Vanguard School - SEND Information Report 2026/27

Introduction

Vanguard School's SEND Information Report is a statutory document that all schools and educational settings in England are required to publish annually. The aim of this report is to provide parents / carers and other stakeholders with clear information about how Vanguard School supports pupils with SEND.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Staff with responsibility for SEND at Vanguard School:

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To arrange a visit to Vanguard School:

Please contact: Office@vanguardschool.org.uk

What types of special educational need does Vanguard School cater for?

Vanguard School is a specialist school that caters for pupils with a diagnosis of autism, whose primary need is communication and interaction. All our pupils have an EHCP and may also have co-occurring diagnoses such as ADHD, dyslexia, dyspraxia or other medical needs.

How do staff at Vanguard School identify pupils who have additional SEND needs?

All members of staff liaise with the SENDCo and work closely with families to provide the best possible support for all our pupils.

We have a strong therapy team on site which consists of an Occupational Therapist, a Speech and Language Therapist and an Assistant Psychologist who

regularly assess strengths and needs to support our pupils both in and out of the classroom.

We work in constant collaboration and communication with pupils, families, staff, and external agencies to continually assess and plan the next appropriate steps for our students.

Each child or young person has a Key Worker who makes contact on a regular basis to discuss your child's strengths and progress. Parents also receive regular communication from tutors and teachers. This ensures ongoing discussions around your child's needs and helps us to understand what is working well and what we might need to do next.

How do Vanguard School consult with parents / carers about their child's learning?

We work with parents / carers to support each child to achieve at every opportunity open to them and help them to grow.

We consult with parents / carers to understand their child's aspirations and ensure they can be achieved. We want to know how best they learn and gain valuable insight from you.

Your child will also have an Annual Review, progress reports and parents' evenings throughout the year.

How do Vanguard School staff consult with children and young people to ensure they are involved in their own learning?

Key Workers collaborate with children and young people to co-construct important documents such as their SPELL profile and individual educational targets. SPELL is an established framework that focuses on the sensory experiences of autistic individuals; *Structure*, *Positivity*, *Empathy*, *Low Arousal* and *Links* to family support.

The process of creating these support documents enables the student to be at the centre of the decision making and allows their voice to be heard.

Every student contributes their views to their Annual Review providing strategies that they find supportive and their next steps.

How does Vanguard School ensure parents know if their child is doing well in school?

As students transition into the school, our Safeguarding Team will work with families to allow a smooth transition into Vanguard.

Frequent communication home continues via your child's designated Key Worker.

Subject specialists and learning mentors who teach your child regularly also feed back to the child's Key Worker. All our staff are regularly available via email for specific questions around their curriculum area.

How does Vanguard School support pupils when they transition to a new class or new school or college?

As a child transitions into Vanguard, staff work closely with the SENDCo from the previous school and in the case of Year 6 to Year 7 may attend a transitional Annual Review.

In year transitions, staff at Vanguard will work closely with the SENDCo and teaching staff from the previous school setting to plan successful transitions. Our staff liaise with parents and carers to create an Inclusion Plan based around each child's needs as identified in their EHC Plan. We also consider, in partnership with parents, the various factors which have brought them to Vanguard and work in a trauma informed way to support them.

The Safeguarding Team will work in partnership with parents to discuss a suitable transition timetable and review this over the first two to three weeks.
For pupils moving on to further or higher education, Vanguard invite parents to a Year 11 Transition Workshop and then work alongside parents and carers with the receiving setting. All pupils will be supported with a transition visit wherever possible.

How does Vanguard School support young people to prepare for adulthood?

At Vanguard, we are committed to helping every student prepare for life beyond school. Our careers programme is tailored to individual needs, giving learners the skills, knowledge and confidence to succeed.

We work with Unifrog and Talentino Careers to deliver engaging and personalised support, including employability and work experience opportunities. These help students explore interests, set goals and gain real-world insights.

We also collaborate with the Local Authority, the Lambeth NEET team and local employers to ensure our guidance reflects current opportunities and pathways. A dedicated Careers Advisor offers group workshops and 1:1 session throughout the year and we actively involve parents and carers to support each student's journey.

What is Vanguard School's approach to teaching autistic children, some of whom may also have additional special educational needs?

Through ongoing assessment and review, we make sure that the provision laid out in your child's EHCP is relevant and updated at the Annual Review. Each child's provision is reviewed in line with their views and their SPELL Profile.

Each classroom has a separate focus room which children and young people are able to access when they need to. The Learning Pods around the school provide an additional space to focus or for regulation. The Therapy Team work closely with teachers and Learning Mentors to make sure that our Universal Provisions such as movement breaks and fidget tools are planned for and provided across all areas of the school.

Some children may be assessed as needing targeted interventions; these are carried out by Learning Mentors and overseen by the Therapy Team and other key staff.

A few children may require specialist interventions carried out by a member of the Therapy Team or our link-Educational Psychologist.

How does Vanguard School adapt the curriculum to support children and young people?

Our Curriculum is ambitious and designed to cater for the needs of autistic students, providing them with the necessary skills to prepare them for adulthood. Each class has a dedicated Learning Mentor that works with your child to help them use appropriate strategies to access their learning. Teachers also use scaffolding and resources in lessons, adapting their teaching according to the learners needs.

All the staff at Vanguard receive specialist training from our Autism Lead teachers in collaboration with the Autism Education Trust and the expert input of our Therapy Team, Safeguarding Team and Behaviour & Pastoral Team.

Additionally, teachers review the EHC Plan and SPELL Profiles termly to support progress against outcomes.

How is the environment adapted to support children and young people at Vanguard School?

Every classroom has a focus room which students can access during lessons if they need a learning break or a space to work alone. Teachers plan movement breaks into lessons depending on the needs of the pupils. If a young person is having a difficult time in the classroom, we have learning pods where they can be supported to learn independently outside the classroom environment.

At Vanguard we have a Sensory Gym and Sensory Spa which students are able to access in either timetabled intervention sessions with a member of the Therapy Team or when needed as a regulation support with a Learning Mentor or trusted adult.

Each child or young person is assessed annually by our Assistant Psychologist, Occupational Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist who review the provision in line with the assessment outcomes for the Annual Review.

Some of our children have access to specialist software provided by external agencies. If specialist equipment is needed, appropriate referrals are made, and this is then added to their EHCP through the Annual Review process.

Do staff at Vanguard School have specialist training and expertise?

As well as the autism training provided for all staff through Liberty Academy Trust, continued professional development is provided to staff through training sessions, consultancy and working in partnership with both internal and external providers. All CPD is based on the presenting needs of the students and staff.

Additionally, we work with the Autism Education Trust to develop resources and share good practice across our Trust.

Staff inset days are also planned in response to observations and learning walks and assessments planned throughout the year.

How is the effectiveness of the school's support for SEND pupils evaluated at Vanguard School?

Termly review of EHCP outcomes is carried out collaboratively by Tutors, Learning Mentors and members of the Therapy Team. Our plan is to involve pupils in this termly process too.

Progress towards long-term outcomes is reviewed as part of the Annual Review process with staff, pupils and parents / carers.

At Vanguard how are children enabled to engage in activities alongside children who do not have SEND.

All of our pupils have SEND, some with more complex needs than others. We foster a supportive environment where barriers to engagement are overcome through coaching and support from staff and peers.

What support does Vanguard School provide to improve the social and emotional development of pupils?

Students strive to earn *Vang Points* through demonstrating courage, determination and teamwork. Their efforts are rewarded through recognition in assembly and prizes.

All staff have been trained in emotion coaching. Each child and young person is encouraged to build positive relationships with their Key Worker, Tutor and Learning Mentor. These are trusted adults they can check-in or spend time with. The Therapy Team work collaboratively with each other and the wider staff team to provide interventions for whole class sessions, small targeted groups or 1:1, where appropriate.

What can Vanguard parents do if they are not satisfied with the support their child or young person is receiving?

It is important that parents/carers feel confident in the support their child is receiving. If there are any concerns, we encourage parents/carers to talk to us straight away.

The first step would be to contact the child's key worker or form tutor to work in partnership to agree a suitable and supportive way forward.

At Vanguard, we have a Safeguarding Team, Behaviour and Pastoral Team, Inclusion and Therapy Team – all of whom work closely together. Our aim is to make sure that every child's needs are fully met and that parents & carers feel reassured and involved every step of the way.

How do staff at Vanguard School work with other agencies?

At Vanguard, we work in a 'team around the child' approach to provide the best support possible for our autistic learners.

We work closely with a range of agencies – such as the Educational Psychology Team, CAMHS, physiotherapists, paediatricians and the school nurse. We also liaise closely with the Local Authority – in respect of children's social care, disabilities and transport teams. We believe regular communication and joint planning provides consistent support tailored to each student's needs and planned continued provision into adult services.

We believe strongly in the partnership between school, family and professionals – to ensure that every young person has the best possible chance to succeed both in school and beyond.

For further information about SEND in Lambeth

Lambeth's SEND Local Offer
Lambeth's SEND Local Offer | Lambeth Council

This is the place to find out about services and support for children and young people, aged 0 to 25, with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). For Independent Support and Advice about SEND in Lambeth

Lambeth Information Advice & Support Service
Lambeth Information Advice And Support Service (IASS) For Parents Or Carers | Lambeth Council

Lambeth Information, Advice and Support Service (IASS) provides free, impartial and confidential information about education, health and social care for children, young people, and their parents relating to special educational needs and disabilities.