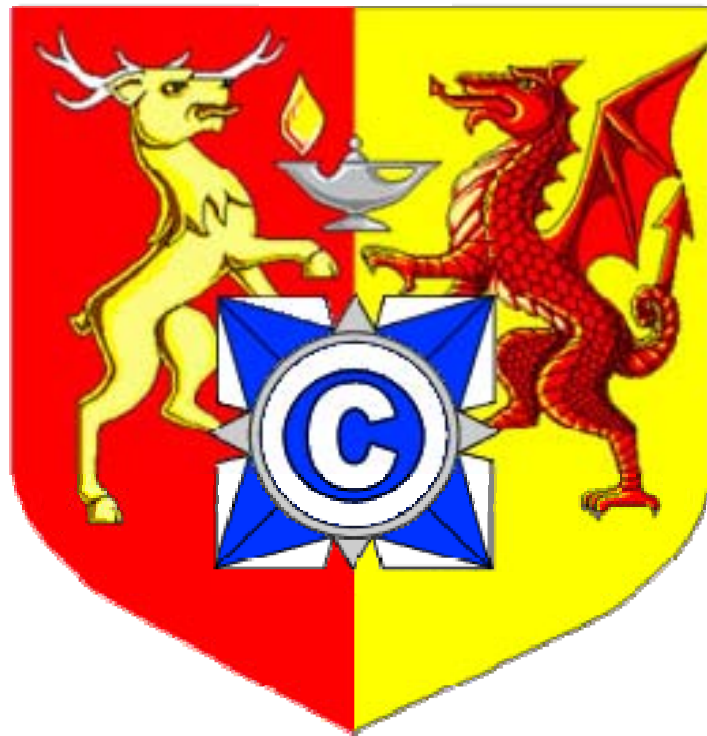




A parents guide to Cantonian's ASC Access Base



“ The best from each, success for all ”



Welcome:

Thank you for the interest you have shown in our Access base.

Cantonian High School is a true community school. We feel that one of our strengths is that we value each pupil as an individual.

In our 2011 Estyn Inspection, the quality of the provision was highly praised.

“Pupils with an Autism Spectrum disorder are supported very successfully in the Access base. They are an integral part of the school. Teachers and support staff are particularly enthusiastic in these bases. The quality and extent of this provision is at the forefront of the sector in terms of its impact on improving learning and social skills. The Access base has been recognised by the local authority as a model of excellence for other schools.”

Estyn 2011

The Access base team:

Leader of the ASC Base - Mrs Debbie Oliver

Specialist ASC Teacher - Mr Andrew Griffiths

Teaching Assistants:

Mr Darren Routley

Mrs Yuko Harris

Mr Dave Davies

Mrs Sandhya Rathod

Ms Tina James

Mr G Cadwaladr

Contact Number: 029 2041 5250 ext 219



Access base classroom



Aims of the Access Base:

- To provide a base that is safe and secure to meet the needs of the pupils.
- To offer a supported curriculum that meets the needs of individual pupils.
- To aid the child's understanding of their difficulties by following programmes of study that deal with these issues.
- To offer the pupils every opportunity to gain social contact, experience and shared learning with their peers throughout the school.
- To work with parents and other professionals as a partnership in the best interests of the pupils.

“Pastoral support to pupils is an outstanding feature of the school.”

Estyn 2011

Transition from Primary to Secondary school:

When the LEA has officially informed the primary school that there is a place at the Access Base, the following transition will take place.

- A member of staff from the Access Base will visit your child at their current school at the beginning of the Summer Term to get to know them and to talk to them about secondary school.
- Supervised visits will then be arranged for your child to visit the school and the Access Base. These can be flexible to meet the needs of your child. Some pupils prefer to visit on a number of occasions to ease their transition.
- You will be invited to the Access Base before the end of the Summer term for a coffee morning when any concerns can be discussed.



How does the Access Base operate on a day to day basis:

During the first few weeks of term, your child will be assessed using WRAT reading, spelling, comprehension and numeracy within the base. They will then have an individual timetable which outlines how much time they spend in the Access base and in mainstream classes. This is a personalised timetable based as far as possible on what is suitable for each individual pupil.

The time in the Access base can be spent in a number of ways. It will be spent on social communication, independent skills, literacy skills or on differentiated tasks completed one to one.

“The Access base has been recognised by the local authority as a model of excellence for other schools.”

Estyn 2011

During the Autumn term, your child will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) setting out their targets. This IEP is discussed and agreed by the pupil and yourselves. When finalised, these get issued to all staff. Where necessary, a pupil will have a Behaviour Management Plan (BMP) issued and in some cases, a Pastoral Support Plan (PSP). At some point during the year, an annual review will be organised to review their statement of special educational needs.



PSHE day activity



Independent Skills:

Independent skills in school will address basic life skills such as making a snack, a cup of tea, washing up, using the phone or going on a message.

In addition, we are establishing links with the local community. We run additional life skills sessions where we make simple meals. As part of this, we go shopping to the local supermarket where the pupils are encouraged to navigate their way around to buy the items needed for their meal. They are then guided on how to use the self checkout. This teaches them how to follow instructions and how to handle cash.



Independent skills lesson

Social Skills:

All pupils in the base receive a social skills lesson once a week. These lessons are tailored to meet the needs of the individuals. The sessions aim to develop their understanding of topics such as emotions, friendship, making choices, appropriate behaviour etc. They are fun, interactive sessions run as a whole group or as individual session dependent on need.



Social skills lessons





Lunch and break times:

At lunch and break times, your child is welcome to come to the Access Base. We have facilities to enable them to bring their packed lunch in. If they prefer to eat from the canteen, they can bring their lunch back to eat in the base.

If your child wishes to go outside, they are free to do so.

Homework:

Your child will be given homework by class teachers. Staff in the Access base will offer support during allocated times in the base to do some of their homework. The amount that is sent home can be decided between us when your child starts school. It can also be reviewed regularly.



Pupil completing homework

Communication:

There are a number of ways in which you can communicate with us. You can contact Debbie Oliver or Andrew Griffiths on 029 2041 5251 Ext 219 or via e-mail on dol@cantonian.cardiff.sch.uk or Andrew Griffiths on acg@cantonian.cardiff.sch.uk.

It is very important that we communicate regularly. If there is anything that you feel we need to tell us, please do!

Travel to and from school:

Most of the Access Base pupils arrive and leave by taxi. When they first start at Cantonian, there will be a member of staff available to meet them from their taxi in the morning and show them to their base and there are always staff on hand to escort them to their taxis at the end of the day.

“The school provides a high level of support for its pupils”

Estyn 2011



Physical Education:

The pupils in the Access Base will have timetabled PE sessions in the mainstream. However, in addition, we have begun to run our own fitness programmes in the base and outside school.

On Monday morning, Mrs Rathod (a TA in the base) runs a registration Yoga session. This lasts for 20 minutes. On Thursdays and Fridays during registration, we run a Sensory programme, which helps them to develop their motor skills. This activity was recommended by Occupational Therapy to help reduce anxiety and prepare the pupils for the day ahead.



Access base fitness programme

School Trips:

We aim to run trips as often as we can from the Access Base. So far our trips have included going to West Midlands Safari Park, a boat ride in Cardiff Bay and our first, very successful, overnight stay at Storey Arms, Brecon Beacons where we undertook a range of activities including Gorge walking, Kayaking and Hiking.

In addition, the pupils are welcome to join the rest of the school on visits which include trips to Paris, skiing, Storey Arms and many more.



Kayaking at Storey Arms



Additional photographs:



PSHE day activity



Chill out room



Rock climbing



Additional PE lessons



Independent travel training



Storey Arms 2011