

About Selworthy Special School...

Selworthy School is situated on the northern side of Taunton, Somerset. It caters for learners from 4 to 19, with special educational needs identified through an Education Health Care Plan. There are 200 learners on roll, with 21 attending the sixth form.

Selworthy School recognises, understands and caters for a variety of learning needs which encompass all of the following:

Cognition and Learning Needs

- Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD, for example Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dyspraxia)
- Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD)
- Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD)
- Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty (PMLD)

Social Emotional and Mental Health Needs (SEMH)

Communication and Interaction Needs

- Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

Sensory and/or Physical Needs

- Visual Impairment (VI)
- Hearing Impairment (HI)
- Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)
- Physical Disability (PD)

The school provides specialist educational input for a wide range of complex additional needs. Learners with profound and multiple learning disabilities have a profound learning disability and additional health needs that require high levels of support from others. Many are life-long wheelchair users. Many have sensory impairments with either vision or hearing affected. Their physical healthcare needs are complex.

Learners have the opportunity to have their voice heard and therapeutic needs met. We use a Cultural Capital approach to ensure all learners have tiered and bespoke opportunities to access the world around them and broaden their experiences. The learners' EHCP targets are taught alongside their academic curriculum and ensure that their needs are being met in order to reach their full potential.

The curriculum is designed to inspire curiosity and lay the foundations for a fulfilling life both now and beyond school, with play as a fundamental and visible part of our lessons. We strive to ensure that childhood is filled with opportunities for fun, laughter, learning new things, interacting with others and making memories. Our multi-sensory approach provides all learners with the opportunity to feel, develop and learn through active engagement on multiple levels. Our curriculum is personalised to each learner and incorporates their interests to provide the highest level of engagement. Cross-curricular topics provide a vehicle for subject specific delivery.

At Selworthy, we engage with a full range of external professionals, such as speech and language therapists, physiotherapists, vision support team and educational psychologists, in order to secure the best offer for our school community. We provide regular opportunities for our parents and carers to attend school wide events, such as Christmas performances, WOW events and sports day.

We recognise that as a school, we truly are special and this is something to be embraced and celebrated. As a result, we have developed a Selworthy 'SPECIAL' curriculum. This supports our learners to develop to their full potential. Independence skills run as 'golden thread' throughout all that we do. Throughout a learners' journey, starting from their first day, our ultimate aim is to prepare them for adulthood and life beyond Selworthy School.

A robust recruitment and retention strategy is in place, in response to significant rates of expansion.

The school covers three sites. Key stage 3, 4 and 5 are on the Hazelbrook campus, and Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), Key Stage 1 and 2 are situated on the Oakhill campus.

Additionally, a satellite provision, 'The Cove' works in partnership with a local secondary school, supporting 8 learners to access mainstream provision.

The school is part of The Oak Partnership Trust along with 4 primary schools.

There are high levels of collaboration with the Trust to support current strategy.

The interim leadership team is experiencing a significant period of change.

Current school leaders are experienced and familiar with the working practices of the school. There is executive support from the Trust.

The acronym 'SPECIAL' embodies the collective vision.

All staff strive to provide experiences that are supportive, personalised, empowering, creative, inspirational, and aspirational.

Ofsted Judgements

Full Inspection | November 2013 | (Pre-conversion): Good

Short Inspection | November 2017 | (Pre-conversion): Good

Short Inspection | June 2023 | (as part of Oak Partnership Trust): Good

Identified areas to continue to improve identified during the short inspections:

- The curriculum is not as well developed in some subjects as it is in others. Learning is not broken down into small enough steps of learning. As a result, pupils do not learn as successfully as they could. Leaders need to ensure that they focus on the development of all subjects and that domain leaders have the expertise to do this from reception through to sixth form. (2023)
- Leaders have a wide range of systems and processes in place to ensure they have the necessary information on individuals and groups. At times, the information gathered is replicated and not always easy to manage and access for those that need it. Important information, for example about pupils' needs or effective communication strategies, can be overlooked. Leaders need to make sure that the systems and processes in place are specific, relevant, accessible and efficient to make the best possible impact on how pupils learn and staff workload. (2023)

Data checked on 13.07.23	Selworthy	Oakhill		Hazelbrook		The Cove	
	Number	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
Number of learners	197	91	46%	102	52%	4	2%
Number eligible for Learner Premium	71	30	42%	38	54%	3	4%
Number of Children Looked After	6	2	33%	5	83%	0	0%
Number of EHCPs	197	91	46%	102	52%	4	2%
Number of learners with English as an Additional Language	24	16	67%	8	33%	0	0%
Number of learners who joined other than at the usual time of first, reception/Year 7, admission	N/A	The majority of Oakhill learners did not start at the beginning of reception		The majority of Hazelbrook learners have been on roll since the start of Year 7		2	N/A