



## **Area Resource Base (ARB), St Stephens Community Academy**

Welcome to the ARB at St Stephens Community Academy. Along with our website, this prospectus aims to give you a flavour of our ARB setting.

The Area Resource Base is specialist provision for pupils who have severe and complex Special Educational Needs and have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP).



Our aim is to provide a stimulating, safe and nurturing environment in which every child can access learning at their level, achieve their potential and where their individual needs are catered for. This is reflected in the individual provision provided for each child. We are inclusive and every child has equal access to all opportunities.





## Meet the team



Mrs Furber  
Headteacher



Mrs Bartlett  
ARB Manager



Ms Walsh  
Teacher



Mrs Spence  
HLTA



Mrs Fry  
LSA



Mrs Cowling  
LSA



Mrs Steele  
LSA



Mrs Hopgood  
Mealtime SA

The staff are very experienced in teaching children with complex needs. We work as a team together and are very friendly and approachable. We are all happy to answer questions or support in any way we can.

### **Learning opportunities in the ARB**

Each child is unique with their own strengths, skills and talents and difficulties. Every child's individuality is celebrated in the ARB and learning is planned to engage through favourite characters or special interests as much as possible.

Each child has their own learning area or workstation. Learning is planned for each child at the appropriate level. Staff are skilled at adapting learning activities to support or challenge a child as needed.

Many of the children in the ARB may be using PECs (Picture Exchange System) to communicate, or have Speech and Language difficulties. We work closely with the Speech and Language therapists to support the development of communication as a priority.

Much of the learning will be based in play for our youngest children and will gradually introduce skills needed for reading, writing and maths when the child is ready.





## **Life-skills**

Our curriculum is a balance of developing understanding, knowledge and life-skills. We believe in supporting our pupils to be as independent and capable as possible in daily tasks such as toileting, handwashing, getting dressed, brushing hair etc. Skills in cooking and food preparation, shopping, gardening, road safety and being safe, as well as experiencing the wider community in fun and safe ways, are planned throughout the year.



## **Inclusion:**

As an ARB, we like to take part in as many whole school events as possible and will adapt access to suit your child. Some of the events we have accessed are: visiting shows, sponsored walks, outdoor learning days and school competitions. Some children attend the 'Open the Book' assembly each week and eat lunch in the dining hall with the rest of the school (fully supported by ARB staff).



Outdoor Learning Day



Vegetable People Competition



Sponsored Walk for Sarcoma

## Therapies and Sensory Needs

Many of the children in the ARB have particular sensory needs or sensory processing disorder. We begin each day with sensory circuits which gives children the opportunity to meet their sensory requirements at the start of the day whether that is bouncing, rocking, balancing, pulling or through sand or water play.

### **Rebound:**

Mrs Fry is a trained Rebound instructor and we go to the Leisure centre for a half term to take part in Rebound on the trampoline.

Rebound Therapy uses trampolines to provide therapeutic exercises to people with a wide variety of disabilities and additional needs. The therapy involves using the moving bed of the trampoline to promote movement in the participant. By carrying out basic through to highly technical physiotherapy techniques on the trampoline, the therapy can provide many therapeutic and physiological benefits:

- Facilitate and promote movement and balance, • Improve fitness, • Increase or decrease muscle tone, • Help relax the participant, • Improve sensory integration, • Improve concentration • and even improve communication skills.



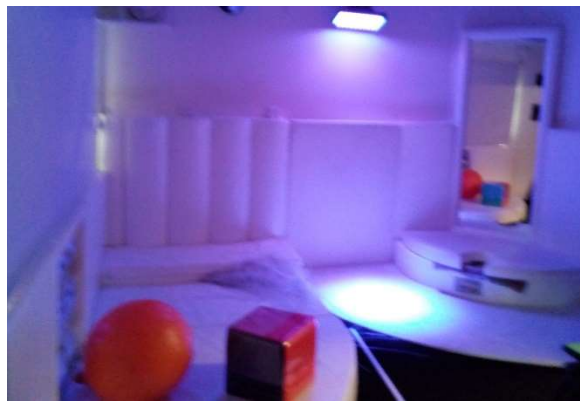
### **Music:**

We have a weekly music lesson led by Mrs Spence. We sing action songs and explore musical instruments. 'Musical Farmhouse', a local company, come in at least once a year for half a term to lead exciting musical activities with lots of fun instruments.

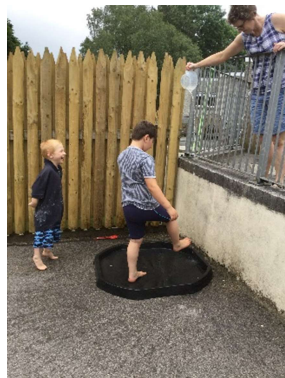


### Sensory:

All children have access to our sensory room. Some pupils may have specific programmes such as TACPAC (communication through touch and music) in there and all can go in to use it as a calming sensory space, or as a safe space to bounce and roll if needed.



There are planned opportunities for sensory activities throughout the week. Water, sand and playdough is always available. We also take part in cooking, messy play, painting (include hand, feet painting) and have a range of different sensory exploration activities available. Outdoor learning might take place in the fields, garden or woods and we enjoy experiencing and noticing the different sensations of different types of weather.







### Wild Tribe:

Once a week we have a dedicated afternoon to 'Wild Tribe'. Ms Walsh is our Wild Tribe leader and we take part in activities in our lovely grounds surrounding the school. We have our own forest area, gardens, fields and a willow hut. Activities include collecting items linked to a theme, making potions, mud play, making natural art or instruments, making stick men or dens. The aim is to encourage a love of the outdoors, support dressing skills through getting changed and understanding the need for appropriate clothing, learning about safety by staying with a group and learning to respect boundaries, following instructions, sensory play, social and communication skills.





### **Toileting and Personal Care:**

Many of the pupils in our setting may need support with personal care. We will work with you to create a care plan. We have a large toileting area and each child has their own drawer to store personal items. We will work with you to support toilet training where appropriate. If your child needs any regular medication there is a form to sign to provide the ARB team with permission and directions on use.

### **Snack and Lunch**

There is a mid-morning and mid-afternoon snack. We all sit around the table as this is a good opportunity to practise and embed social and communication skills. The school provides fruit on a daily basis and pupils are welcome to bring their own snack from home, bearing in mind, of course, that we are a healthy school.

School dinners are available to order or your child can bring a packed lunch. Dietary requirements can be catered for, as well as any other needs your child may have. For example, some pupils may not like different types of food touching so the kitchen can serve items in separate dishes.



### **Uniform:**

Please see the main school website for details on school uniform. However, this may be something that needs to be adapted according to your child's needs. For example, some children with sensory needs may be more comfortable in joggers than school trousers.

### **School/ Home Contact:**

Each child is allocated a key worker who is the named person responsible for your child. If your child travels into school in a taxi, the key worker will ring once a week to give an overview of the week.

We also have daily 'Home/School' contact book which is completed daily so you know what your child has done during the day as well as a means for getting any messages to you. This is also a way for you to get any relevant information to us each day.





### **Outside Agencies:**

We work closely with other outside agencies that may be involved in the care of your child to provide the best possible support for your child. This might be Speech and Language Therapists, Autistic Spectrum team, health visitor/ school nurse, Early support among others. Many families have regular meetings with other agencies that the school may be invited to.

### **Applying for a place:**

Places in the ARB are allocated by Cornwall County Council Special Education Provision and Assessment Team as part of the EHCP process. Please follow this link for further information

<https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/advice.page?id=1JQmT8z9GGY>

The Early Help Hub is good source of advice and information for parents and can help guide you through next steps.

<https://www.supportincornwall.org.uk/kb5/cornwall/directory/advice.page?id=RgechR1QDS4>

We are very happy to talk to you with regards to any further information that you might like. Please contact us for an informal discussion on 01566 772170 and ask for Mrs Bartlett or Kathy Walsh . Alternatively email us at [ststephens@andaras.org](mailto:ststephens@andaras.org)

### **Finally....**

We hope this has given you a taste of what is on offer at the ARB at St Stephens Community Academy.

Please take a look at our website pages for more information and photos. We are very happy to answer any questions you may have and we hope you will come and see us. We would be delighted to show you around.



Class 7 sunflowers

St Stephens Community Academy, Roydon Road, Launceston PL15 8HL

Tel: 01566 772170 [ststephens@andaras.org](mailto:ststephens@andaras.org)

