



KISIMUL GROUP

Education Policy and Procedure

Ethos and Mission Statement

Characteristics of the College

Calman Colaiste is an independent specialist college providing further education for young adults with autism, learning difficulties and complex needs. It offers a bespoke further education for its learners.

The curriculum provides learners with the opportunity to develop skills for adulthood through a range of Enterprise, Vocational and Work Related learning experiences. Learners are supported to develop their independence skills through a holistic programme of health, therapy and care.

The college offers young people, aged 16-25 with a range of special educational needs the opportunity to develop independent living skills, work-related learning skills and skills for adulthood. The college brings together the four preparing for Adult Pathways:

- Supported/Independence
- Supported /Employment
- Better Health
- Community

Learners will access all four Pathways but the content of their programme will be weighted towards their desired personal outcomes.

The curriculum will focus on communication and social interaction and can include Makaton, Picture Exchange Communication system (PECS) and the use of social stories to support understanding.

The majority of learners have 52 week care in the local area of Cambridge shire and Lincolnshire and will attend 38 weeks of college education.

Our approach to education at Calman Colaiste is to inspire and engage our learners through a range of positive learning experiences. Each learner will be engaged in a personalised learning programme that is appropriate to their age and ability.

Baseline assessment is used to formulate learning goals and a curriculum targeted to the needs of the individual.

Literacy and numeracy are at the core of the curriculum which is taught through enterprise and vocational work-related learning experiences.

Aims of the college

By working collaboratively with carers and young people we aim to:

- provide a positive, safe and caring environment within which young people and staff feel happy and secure in the process of learning;
- remove/reduce a young person's barriers to learning;
- provide young people with access to quality education and pastoral care which will enhance personal development, stimulate growth and provide equal opportunity;
- develop young people's self-esteem, independence and awareness of, and consideration for, the feelings and the needs of others in the college and within the community at large;
- encourage young people to positively manage their own behaviour and difficulties;
- establish a climate within which young people and adults can interact and relate, engendering high levels of mutual interest and personal respect;
- develop the skills needed in each young person so they can be as independent as possible and ready for life after college;
- provide a broad and balanced curriculum that meets each young person's needs.
- work in partnership with carers and other professionals

In conjunction Calman Colaiste will embrace the Kisimul Learning for Life Programme as detailed below.

Kisimul's Learning for Life Programme

Philosophy:

The aim of the Kisimul's *Learning For Life* programme is to offer a broad, balanced and structured programme of learning opportunities to young adults aged 16 to 25 who are resident in our registered adult homes and supported living services. They can use Calman Colasite as the main site for learning.

The purpose of the provision is to help our learners to continue to develop core functional skills, vocational skills and life skills. The programme is designed to enable our learners to continue to achieve and whilst living as independent a lifestyle as they are able to given their individual needs and abilities by integrating a learning programme into their daily living environment.

Aims of Learning for Life

- To be an inclusive learning provision which welcomes all young adults with diverse ranges of complex needs, behaviours and sensory processing disorders;
- To develop confidence and skills through a relevant and flexible programme appropriate to our learners' individual needs;
- To equip young adults with the tools to effectively communicate; self-regulate their behaviour; and cope with sensory dysfunctions through a multi-disciplinary approach;
- To offer our learners accredited courses such as Personal Progress; Towards Independence: ASDAN; Personal and Social Development; BTEC. And AQA Unit Awards.
- To use accredited learning routes as a means of support individual progression within the college/home environment to develop independent living and vocational skills.
- To empower our learners to plan and manage their own futures where possible.
- To provide a programme which raises aspirations and recognises personal achievements.
- To provide a programme which actively promotes equality of opportunity and challenges stereotypes.
- To enable our learners to enjoy and achieve.

Organisation of *Learning for Life*

The Kisimul *Learning for Life* programme has been specifically designed to include the development of suitable skills to equip our young adults to continue to develop in terms of their functional skills, vocational skills and socialisation skills; to enable them to lead as fulfilling and independent lifestyle as possible, whilst continuing to gain accreditation and to make positive contributions to the wider community. In accessing the programme, a balance must be maintained between reaching a learner's full potential, and setting achievable and attainable outcomes. We aim to enable our learners to build upon their strengths and manage their emotional difficulties.

Much of this work takes place in the college/home environment, but we believe that a structured programme of learning activities will help to embed the personal development that takes place there.

The programme is able to build on skills such as numeracy, literacy, computing and social development. These skills are strengthened through a functional and true to life approach to contextualised learning and practice of independent living. Core skills are developed in real life activities and situations, such as cooking, shopping, community based learning, work related learning tasks, house-keeping, self-help and socialisation tasks.

Our learners are given every encouragement to continue to move forward towards independence, which is the common thread of our 'Learning for Life' programme. Particular emphasis is placed on the way the environment is managed, resources and materials used, though activities such as animal care and horticulture.

Our learners are encouraged to take ownership of their learning by choosing activities they wish to participate in and modules and courses they wish to achieve accreditation for. The learning tutors and support staff are committed to enable all our learners to have greater control and choice in all aspects of the curriculum, through differentiated approaches to learning and communication styles and preferences.

The programme is delivered in the college by a team of learning tutors, who receive support and guidance from the leadership team of our highly successful schools based in Lincolnshire, to enable learners to develop skills in appropriate contexts and situations. This helps them to contextualise their understanding. The learning tutors plan and deliver sessions that are true to life and which encourage the learners to develop the range of skills needed to improve their independence skills and understanding. Each learner develops an Individualised Learning Plan which reflects their wishes and individual needs as well as agreed areas for development.

Relevant accredited modules are planned and delivered, and tailored to our learners' individual choices and needs. They are given opportunities to access a range of off-site sporting and leisure activities, such as rebound therapy, swimming, vocational based tasks, business enterprise, work experience placements. These opportunities help to develop engagement and personal interests. Included in the programme is access to a range of therapeutic experiences such as communication groups, musical interaction, aromatherapy and occupational therapy.

Kisimul's learning for Life and adult residential care and supported living services work closely together to ensure that our learners gain maximum benefit from a broad, balanced and engaging 24 hour programme which meets their individual needs and interests.

Equal Opportunities:

Entry to all programmes of study is based on academic willingness and appropriateness, regardless of sex, race, disability, religion or belief.

Disabilities: In accordance with the statutory requirements the provider aims to make the programme accessible to all learners as far as is reasonably practicable.

Purpose

Calman Colaiste is an independent specialist college for young adults aged 16-25 with autism, learning difficulties and complex needs. It offers a bespoke further education for its learners and is aimed at enabling them to continue in further education and ensure that they continue the development of skills for life.

This statement explains our approach to education in our services, particularly our college; it does not attempt to be a detailed analysis of autism and the range of available interventions.

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Autism

Autism is a lifelong developmental disability which affects 1 in 100 people in the UK. It affects the way a person communicates and how they experience the world around them. Autism is described as a spectrum condition. This means that while people with autism, including Asperger's Syndrome, share certain characteristics they will be highly individual in their needs and preferences. Some people with autism are able to live relatively independent lives but others may face additional challenges, including

learning disabilities, which affect them so profoundly that they need support in many areas. Early intervention, education and support are critical in enabling children and young adults with autism to lead fulfilling lives. Our vision is to make the ordinary possible and to achieve this society needs to accept autism as part of everyday life.

Education

Calman College exists to meet the educational needs of its learners and aims to enable students to learn, thrive and succeed. It offers young adults with autism the specialist education and support they need to transition successfully to an active adult life as part of their community. Learning programmes are highly personalised. The balance and focus will be determined by individual priorities. The learning programme is delivered using the expertise of a dedicated staff team.

Positive Behavioural Support

Our approach to support for learning is geared to improving the way a young person lives, learns and participates in community activities, and comes from a person-centred appreciation of each individual's preferences and of their cultural expectations. Our chosen method of intervention to support learning for all our learners is Timian.

Timian is used to enable young adults to overcome patterns of challenging or social isolating behaviours and supports them to acquire behaviours which enable them to achieve their long term goals and aspirations.

Support to Access the Curriculum

As part of their personalised curriculum, all Calman Colaiste learners will have access to additional supporting including the following:

- Highly structured and planned learning environment to help make sense of the world, including the use of timetables and visual strategies
- A communication environment which includes careful use of language, focusing on key words supported by visual strategies and a planned and consistently applied programme of communication support
- Planned and consistently applied management strategies to address behaviour, where appropriate, including immediate intervention to address behaviours which put the individual or others at risk
- Clear consistent expectations which are articulated simply and with visual supports
- A personalised programme which promotes engagement and supports motivation by building on skills and interests, and which includes regular changes of activity. We help learners to acquire vocational skills so that their prospects of being able to live an ordinary life in their home communities as adults will be improved. Everything is aimed at supporting the young person's access to learning opportunities.

Learner progress and inspection

We are working to enable learners make as much progress as possible, and to ensure that they can achieve clear and significant outcomes. Our evidence based approach means that, we analyse the progress of learners in considerable depth. We tailor how we teach to match the individual young person, and we also measure whether the approach is working. This helps to ensure that most learners make better, or much better than average progress. The college is subject to formal Ofsted inspection.

The team

Calman Colaiste has a multi-disciplinary staff team. All staff undertake robust training and on-going review and development to ensure that they have the necessary skills, knowledge and understanding to carry out their work to a high standard in all environments. The staff team includes additional access to specialist input from Speech and Language Therapists and Occupational Therapist. The promotion of the wider safeguarding agenda ensures that learner safety is a priority in all aspects of the curriculum. We are Care Quality Commission and Ofsted registered and all staff receive ongoing training to ensure that we are compliant with all relevant statutory requirements.

The college environment

Calman Colasite is located on the outskirts of the village of Thorney, near Peterborough. The college has learning spaces, education classrooms, creative art, horticulture, animal husbandry, café and a lending library.

The college's facilities are continuously maintained and enriched to support learning. Services are being developed for young adults through several building phases.

Learner participation

Learners are encouraged to be involved in decisions about their learning and their voice and opinion are valued. For many learners, communication can be difficult, so we invest skills and resource in enabling their participation in a variety of ways. We also recognise the enormous importance of working together with families and carers to ensure that the partnership between college, other services and home works for the young person. Above all we value young adults and believe they have a right to the best education that can be offered so they learn, thrive and achieve.

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