

ASD/SCD Base “Devereux Base”

Opens October 2018

Information Sheet



**St John
Bosco
College**

*From October 2018 SJBC will provide a targeted specialist resource base provision for young people who have an EHCP specifying ASD or Social Communication Disorder needs as a prime need **and** who have complex mental health needs including high levels of anxiety, eating disorders, phobias or self-harming behaviours. The strong, caring and inclusive ethos of our Catholic school as well as its relatively small size will provide robust pastoral care and support for students with such needs. This fits into the schools wider vision in terms of inclusivity, pastoral care and working closely with the local Wandsworth community.*

Although the Devereux Centre curriculum will be delivered largely in 1-1 or small group settings, young people will have the learning potential to follow a broadly age appropriate curriculum. It is intended that these young people, with significant adjustments over time, will be able to access aspects of a mainstream school environment with additional specialist support.

General Overview

The Devereux Centre will offer up to 7 high needs places (with a maximum of 2% per year group cohort) in addition to the 25 current planned Savio places. These places will be for secondary age students (KS3-5).

Target Outcomes:

- To prepare young people with an EHCP specifying ASD or Social Communication Disorder needs as a prime need *and* who have complex mental health needs to achieve their academic best, and to learn skills to enable them to live safe, happy independent lives in the future.
- To enable progress over time (academic, social and emotional) for the young people in the base, where they are able to make transition onto further education or training as well as living an independent life.
- Commitment to and provision of regular CPD for staff to meet identified training needs.
- To provide support to parents and put them in touch with appropriate services such as parent champions from FIS, Family Recovery Project, CAMHS and other external agencies.
- To work towards transition to the Savio Resource Base and increasing mainstream access over time eventually with appropriate adjustments and support .

Service/model offer

- 1) Academic provision
 - a. Personalised, differentiated curriculum including the option to have a reduced number of subjects.
 - b. Access to 1:1 and small group teaching delivered by qualified teachers with experience in working with young people with additional needs, working alongside a dedicated team of specialist professionals.

- c. A dedicated small, safe and secure environment with separate external and social space for young people in the Resource base as well as dedicated teaching and therapy areas.
- d. Support throughout the day from specialist staff, including the Lead teacher, and TAs with additional training.
- e. Access to Careers advice at educational transition points.
- f. Providing homework support to support young people in their progress and learning.

2) Mental health and emotional well-being support integrated within the timetable

- a. The Devereux base provides a highly personalised wrap around support for each young person that will consider both the mental health, emotional and academic needs of the young person. This will be supported through involvement with the identified school link EP/ mental health professional as required; speech and language therapy input; OT programme to support sensory, emotional and behaviour regulation.
- b. The Devereux base is led by a Qualified Teacher with additional SEN training and experience. Support staff have additional training such as Elklan, ASD specific training and Emotional literacy training.
- c. Devereux Students have a separate, purposely designed area, with a separate entrance that gives access to the main Savio Base and the mainstream school yet is self contained enough to allow young people who struggle with a school environment to have lessons in a small setting away from the main corridors. This base area has a separate outside space, social area and dedicated therapy and teaching areas. There is also a low-stimulus time out room.
- d. All young people are fully assessed both in terms of ASD/SCD needs and in terms of emotional wellbeing, safety and resilience. Each young person has a personalised risk assessment and care plan that will work towards EHCP objectives.
- e. Each young person admitted into the base has a key worker and the support is provided for parents and for the young people.
- f. There are break and lunch activities provided in a small structured environment. Young people are able to, if they wish and if parents and professionals agree, to access social time in the Savio Base when ready for this.
- g. The Devereux Base provides complimentary support programs such as Friends for Life Groups, Yoga and Therapeutic Play to build emotional resilience and personal well-being.

3) Therapy input –Individual therapy for each young person will be offered in line with their EHCP and in negotiation with the multi agency team

- a. The role of Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT) includes:
 - Identifying communication and interaction needs of the young people
 - Maximising opportunities for individuals to develop their receptive and expressive communication skills.
 - Helping young people develop their social communication skills.
 - Developing awareness of social, emotional and mental health and wellbeing and the role communication plays in this.
- b. The role of the Education Psychologists includes:

- Consultation, assessment and attendance at TAC meetings
 - Person-centred planning approaches such as PATH, Circle of Adults
 - Tailored individual/group interventions for developing social/emotional well being including promoting resilience, managing anxiety, promoting positive self-perceptions.
 - Therapeutic interventions including CBT, Narrative Approaches and Therapeutic Play.
 - Manualised, evidence-based interventions such as Friends for Life and Circle of Friends interventions
 - Reflective supervision to school staff (reflective space)
- c. The role of the primary mental health workers includes:
- Therapeutic work with parents or children - This could be brief packages of support up to 6 sessions or longer term work.
 - CBT or other individualised therapeutic work to support with management of anxiety, low mood etc.
 - Workshops for parents or staff on self harm, anxiety/worry, attachment, eating disorders etc.
 - Drop in clinics for parents and young people to discuss issues individually.
 - Groups for young people e.g. To support emotional regulation.

4) Holistic approach

- a. The Devereux base provides person-centred planning with highly personalised wrap around support for each student (1:1/ group sessions) that considers both the mental health, emotional and academic needs of the child.
- b. The Devereux Base works towards establishing strong home –school liaison with parent support. It provides open doors to parents so they can come and speak to us about anything concerning them in addition to termly calendar dates for drop in sessions to keep parents updated and informed about their child's progress and plan ahead. It provides support for parents through termly newsletters updating them of any news relating to Autism and speech and language events.
- c. The base facilitates multi-agency working through half termly multi professional reviews (Liaising with relevant professionals: SALT, School nurse, behaviour support team, Wandsworth literacy support service, EP, CAMHS, Catch 22, Connexions and others) to ensure our young people's needs are taken into account and relevant assessments and support put in place.
- d. If required, Devereux students and their families would also have access to educational professionals from the Wandsworth Home Hospital tuition service project for vulnerable young people with mental health needs. They would support parents and school professionals to support gradual transition into Devereux over time.
- e. Staff from the Devereux Base lead EHCP Annual reviews, host and chair TAC meetings and provide support to our parents. Staff attend transition meetings, primary TAC's and EHCP annual reviews to support transition from primary/other educational settings to SJBC and from SJBC to further education and/ or apprenticeship opportunities.
- f. The Devereux Base provides OT assessment and support where required to help young people achieve their EHCP outcomes.
- g. The Devereux Base provides support and guidance in helping young people at transition points.

- h. The Devereux Base facilitates reduced or bespoke timetables for young people who cannot manage full time mainstream lessons through the provision of small group teaching with subject specialist teachers.
- i. Devereux Students have access to the main Savio Base and to the support it provides.

The Devereux base is not suitable for:

- a) Young people who do not have a EHCP specifying a diagnosis of autism or a social communication disorder as a prime area of need
- b) Young people who with significant adjustments would not be able to access aspects of a mainstream environment despite high levels of differentiation over time (both in terms of academic ability, emotional well-being and behaviour)

Equality Issues

The Resource Base supports the whole school mission statement and provides equal opportunities to all members of its base. The staff are committed to providing students with support and ensure that they are fully included in other areas of the school. The resource base supports young people with personalised support to overcome barriers to learning, it ensures that school make reasonable adjustments so our students are able to access learning and reach their full potential and comply with the school and the LA's policies and the wider legislation in the SEND Code of Practice.

Sean Devereux



Sean Devereux (25 November 1964 - 2 January 1993) was an English Salesian missionary and aid worker murdered in Kismayo, Somalia in 1993 while working for UNICEF. He has since become an important role model and inspiration for the Salesian family. Sean, who died at the age of 28, was a pupil at our sister school in Farnborough and teacher at our sister school in Chertsey before he went to Africa to work in the Salesian missions in Liberia.

Sean's life was dedicated to helping others and his motto "While my heart beats, I have to do what I think I can do – and that is to help those that are less fortunate" serves as a reminder to our school community about the value of service and compassion.

We have named the new base in honour of Sean in keeping with our tradition of naming our learning support provision after individuals who embody the Salesian ethos (St Francis of Sales, St Dominic Savio)