



Brief Description

Oysters is specifically designed resource base provision to support the learning of children who have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder as their primary need. Oysters provision is situated within Joy Lane Primary and Nursery School in Whitstable.

Our 28-place provision has been designed and built to provide both a dedicated learning area while encouraging full access to the mainstream school and the National Curriculum. Our programmes, devised to include specific targets, are monitored and modified to meet the individual needs of each child.

Strong emphasis is placed on good home/school liaison and the positive impact of including children with special educational needs as part of the whole school community. We view every child at our school as a member of the Joy Lane family.

Eligibility Criteria

In order to be considered for admission at Joy Lane, children must:

- have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) or be undergoing a formal assessment-formerly known as a Statement of Special Educational Needs.
- have a diagnosis and Primary need of ASD.
- be within the normal range of average ability.
- have the ability to communicate verbally without full reliance on communication aids, although children may still need support and programmes devised by a Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) and delivered by trained support staff.
- be able to integrate for 50% of the school day.

Admission will not be agreed if:

- the agreed number of funded places by the Local Authority are fully subscribed so that admitting children over this number would be incompatible with the provision of efficient education or the efficient use of resources.
- there is insufficient evidence of a clear diagnosis of Autism. e.g. where it is reported 'there are autistic traits'.
- there is evidence of moderate, severe or complex learning difficulties in addition to Autism.
- the admission of a pupil would compromise the health and safety of the pupils and/ or staff within the provision or would compromise or disrupt the education of pupils already in attendance.
- It should also be noted that siblings are not automatically admitted.

Specialist Support Offered may include:

Access to a Speech and Language Therapist
Staff experienced with supporting learning of ASD children
Access to support from the Education Psychologist
TEACCH approach
Visual support
Social Skills training
Life skills programme
Access to individual intervention support
Positive Behaviour Management system that is also used in the Mainstream School
Access to Parent Support Group
Individual workstations and timetables
Specifically devised programmes of study where appropriate and designed to meet individual needs
Access to Sensory Circuits

Referrals for Admission

All referrals are directed to the school through the Local Authority, who commission the school places and will be reviewed by the admissions team prior to further communication. All referrals sent to Oysters are considered by the Inclusion Manager in liaison with the Senior Leadership Team. Where it is felt Oysters is potentially the right placement for a child, parents will be invited to visit the school. This will then be followed by an observation of the child in their current setting before a final decision is made.

