

SEND Information Report (updated Autumn 2025)



This SEND Information Report is for parent carers to understand what the school provides and how we support pupils and their families. It provides context to inform your choices if you are considering a special school for your child. The report is updated annually to reflect changes and plans within the school's provision.

What are the kinds of special educational needs for which provision is made at Westfield Arts College?

Westfield is a maintained day special school for children aged 4-19 years. The primary area of need for our pupils is cognition and learning, with learners identified as having Moderate Learning Difficulties. Children are provided with an appropriately paced and differentiated curriculum to enable them to be successful and make good progress according to their level of need. Admissions to the school are described in the admissions section on our website:

<https://westfield.dorset.sch.uk/admissions/>



At Westfield Arts College the pupil's identified needs are Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) or complex in the area of cognition and learning as described in the SEN Code of Practice. (Westfield does not have provision for children identified as having Severe Learning Difficulties or Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulties). Pupils may also have associated needs in the areas of social, emotional and mental health and communication and interaction (Autistic Spectrum Condition and/or speech and language difficulties). In addition pupils may have sensory or physical difficulties or medical needs.

We have a commitment to high quality educational provision for all our pupils, and our vision is 'Broadening Horizons' with an aim to give every child the best possible experience.

What are the school's policies for the identification and assessment of pupils/students attending the school?

All pupils who attend the school will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This will involve reports from a multi-agency team. Further assessments can be requested as necessary, such as Educational Psychologist, Speech and Language or Sensory assessments. Once a pupil is admitted, we have an annual review of their EHCP to ensure that any changing needs are identified and met successfully.

What is the provision for pupils/students at Westfield Arts College and how is it evaluated?

All pupils/students attending Westfield will have an EHC Plan. Very occasionally, there may be agreement with the Local Authority that a child or young person is placed pending the outcome of an assessment for an EHC Plan. Associated policies in this area are accessible on our website. <https://westfield.dorset.sch.uk/policies/>

Our 'Broadening Horizons' provision is based on strong aims and values:

1. To offer each of our pupils an exciting, well balanced curriculum and outstanding opportunities that support them to achieve their full potential.
2. To provide a safe and happy learning environment in which our pupils grow into confident, independent young people with the skills they need to make a positive contribution to society.
3. To hold the pupil at the centre of everything we do by working in close partnership with them, parents and carers, external agencies and the community beyond the school.
4. To maintain and further develop a superb staff and governor team that is able to offer our pupils education and care of the highest quality.

To achieve our vision we aim to:

- Create a happy and secure learning environment where all pupils' needs are met and where achievements and success are recognised and praised.
- Ensure that the National Curriculum is delivered to all pupils at a level adapted and modified according to their needs.
- Ensure that ICT is an essential tool to access and enhance the curriculum and communication for pupils.
- Ensure that our safeguarding procedures and online safety are paramount in keeping all members of the school community safe.
- Provide all staff with training and development opportunities to enable effective practice.
- Promote the pupils' spiritual, physical and emotional well-being so that they are secure, confident and well-motivated.
- Help pupils acquire the knowledge, skills and confidence which enable them to lead full, interesting and independent lives.
- Identify and encourage key skills for their personal development.
- Develop in pupils their personal responsibility and encourage decision making and choice, communicating through whatever means appropriate.
- Provide a wide range of age-appropriate learning experiences which are both exciting and challenging.
- Offer opportunities of working co-operatively alongside others, developing friendships and respect for others.
- Provide pupils with experiences of their own and other religious and cultural backgrounds and values.
- Foster relationships with parents and other professionals.



Further details of all areas of our school curriculum and assessment processes can be found on our website. <https://westfield.dorset.sch.uk/curriculum/>



Pupil's EHCP outcomes are tracked and assessed through our Personal Learning Goals (PLGs), a pupil-centred document which follows their learning journey through the school. This information is stored using our assessment software, Evidence for Learning (EFL).

We continue to develop different aspects of our provision through our College Improvement Plan which is published annually. We liaise with our parent carers and pupils to gather their views on developing our school provision. Progress towards the plan is regularly communicated to our school Governors and it is evaluated at the end of the year. This is then shared with parent carers via a Governors report for them.

College Improvement Plan: <https://westfield.dorset.sch.uk/college-improvement-plan/>

Governors' Annual Report to Parent Carers: <https://westfield.dorset.sch.uk/governors-annual-report/>

The school contact details are on the website and you will be able to contact a member of the senior leadership team or your child's class teacher via the school office.

<https://westfield.dorset.sch.uk/contact-us/>

Staffing levels are enhanced so that pupils are usually taught in classes of up to 12 with a teacher and at least one teaching assistant and an appropriate number of additional teaching assistants to meet the needs of the class group. Key Stage 1 classes are small to support pupils with their independence skills. Classes where the needs of pupils are more complex are also smaller. Some classes have between 10 and 15 pupils, but these pupils are generally older and can work more co-operatively and independently.

The school receives advice from a range of health professionals in order to meet the needs of the students as assessed by the appropriate professionals. We employ a speech and language therapist, and other therapists work with identified pupils in the school depending upon their needs.

What training do staff have in relation to the needs of pupils/students at Westfield?

All staff have clear job descriptions which detail the required qualifications for each post in school. All staff have a core training programme related to their work as a teaching assistant, senior teaching assistant or teacher – details of this are in our SEND Policy. Training is specifically related to the needs of pupils in our school and also as required by statutory guidance. Early Career (newly qualified) Teachers starting with us have a training programme to support their work.

Other staff gain a range of certificates and qualifications dependent upon the training that they access through the support of the school.

All staff have training in particular areas of SEND practice, including Autistic Spectrum Conditions, attachment and mental health. We have a



specialist team of staff for Pupil and Parent Support (PaPS), and they work individually with pupils and parent carers when this support is required. They also support with the transition of pupils into Westfield and every pupil is linked to a member of the PaPS team.

We follow a therapeutic approach to supporting all pupils to manage their behaviour and emotions which is called Therapeutic Thinking (formerly known as Dorset Steps). All staff are regularly trained in this approach and it is used in all the Dorset Council special schools.

<https://westfield.dorset.sch.uk/therapeutic-thinking/>

How will equipment and facilities be provided to support pupils/students at Westfield?

Westfield Arts College is purpose built and accessible. Our Accessibility Plan identifies ways in which we can continue to improve access for all pupils. Our website has pictures of different areas of the school for families to see what the facilities are like. We are continually reviewing and updating our equipment – as a result existing resources will be developed and new resources purchased. We review and enhance curriculum resources in response to the National Curriculum and to the changing needs of pupils.



We are fortunate to have a range of subject specific curriculum resource areas including Design Technology, ICT, Art, Science, Music, Drama and PE. We have a large sports hall. Our provision in Arts, Sports and Outdoor Education is especially strong, complementing the core curriculum offer and providing our pupils with a wealth of experiences and opportunities.

All parents and families visit the school prior to their child or young person attending the school.

What are the arrangements for consulting parents of children/young people at Westfield and involving them in the education of their child?

At Westfield, parents are included in the process of supporting with their child's education, personal development and preparation for adulthood. This includes:

- Initial visits to school
- Introductory meetings and a transition programme
- Daily home/school book for information exchanges and key messages
- Parent carer and teacher meetings including updates from other professionals
- Annual Review meeting and report for the review of the EHCP
- Parent workshops and training
- Coffee mornings
- Parental Representation on Governing Body
- Parent involvement in changes in school through informal and formal consultations
- We conduct a parent carer survey to gather views and consult with them to develop our College Improvement Plan.

What are the arrangements for consulting young people at Westfield about, and involving them in, their education?

All children and young people in our school are treated with dignity and respect. There is full personalisation for the curriculum for each pupil in order that they can access and experience success throughout their school life.

All pupils have a One Page Profile which is their personal document describing what is important to them and how they like to be supported. We use person-centred approaches in all our work.

The Student Voice (school council) enables students to contribute to aspects of school life relating to their needs. There is representation from Primary and Secondary pupils on the Student Voice.

The assessment and annual review process of EHC Plans includes the choices and views of the pupil.

What are the arrangements for school transport?

Many of our pupils are from the local areas but a significant number travel further from other parts of Dorset. Most pupils come to school on school transport provided by Dorset Council, but some are brought by parent carers. Once your child is offered a place at Westfield your SEND Provision Lead at Dorset Council will let you know about the options for school transport and how you apply.

What are the arrangements made by the governing body for dealing with complaints from parents/carers of pupils/students in relation to the provision made at Westfield?

The school's complaints procedure is available on the website. Complaints are investigated fully and efficiently in order to find appropriate solutions.

How does the governing body involve others – including health, social services, local authority services and voluntary organisations – in meeting the needs of pupils/students at Westfield and in supporting their families?

Westfield receives multi-agency support from the following:

- Speech and Language Therapist
- Occupational Therapist
- CAMHS Learning Disability team (Swifts)
- Physiotherapist
- Hearing and Visual Impairment services
- Sensory Inclusion Service
- Mental Health in Schools Team
- School Transport
- Social Care

What are the school's arrangements for supporting pupils/students in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for adulthood?

All transitions are carefully planned as students move from class to class and phase to phase. Parent carers have the opportunity to meet the new teacher and class staff. A section of our website is

dedicated to transition, including a welcome video and tour of the school:
<https://westfield.dorset.sch.uk/joining-westfield/>

Students are increasingly supported in planning for their transition from school to adult life. We work with a trained careers advisor to support pupils from Key Stage 4 with their transition to Sixth Form, college, further training or employment. They work with pupils in school to advise both students and parent carers on what is available after leaving Westfield. Preparation for adulthood is a strong and important feature in Key Stage 4 and Sixth Form, but work starts when pupils are much younger. Careers and transition information is available on our website:
<https://westfield.dorset.sch.uk/careers/>



We offer Post 16 provision for up to 40 students in our Sixth Form, which is based on the school site. We have an additional Sixth Form facility based at Dorset Council offices in Dorchester, Westfield@Work, which supports work experience and placements for some students.

Where is the information on Dorset's local offer published?

There is further detail of Dorset's Local Offer for Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and for their families on the Dorset Council website – [Dorset Council Local Offer](#)

If you have any queries or requests for policies or information relating to this report please contact the School Office on 01305 833518 or office@westfield.dorset.sch.uk.

