



## **The Hyde School**

### **Rockets Informal Autism Provision**

#### **What is Rockets?**

Rockets is a school based provision for children with autism and / or complex social and communication needs. At present we have up to twelve places for children from Nursery to Year 2.

#### **Why is it an informal provision?**

Rockets is an in school provision designed to meet the needs of children already on roll at The Hyde. We receive no additional funding from Barnet to fund the provision.

#### **What are the admissions criteria?**

- Children must have an EHCP (Education and Health Care Plan), or be on the pathway to statutory assessment.
- All children in Rockets have a diagnosis of autism and / or are presenting with complex social and communication needs. Many also have difficulties with emotional regulation and sensory needs.
- In exceptional circumstances we may include children who may have such needs, even if they have not been formally identified.

Placement in Rockets is agreed between parents and the school. The school may suggest that a child would benefit from Rockets, and discuss this with the parents. As this is a departure from mainstream education, parental permission is required for children to be placed in Rockets.

The final decision as to whether a child is placed in Rockets rests with the headteacher.

#### **How is it staffed?**

Rockets is led and managed by the INCo with input from the headteacher and our school based speech and language therapist. A qualified teacher is present throughout the day, supported by staff who are experienced and knowledgeable in supporting children with this level of need. The Barnet Autism Advisory Team also provide ongoing support and advice to ensure we are making the best possible provision for the children in Rockets.

## **How long do children stay in Rockets?**

For most children, we anticipate that they will spend a maximum of two years in the provision before transferring back into mainstream education full time. A small number of children may move on to specialist placements in line with parental wishes and with the agreement of the Local Authority. The balance between time in the provision and in a mainstream class will depend on the needs of the individual child and may change as they progress.

## **What is different about Rockets from the mainstream classes?**

- Lower arousal setting with fewer children and a higher staff to pupil ratio.
- Based on evidence based practice to address the needs of children with autism and significant social and communication needs.
- Qualified teachers and support staff with significant expertise and experience in supporting children with autism.
- Tailored to meet the individual needs of the children.
- Balance of bespoke individualised learning with adult support, play based activities, sensory activities.
- Very clear structure- individualised visual timetables, key points within day.
- Autism specific strategies and practice to support children as much as possible, e.g. Attention Autism (bucket time), TEACCH workstations.
- Small lunch group within provision for children struggling with hall - eating and access to outside space
- Regular input and support from our school based speech and language therapist.
- Ongoing support from the Elliot Foundation and the Barnet autism advisory team.

We believe this will help the children make accelerated progress from their individual starting points.