

## **Frequently asked questions**

Here are some of the questions we are often asked and which may be of help to you:

- I am interested in my child coming to Granta. How do I make arrangements?

*Children and young people coming to Granta must have a statement of educational needs (statement) or an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)*

*Requests for placement must come via your local authority: Cambridgeshire, Essex or Suffolk*

*Once we have received the request for placement from your local authority we will contact you and ask you to visit before we respond to papers.*

- What do we teach?

*We use national guidance to base our subjects on but we make changes for individual pupils and small groups of pupils. That is because of their special needs. We group some subjects together to make more time for communication, personal care and therapy. For example, in Key Stages two and three we study 'world cultures' which is modern foreign language and religious education (RE) together. Older students spend more time on work related learning and work experience.*

- How do we decide on class groups?

*We have one class for early years pupils and one class for Key stage 1. From Key stage 2 onwards we group*

*pupils according to their receptive language (how much speech they can understand), their need for peers to learn alongside of and friendships, for example we try to make sure that girls have other girls in class with them too (we have a lot more boys than girls at school) . That means that class groups have a mix of ages in them from across that key stage.*

- What kind of therapy do we provide?

*Lots of our pupils need some therapy at different times with us and we try to make sure we have something suitable for everyone in need. That means that our therapy offer changes in line with the pupils who come here. Some of the therapies we have offered are: music therapy, support for physiotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language therapy, hydrotherapy, riding for the disabled (reduced this term), rebound therapy (new this term) and play therapy*

- How much time will my child have with a qualified physiotherapist, occupational therapist or speech and language therapist?

*School staff support these programmes as far as is possible and in line with their training. Therapists arrange their own timetables and we can put you in touch with them to ask any specific questions you may have.*

- Do we have a school nurse?

*We have access to a school nurse service which provides us with training and helps with protocols and referrals for continence products (pads). We do not have a school nurse based on site.*

- Do we give homework?

*Families often find that the care that their children need each evening makes homework very difficult and some pupils have a more practical, sensory curriculum. For those reasons we do not routinely give homework but can provide it on request and teachers will send home work to be completed and suggested activities according to topic and pupil ability/individual targets. Reading books are routinely provided for pupils who are learning to read. We have links on our website to fun educational programmes.*

- What happens at the end of each key stage?

*Your child will go up to the next key stage in line with their age. We provide lots of support to help pupils manage this including meetings between teachers and sharing of information, 'moving up' day, additional transition visits for some pupils, and ensuring familiar staff move with them for pupils with the most complex needs. We believe that if pupils are supported to manage these transitions within school they will be better placed to manage their final transition when they leave school.*

- How many adults do we have in each class?

*That depends on the needs of the pupils and their medical conditions. Adult number ranges from teacher and two assistants in a class to a few classes where there are the same number of adults to pupils. Some pupils are funded specifically for one or even two adults each for very exceptional needs.*

*-Is it a problem if my child is not yet toilet trained?*

*No. We are used to assisting pupils regardless of their age. When your child is ready to be toilet trained we will be happy to help with that. Your child will have an individual care plan.*

*- Is it a problem if my child has a restricted diet?*

*No. Lots of our pupils have different diets: sometimes for religious reasons, sometimes for medical and health reasons and sometimes because they restrict it themselves, for example as part of their autism. Your child may have a feeding programme from the speech and language therapist or from a dietician. We are used to being trained for those and our kitchen staff are happy to provide an appropriate diet and to puree or blend food as needed.*

*- What transport arrangements might be made?*

*Each local authority has its own transport providers and processes. We try to ensure any communications are smooth and timely but we do not make transport arrangements ourselves and are unable to make decisions about arrangements. Most pupils do have*

*home to school transport provided in minibuses with an escort. A few have individual arrangements and some pupils are brought in by their parents.*

- Can my child go to after school club?

*Our after school club (ASC) is very popular and so there is sometimes a waiting list for specific evenings but we try to accommodate requests as quickly as possible. All pupils can request ASC regardless of their needs. Each local authority has its own approach to transport arrangements following after school club. You can find out more by emailing*

*[AfterSchoolclub@granta.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:AfterSchoolclub@granta.cambs.sch.uk)*

- *I need to pay some money to school, for example for school lunches, how can I do that?*

Payments can be made via cash, cheque or direct payment into school account. You can get further details about this, and about help with payments such as free school meals and 16 – 19 bursaries by contacting

[Assistantfinance@granta.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:Assistantfinance@granta.cambs.sch.uk). Please ensure

that any cash sent into school is in a sealed envelope and clearly marked with your child's name and purpose for the money e.g Lucy Locket Dinner money class 7.

Please put a note in your child's diary so we know to look for the money and keep it safe.

- *Do you have any other clubs?*

Yes, we run lots of clubs at lunchtimes and that changes each half term according to pupil interests, the weather

and adult availability. It is your child's choice to attend or not.

- *Do you have a school council?*
- Yes, we have a very active school council. Council members are elected by pupils following a poster campaign and we have a simple voting system so all pupils can take part. School council members are elected from our Secondary department and year 6 in Primary (this is a new development). Our current Chair is called Jason and he is in KS4. School council make sure that improvements that pupils would like are known to me. One of the important jobs they do is to organise the class names in the secondary school for each academic year.
- *Do you have a reward system?*
- Yes, we have many ways of rewarding pupils for good work and good conduct. We have head teacher certificates each Friday, a 'good citizen' photo board, and a weekly 'chef of the week' hat. Key stage 3 have a gold, silver and bronze merit system and KS4 have a similar merit system. Other classes and key stages arrange individual and group reward systems as suitable for their groups and individual pupils.
- *Can you support families who do not speak or read English?*
- Yes, we can access translation services as required.

