Focus Provision Place. If the place is granted, parents, schools and external agencies will liaise to provide a transition plan that meets the needs of each individual child.

## **What Ofsted has to say about us...**

*“Disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs concentrate very well in lessons and make excellent progress. This is because of the personal help they receive from well qualified adults that provide them with small but highly challenging steps forward in their learning.”*

*“Teaching assistants make a very positive contribution to learning, especially for disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs. Their expert knowledge of the needs of these pupils means that intervention and support sessions are skilfully shaped according to pupils' different abilities, to promote high achievement.”*

*“Leaders have a very clear commitment to combating discrimination and promoting equal opportunities. This is shown in the outstanding progress made by all groups of pupils, from all backgrounds. The school fosters excellent relationships with outside agencies and other schools to improve pupils' life chances even more.”*