

Autism Accreditation Commendation application form.

Nominee's Details

Name of Service	St Anne's school and Sixth form College
Parent Organisation	Friends of St Anne's.
Contact name	Christine Lee
Contact email	Chris.lee@stannes.eriding.net
Contact tel. number	01482667379
Accreditation date	August 8 th 2017

Name and contact details of person submitting entry

If your nomination is shortlisted we will use these contact details to let you know and ask for more information if needed.

Full Name	Christine Lee
Job Title	Assistant Head of Lower School
Organisation	St Anne's school and Sixth Form College.
Address	St Helens Drive Welton
Postcode	Hu151NR
Email	chris.lee@stannes.eriding.net
Tel number	01482667379

Outline of area to be considered for commendation

Standard E19 (Residential E18)

Each autistic student is enabled to make a meaningful contribution to both the school (and residential) and the wider community.

The school has an established set of links to the outside community, and intends to expand them further.

Please see enclosed list of community links.

Submission

Summary:

St. Anne's School is an all age (2-19) LA maintained Special School catering for pupils with severe learning difficulties (SLD), profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) and autistic spectrum disorders (ASD) and complex learning difficulties. Pupils on the school roll can access short break provision, by an assessed need. There are currently 142 on the school roll. Currently 47 (34%) of the above pupils have an allocated night in the Residence. Pupils numbers have significantly increased over the past 4 years from 76-142 and are continuing to rise. Factors contributing to this are: post 16 provision, increase in demand. The majority of pupils attend from the East Riding of Yorkshire with 15 pupils coming from a neighbouring local authority- Hull, one pupil from Bradford, one pupil from North Yorkshire and one from Doncaster.

51% of the school population is on the autistic spectrum –. This has led us to establish ASD provision / practice in three areas of the school to assist with pupils with complex communication difficulties. St Anne's school and Sixth from College are constantly looking for new opportunities and activities to engage our students and pupils who are on the autistic spectrum. This year we have been fortunate enough to win lottery funding primarily to finance horse riding trampoline use and swimming for our students and pupils.

Please showcase your commended practice by completing the three boxes below. Use the boxes to give the commendation panel a clear and in-depth understanding of what has been commended and how it has improved the lives for the people with autism that you support.

1. Innovation & Creativity

Over the years St Anne's and Sixth form college and the Residence have striven to develop links with the local and wider community. In preparation for the Autism Accreditation a list was compiled of the community links the school college and residence have. 100 links were collated. (see list) These initiatives have ranged from links with local primary and secondary schools to the school introducing a former student to paid employment within the school. (former student with ASC) A trainee classroom support assistant role was introduced and a new job profile was created for this together with the LA. The former student applied for the post and was successful.

Doncaster Art space run by Emma Wilson (Artistic spectrum) have provided us with in school art activities as well as external courses for all age groups to access. The students and pupils' work was exhibited at the school and colleges first Arts exhibition held at Kardomah in Hull. This was well attended and very successful in showcasing what students/pupils on the autistic spectrum are capable of achieving. Our pupils were also part of the Hull City of Culture-famous faces project. Future plans involve going to Westminster to further exhibit their work.

The Sixth form students run a themed café every Friday morning for parents and the local villagers. They also run a fruit and vegetable shop. This gives work experience opportunities for our students as well as encouraging functional Maths and English skills all of which can be conducive to their CVs and future job applications.

The residence offers a range of experiences for the students and pupils both in the evenings and during the holidays. These include taking part in the life style competition (collecting food for distribution to food banks), visiting local parks, cafes, and supermarkets. Camping has recently been introduced. External visitors are welcomed in to the residence. These include pet therapy sessions, rock a tot dance sessions and regular coffee/open mornings. The children access a regular youth club and disco enabling them to socialise with other pupils with similar needs from different settings.

New initiatives this year include linking with the local Parish magazine not only for the pupils to include articles with in the magazine about school life but also to deliver the magazine around the local village. In addition the students are starting a new enterprise scheme to sell hot drinks and cakes to the transport staff.

The Sixth Form College has forged links with MIND –sessions will take place in college and it is envisaged that students will begin to understand their autism and embrace it.

The key 3, 4 and 5 students take part in Rock Challenge every year. They have done this for four years and have always been the only Special school and college to take part in this area. They have won the award for “be your best foundation award performer's choice.” which is voted for by the other mainstream schools taking part.

Three internships are in development (through East Riding College): These will be offered to post-19 students with one day at college and four days at St Anne's School and Sixth form college .(one working with site manager, one in residential, one in classroom)

Internal and external work experience takes place for all the year 14 students. These include a placement at the Deep (local aquarium) as a resident artist, Hessle high school and South Hunsley Academy –caring for the environment (recycling) Local supermarkets, cafes/public houses and local charity shops and hairdressers. St Anne’s has its own horticultural and small animal site which allows for outdoor learning and work experience opportunities and qualifications in small animal care and planting. Products are often sold to parents and the public e.g. hanging baskets. The local community is welcomed into school on “open gardens “day.

Arco-a major Hull company are assisting students through the “Careers and Enterprise scheme” Freedom KDC Enterprise access St Anne’s site and work with 15 Sixth Form students for a full day once a week upcycling furniture.

The school take great pride in the inclusion links which have flourished since recommendations were made in the 2013 Ofsted inspection (for which the school gained outstanding.) These include nine primary schools, two secondary schools. and four special schools. Pupils on the autistic spectrum from primary school visit St Anne’s for discrete sessions. This also provides learning opportunities for accompanying learning support in strategies for managing behaviour which challenges and sensory issues.

St Anne’s and sixth form college employs a teacher who holds a TLR for PE. Sporting opportunities have increased both in school and in the wider community as a result of this. PE teachers from other mainstream establishments come into school to offer sessions in ball skills, sensory circuits and team games. Lunch time clubs are run by external agencies for example archery, football, (city stars), golf, table cricket and tennis. Students and pupils attend horse riding, sailing (Welton waters), trampolining, swimming in the local community. Pupils from mainstream schools come into school to help with sports day and sporting events throughout the year.

Two residential visits take place on an annual basis, one for lower school pupils and one for upper and Sixth form students.

Sixth form students take part in the Humber night walk challenge with mainstream schools. This involves walking ten miles throughout the night and taking part in a number of mental and physical challenges along the way.

The Sixth form students complete a range of qualifications at Bishop Burton College, (agriculture) Castaway (drama group) and Welton waters (sailing). This year we are hoping to introduce the BBC report journalism project which involves our students in creating news reports about the school and sixth form.

An employer’s seminar was held with local businesses last term to raise awareness of the students at St Anne’s and the skills they could offer to local businesses. They shared their CVs and personal profiles with prospective employers.

2. Impact:

“The most important thing people did for me was to expose me to new things”
(Temple Grandin)

Staff constantly strive to think of new opportunities/activities/experiences for our students and pupils on the autistic spectrum. We work on the premise that the more experiences and activities they are exposed to; the more opportunities there are for engagement social interaction and self-regulation. Moreover it gives staff the chance to gain an understanding of the students and pupils in a range of environments. They can show case their talents in all areas not just academic forums. Pupils have learnt a wide range of skills including learning to swim, sail, horse ride, and care for animals, complete gardening tasks and serve food and drinks. By offering varied and diverse opportunities it means that the school and college are fully inclusive as all students and pupils can access and engage with something. Moreover staff have seen a development in students and pupils emotional health and well-being as a result of them trying new initiatives and experiences. Challenges offered to our students have resulted in increased self-esteem and self-worth. One student who came to us lacking confidence and unable to self-regulate with two to one staffing has over the years gained in confidence. This is as a result of varied activities, experiences and challenges. He is now employed by the school as a trainee classroom support worker. Many of our pupils can be difficult to engage but by accessing them to different pursuits we have found things that they enjoy and consequently join in with. This in turn gives staff an opportunity to work on communication and social skills with them. By creating so many internal and external links St Anne’s school and Sixth form is building an outstanding reputation for inclusive practice both in the local and wider community. Educating local people/businesses/ schools about our school and sixth form and its students/pupils is imperative in helping our young people move on and develop skills. Many of our students have the ability to secure a college place or employment and making links in the community can impact on that. Moreover we have found that parents are both surprised and pleased when they are told of some of the activities their child has taken part in and it gives them confidence to have high expectations for their son/daughter and try new things too.

3. Sustainability:

The school and Sixth form will continue to develop links with the local and wider community. We are constantly looking for new initiatives and links. Ongoing and further training will take place e.g. with transport staff to widen their understanding and knowledge of the pupils. An autism awareness week will be held again following the success of last year when 20+ parents visited the school to observe their child in lessons and 6+ staff from places we have links with visited to see the pupils /students in their own surroundings. The school believes that communication is key to forging links with the local and wider community .Our web site is currently being updated to keep parents, Governors and the general public fully informed of what we as a school and sixth form are trying to achieve. A video has been professionally produced showcasing what each department in school does and all the outdoor activities which are offered. Twitter is used to publicise events and training. Drop ins for parents and the wider community will continue to be held on a regular basis to share good practice and strategies. Technology is being used effectively by the school to share new initiatives and projects from external agencies e.g. autism friendly cinema showings. Students will leave with a portfolio of their qualifications and profiles for future employees. In preparation for this, work will commence with students on improving skills at writing CVs and personal profiles. Staff intend to further develop the awards and qualifications on offer at key stage five which will show case our student's abilities. In addition work experience links will be extended and improved. The school is currently working with the local authority to offer internships to our students. In 2019 a new school build will be completed. It will house three communication bases specifically designed and resourced for students and pupils on the autistic spectrum. These will complement the fact that we have achieved the Autism Accreditation.