

# SEN Information

Local Offer

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**Name of Education Provider: Torquay Girls' Grammar School**

**1. What special education provision is available at our setting?**



**What do we do here to meet your needs?**

**TGGS believes that all students should be able to reach their maximum potential. All teachers and support staff are inclusive practitioners. Additional provisions include:**

- **The school supports a wide range of needs and has a good working relationship with Health visitors and social workers.**
- **We strive to deliver high quality teaching, differentiated for individual students, as the first step in responding to those who have or may have SEND**
- **Teaching Assistant Support in lessons under specific circumstances**
- **Access to a school counsellor**
- **Access to The Autism Champion (a teacher who is currently undergoing training in order to advise and support students, staff and families of those on the autistic spectrum).**
- **Access to student mentor for all Year 7 students on entry.**
- **Access can be made available to an Educational Psychologist under specific circumstances.**
- **Higher Level Teaching Assistant is qualified to carry out psychometric tests, which are used to support the identification of individual teaching and learning strategies and to inform on the eligibility of Access Arrangements in examinations such as, extra time or the use of a reader.**
- **Access to a range of subject specific help sessions**
- **Access to a student led subject support services**
- **Access to appropriate outreach service**
- **Advice and support from a range of health professionals e.g. School Nurse, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapists under specific circumstances.**

**The aim of our provision is to support students by planning lessons to address potential areas of difficulty, thus, removing barriers to learning so that they are included in all aspects of school life and are able to study the full national curriculum.**

## **2. What criteria must be satisfied before students can access this provision/service?**



**What sort of needs would you have for us to be able to help you?**

TGGS offers a broad and balanced curriculum. We feel that all students are given the support to reach their full potential as a basic entitlement. We recognise that some students may require extra support to make the expected progress and support is offered in a variety of formats to enable them to do so. As a school we have developed and continue to develop a range of expertise, experience and links to external agencies to ensure that we are able to meet the learning needs of all students.

- We are an Inclusive Provider and will consider placements for any student aged 11 to 18 years (who have satisfied entry requirements for the school).
- We follow the guidance as laid out in the Equalities Act 2010
- All students are welcome to the setting regardless of any special education needs (having satisfied entry requirements for the school).
- We will discuss with parent(s)/carer(s) the needs of their daughter and will strive to meet their needs working in partnership with any other parties/agencies.
- Having established the student's needs, we will endeavour to access training and/or resources to make every reasonable effort to enable the student to access our provision.
- We will assist with any documentation that will need to be completed before the student attends.

### 3. How do we identify the particular special educational needs of a student?



How do we work out what your needs are and how can we help?

We follow the guidance set out in the Special educational needs and disability (SEND) code of practice: 0 to 25 years 2015

Before a student starts we use a variety of tools to gather information which include:

- o Information from parents;
- o parents are asked to complete an Individual Healthcare Plan annually which highlights any medical conditions, allergies and associated medication.
- o data from the transfer sheets from the feeder primary schools;
- o information from visits to the feeder primary schools;
- o information from teachers.

Once a student is with us they are continually assessed / observed by, subject teachers through high quality teaching, and their progress recorded.

On entry all students will undergo a baseline assessment using the DASH (Detailed Assessment of the Speed of Handwriting). Through this and dialogue with parent(s)/carer(s) and teaching staff, any concerns which are identified will, with parental consent, initiate appropriate interventions and/or approaches as part of a graduated response which is constantly reviewed. Other specialists and agencies may also be approached for support to establish the best outcome for the student.

### 4. How do we consult with parents and/or students about their needs?



How do we find out about what you and your parents think you need help with?

The school recognises that parents and carers play a critical role in their daughter's education and value the contribution they make. Parents are involved and consulted with if their daughter is identified as having a Special Educational Need. Parents have a number of means of evaluating and discussing their daughter's progress including:

- Families are invited in to look around the setting.
- In addition to the information gained from the data sources (see section above), the school runs a number of information open evenings and parents are invited to discuss any issues or concerns with the SENCo.
- From this a discussion will be conducted about the student's needs and how they can be best supported. If the student is already being supported by other professionals, a meeting will be arranged with them to ensure good continuity of care.
- This will be recorded as part of an Initial Student Support Review (SSR), which is emailed to parents for their final feedback to be included.
- The Student Support Review (SSR) is updated at least annually. However, additional reviews can be initiated by students, parents or teaching staff if it is felt that the strategies/interventions that are in place require amendments.
- As part of the school's reporting process, strategies that are used in the classroom are highlighted in the SEND section of the individual student's main annual report.
- A member of the SEND Team is available for an appointment as part of the annual parents' evening event.
- Information can also be exchanged in a variety of formats after discussion with the parents e.g. emails, telephone conversations, verbal exchange, learning diary.
- The school gathers feedback from a variety of sources, which include parental evaluations / the parent forum / parental surveys.
- In line with the SEND Code of Practice where a student is receiving SEN support, the school will communicate with parents at least three times each year. This will allow clear outcomes to be set and review progress towards them, discuss the activities and support that will help achieve them, and identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school.
- The students have a variety of forums which they are able to access to ensure that the time they spend at TGGs is both productive and enjoyable. These include access to:
  - o Form tutor;
  - o Assistant Head of Year;
  - o Head of Year;
  - o Members of the SEND Department;
  - o The SENCo.
  - o Student mentors for all Year 7 students on entry.

## 5. What is our approach to teaching students with special educational needs?



How will we teach you?

As an inclusive provider, we strive to deliver high quality teaching, differentiated for individual students, as the first step in responding to those who have or may have SEND, in order to enable all students to achieve and make at least the required levels of progress. Students with special educational needs have the same access to learning and extra-curricular activities as other students as part of our Equality & Diversity Policy.

- All students are treated equally and our approach is very similar to that for all of the students in our care, we recognise and value the role of all those involved, parent(s)/carer(s). However, where special educational needs have been identified, we will endeavour to provide appropriate resources to meet these needs.
- Where students are identified as requiring an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP), (previously a Statement of Special Educational Needs Education), we will work with other professionals and follow their advice which will be incorporated into an enhanced SSR document. This would identify specific activities and learning / development objectives which is then used by teachers to enable high quality teaching. The SSR is developed primarily with student input and parental feedback.

## 6. How can we adapt our curriculum for students with special educational needs?



What sort of things will you learn here?

All students in key stage 3 follow a broad and balanced curriculum. At key stage 4 students have choices of a wide range of GCSE subjects. Sixth-Form provision allows students to access a wide variety of courses, including some offered in partnership with other institutions.

All students with special educational needs or disabilities are supported in order to reach their full potential. The aim is to ensure that all students receive high quality teaching; the curriculum is therefore differentiated to ensure that the needs of individual students are met.

- The school strives to allow students to follow a balanced curriculum and to participate as fully as possible within the school. Any concerns should be addressed to the SENCo.
- Teachers will be supported in making provision and differentiating the curriculum, as part of the graduated response, which allows a student with special educational needs to access it as fully as possible

## 7. How will we ensure we get the services, provision and equipment that students need?



How will we make sure that you get all of the help that you need from different people?

All services, provision and equipment are monitored for impact to ensure that their use is benefitting the student and are cost effective. Where necessary we work alongside relevant professionals and other agencies e.g, School Nurse, SEND outreach advisors, paediatricians, Social Services and other health professionals to ensure that we offer the best provision possible.

- We make every reasonable effort to meet the needs of every individual student to ensure the full inclusion within the school curriculum and all school activities.
- Students in receipt of an EHCP will have their specific needs outlined within their plan.

## 8. How is this provision funded?



**Who pays for this?**

Provision for meeting the needs of students with SEND is funded by the school's notional inclusion budget. In addition, some students access Pupil Premium funding. Students with more complex needs and/or disabilities will have an EHCP, have a personal budget monitored by the local authority for additional support to meet identified needs. The inclusion budget is monitored by the head-teacher and governors and resources are allocated according to need.

- If it is identified that extra additional support is required beyond what can be provided as part of normal ratios, then an application can be made to the Local Authority for additional funding.

## 9. What additional learning support is available for students with special educational needs and how do they access it?



**What else will we do to help you learn and how will this happen?**

As a result of the SSR process learning support strategies are identified and put in place, as part of high quality teaching, and reviewed at regular intervals. Subject specific support is available during lunchtimes and students are encouraged to participate and engage with this fully. There is also a peer support available for students to use, including 'The Hub', a sixth form led lunchtime drop in area and Year 10 Reading Companions for lower school students who may find this skill challenging. Additional lunchtime support is available from the Higher Level Teaching Assistant.

- If additional learning support is needed we would look for support from other professionals such as;
  - o Speech & Language Specialists
  - o Health Visitors & Social Workers
  - o Support Groups for familiesand we will signpost, encourage and support parent(s)/carer(s) to engage with these services.

## 10. How do we support and improve the emotional and social development of students with special educational needs?



### How can we help you learn about your feelings and relationships?

TGGS hopes that all students go through their time at the school happy and relaxed, but sometimes events happen either inside or outside school that affect a students' well-being.

Many concerns can be sorted out by tutors, class teachers, Assistant Head of Year and Heads of Year. In addition;

- Staff have received mental health training.
- The students have access to a counsellor three days a week.
- There is access to a school nurse.
- A learning skills programme is in place for year 7 students to enable them to develop their skills and to equip them for study.
- The school has a rigorous PSHE programme which covers a wide range of issues which the students may come across.
- As an inclusive practitioner we believe that:
  - o Every student needs to feel that they belong, that they matter, and that they are valued for their unique qualities.
  - o Working in partnership with parents is important and parental contributions are welcomed and valued.
- The school has a positive approach to Behaviour Management.
- The Autism Champion (a teacher who is currently undergoing training) is available in order to advise and support students on the autistic spectrum.
- Safe guarding concerns are dealt with in line with the school's Child Protection Policy.

## 11. How do we support students with special educational needs moving between phases of education and preparing for adulthood?



### How can we help you to get ready to change to a different place or to leave here?

There is liaison between primary schools and TGGs to ensure a smooth handover. Details of any issues are discussed by lead professionals in both institutions. Additionally we work in partnership with others to promote a smooth transition for example;

- Liaising with the SENCOs from the school / setting to promote a consistent approach
- Liaison and support are available for parents and carers through this process of change.
- A transition document is received from primary schools and any information is acted upon.
- For students transferring to another setting documentation is prepared and the new institution is contacted.
  
- For those students moving into Further Education (Key Stage 5) who require SEN Support or who are in receipt of an EHCP, information is shared with the receiving setting or school to support the transition. The school agrees with parents the information to be shared as part of this planning process in order to make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training

## 12. What other support is available for students with special educational needs and how can they access it?



What other help can we give you or help you to get?

If a need is identified by a teaching assistant, tutor, teacher or parent, they can liaise with the SENCO who will oversee implementation if it is considered appropriate.

- We will signpost, encourage and support parent(s)/carer(s) to engage with other support – this may include:
  - o Providing leaflets
  - o Promoting Events and Services
  - o Recommending the Torbay Directory for ideas on available support and services.

## 13. What extra-curricular activities are available for students with special educational needs?



What other activities can you do here?

The school endeavours to support the students with special educational needs to take part in all activities and trips offered by the school where practicable. In addition to the main curriculum, students are able to access:

- o Sports;
- o Access to Outdoor Education activities such as , Ten Tors and Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.
- o Drama;
- o Music (including the school choir and orchestra)



#### 14. How do we assess and review progress towards agreed outcomes, and how are parents and students involved in this process?



How do we know that the help we are giving you is working?



How can you and your family tell us what you think?

Progress will be shared with parent(s) / carer(s) in agreed ways including, verbal communication, termly reports and parents 'evening'.

- The SSR is updated at least annually. However, additional reviews can be initiated by students, parents or teaching staff if it is felt that the strategies/interventions that are in place require amendments.
- As part of the school's reporting process, strategies that are used in the classroom are highlighted in the SEND section of the individual student's main annual report.
- A member of the SEND Team is available for an appointment as part of the annual parents' evening event.

For students who have Sensory and/or physical needs, it is usual for specialist outreach services to be involved on a termly basis; e.g. Hearing Specialist Teachers, Physiotherapists. These additional support services meet with students, SEND team members, teaching staff and parents as appropriate and provide full reports on progress and additional support needs.

For students with an EHCP this will also include an annual review meeting.

#### 15. How do we assess the effectiveness of our special needs provision and how are parents and students involved in this assessment?



How do we make sure that we are being the best that we can be?



How can you and your family tell us what you think?

The SENCo monitors the impact of interventions and how effective they are. Consulting with parents and students is an integral part of this process. For students with an EHCP and/or SSR, parental and student views are sought during the annual review meeting.

- The school makes rigorous and appropriate use of the Ofsted self-evaluation documentation.
- Parents and students will be involved in gathering feedback and this evidence will be used to improve upon what we offer where this is practicable.
- The SEND department links up with other institutions in Torbay and the South West Academic Trust to offer guidance and share good practice.

## 16. How do we ensure that teaching staff and other staff have the expertise needed to support students with special educational needs?



How do we make sure that everyone that works with you has the right skills and can do the right things to help you?

TGGS is committed to lifelong learning. All staff are given the opportunity to engage with a wide variety of training opportunities.

- The SENCo and HLTA have completed the National SENCo award qualification.
- Opportunities are given to staff in order to reflect upon the skills they have and highlight any training needed to ensure that you stay up to date and informed.
- Training is arranged in order to meet individual student's needs as appropriate and members of staff are given the opportunity to attend e.g. using specific IT programmes to enable access to the curriculum for visual impaired students or other specific details as outlined in a student's EHCP.

## 17. How do we keep parents informed where students have special educational provision but do not have an Education and Health Care Plan?



How do we make sure that your parents know how we can help them?

Students who have identified additional needs but do not have an EHCP will have their specific information included on the SEND register and the central School Information Management System (SIMS). Student progress is monitored by the subject teacher, Head of Department, Head of Year, SENCo and the Senior Leadership Team (SLT).

- SSR's, which contain information on teaching and learning strategies which are implemented within the classroom and ways in which parents can support within the home environment are sent out for parents to review and comment on annually.
- As part of the school's reporting process, strategies that are used in the classroom are highlighted in the SEND section of the individual student's main annual report.
- Parents are kept informed about their daughter's progress primarily through progress reports, however a range of channels are also used e.g. parents' evenings, telephone calls and e-mail exchange.

## 18. How can parents and/or students make a complaint about our provision?



What can you do if you are not happy about something that has happened here?

### If a parent has a concern or complaint they should:

- Contact the school through a variety of media using the contact details available on the school's website <http://www.tggs.torbay.sch.uk>
- If the complaint is specific to SEND please contact the SENCo at [sendadmin@tggsacademy.org](mailto:sendadmin@tggsacademy.org)
- We would always seek to resolve any issues before they get to stage of a complaint being raised and encourage parents to discuss any concerns that they may have.
- We gather feedback from parents e.g. questionnaires
- Our Complaints Policy and Procedure is available on our website

### 19. How can parents and students get more information about the setting?



#### How can you find out more about us?

Contact directly via phone (01803) 613215 or email [admin@tggsacademy.org](mailto:admin@tggsacademy.org).

- The school website – <http://www.tggs.torbay.sch.uk>
- We welcome and encourage visits from prospective parents.
- OFSTED Inspection Report  
<http://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/136506>

### 20. How the school involves other bodies, including health and social care bodies, local authority support services and voluntary sector organisations, in meeting students' SEN and supporting their families?



#### How do we work with everyone else to help you?

TGGS has good links and working relationships with other bodies; meeting on a regular basis to support students with SEND and their families under specific circumstances, including,

- Health, such as, the school nursing team including the diabetes nurse, physiotherapists and occupational therapists.
- Social, such as Children's Services and Social Care.
- Local Authority Support Services, such as SENDIASS, who provide advice and support to children, young people from 0-25 and their families who have special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) around all aspects of education, health and social care.
- The full Torbay Local Offer can be found at [www.torbayorb.com](http://www.torbayorb.com).

## 21. Arrangements for supporting students who are looked after by the local authority and have SEND



### How do we help children who are looked after by Torbay Council?

**At TGGs students who are looked after by the local authority and have SEND have enhanced, but discrete, pastoral care. The Assistant Head of Year for each Key Stage meets with the individual student on a regular basis and communicates any concerns directly to the Head of Year and SENCo.**