

Education at Family Care Associates



family care associates

Family Care Associates operates a fully registered and inspected education service for young people at Access School (Dfes number 893/6096), Harmer Hill, on the outskirts of Shrewsbury. The school is registered as a day special school for 16 pupils and delivers the National Curriculum (NC) at KS2 / KS3 and WJEC Entry Level Awards at KS4. The school is registered as an examination centre (No. 29205) and can cater for students up to GCSE level.

Given the small numbers of pupils and a large professional, well qualified, teaching team we can offer an excellent pupil teacher ratio of 2:1 in class sizes that are no greater than 4. This also allows us to give individual teaching time when required

As a school we recognise that young people referred will have had disrupted educational experiences, which may have been compounded by disruption in their care placements. Nevertheless given that every young person deserves positive and successful experiences within education we aspire to embracing the Every Child Matters agenda. and this is reflected in our Mission and Vision Statements

Mission Statement

To achieve excellence in teaching, care and support to ensure realistic educational progress, opportunities and life chances.

Vision

For Family Care Associates education service to provide an environment where a young person's education is valued and the young person is enabled to achieve their full potential

How do we achieve this?

Family Care Associates provide a comprehensive service that covers mainstream education, assessment and longer-term education using a committed professional staff team, helping young people develop in all avenues of their education, as is their right.

What Ofsted said:

Please see inspection report which can be viewed at

http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/reports/pdf/?inspectionNumber=109292&providerCategoryID=32768&fileName=\\school\132\s163_132772_20070322.pdf

School Environment

The school occupies a 23 acre site set in working agricultural land. There are four classroom blocks, main offices with provision for cooking, large poly-tunnel, storage facilities, car park, small hard play area and gardens. The grounds are used for sports and recreation with a large fenced small holding area – operated under the guidance of our Horticulture Instructor Outdoor education forms a major part of the school's philosophy and the curriculum offers horticultural activities, (WJEC Land studies for Year 10/11), small animal husbandry, a well resourced, risk assessed and taught outdoor pursuits programme and regular off site visits to complement the taught curriculum. We believe that for young people with poor educational experiences and low self esteem that achievement through practical activities has a beneficial effect when attempting more academic tasks.

External Links

Connexions- Access School has formed an excellent link with the local Connexions service and has a dedicated worker for young people in Years 9/10/11 who provides regular advice to young people throughout the school year and to staff by her regular attendance at staff meetings and young peoples reviews on young people.

College- The school has good links with Telford and Wrekin and Walford Colleges which has formed part of the transition plan for a number of our pupils. Access School has also forged links with Nova training in Telford for vehicle maintenance courses in Year 10/11

Local Authority- The school has strong links with Shropshire Children and Young Peoples Services (who have frequently referred young people to our school and with Telford and Wrekin and their associated educational services. This has enabled the school, to assist young people with special educational needs who should have been in receipt of a statement, to follow the Code of Practice with the statementing process and ensure that Statutory reviews are attended by those authorities holding the statement.

Results

A main aim of the school and the education service is to return young people to mainstream education wherever possible where their care plan indicates that this is desirable. In this the service has been successful with 39% of all pupils placed eventually attending mainstream school or college placements over the last five years. Of those who have gone on to sit GCSE's the results have been exceptionally good

The school has entered young people for the NC SAT in Year 6 and Year 9 since 2002 when the cohort has young people in this age group. Of the young people entered since 2002 at KS2 33% of marks were level 4 (national standard) in English Maths and Science with the remaining 66% at level 3 and at KS3 75% of marks were level 4 with 8% level 2, 8% level 3 and 8% level 5.

For all of those young people who have undertaken such assessments this is first occasion they have been entered for national tests which we see as being a major achievement in itself.

As we continue to develop our services we are pleased to state that in the academic year ending in July 2008 we have for the first time submitted candidates for Entry Level examinations.

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