

SAMUEL RHODES PRIMARY SCHOOL

Samuel Rhodes is a special needs school for students with moderate learning difficulties. There is both a primary and secondary school, but this case study only covers the primary school. The Samuel Rhodes primary school is co-located with Montem School in Islington, North London.

The Borough of Islington has built on their very successful Targeted Mental Health in Schools (TaMHS) project, and currently provides a lot of support to local schools. The local child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS) work in schools in the borough and provide relevant training; and they also offer to screen year 7 students for potential mental health problems. The Borough's Healthy School Team is currently looking at setting up their own framework to help schools implement a whole school approach to supporting positive mental health and resilience.

Integrated Working and Service Provision within the School

The school uses a team around the child approach, which means that there is a multidisciplinary team (MDT) which works within the school to help support the child, the family and the school staff. As well as working directly with children and families, the multidisciplinary team also supports the structures which enable them to work collaboratively with the children, school staff and families.

This multidisciplinary team meet and provide sessions with the child and parents within the school in a dedicated therapy room. This multidisciplinary team consists of:

- Speech and Language Therapist (SLT) – who works in the school 2 days a week
- Occupational Therapist (OT) – works in the school 1 day a week
- CAMHS worker - 2 clinicians work half a day each a week, with one focusing more on children, and the other focusing more on families and multi-agency matters.
- School Support Worker, who is based in the secondary school – works 2 days a week.

The Islington Schools Forum funds 1 day a week of CAMHS support, but the school has bought in additional support.

This multidisciplinary team meets regularly within the school to share information and discuss cases. The head of primary is an integral part of this team. This is important because it ensures that this work is led from the top, and that any support and training provided by the multidisciplinary team fits in with current provision and that it is suitable for the school. As well as providing leadership for the work, the head is also a champion for it. This all helps to ensure that it is successfully implemented.

Islington CAMHS offer to provide all schools in the borough with Solihull Approach training <http://islingtoncamhs.whittington.nhs.uk/professionals-2/resources/solihull-approach/>. This training has given school staff a framework to help them work with children and parents, and gives them a better understanding of mental health issues and how they can help support their students. It also gives school staff a shared language with the CAMHS workers, which helps support integrated working.

The CAMHS workers have provided school staff with training in 123 Magic - <http://www.123magic.com/> which helps them deal with behavioural problems when they arise. The multidisciplinary team have regular meetings with the school staff as well, where specific issues can be discussed.

The multidisciplinary team also provide support for parents, as well as or alongside support for their children. For instance, they have very successfully run Webster-Stratton parenting

programmes - <http://incredibleyears.com/> They had a good turnout for these sessions, and for the other services that the team provide. This is because the parents know the school, and they know and trust the therapists, and so are much more willing to speak to them about their problems.

Having this relationship with parents makes it easier to provide any additional support they might need. For instance, they know about the child's learning difficulties, and that the parents might not speak English. So it is much easier for the team to provide the additional support that the parent and child might need.

The main aim of the multi-disciplinary team is to provide wrap-around support for families across the various disciplines. This can mean that parents and the child have a join with meeting with CAMHS and other members of the multidisciplinary team. This is a bonus for parents as it reduces the number of different appointments they have to attend.

For more information contact: school@srs.islington.sch.uk

<http://www.samuelrhodes.islington.sch.uk/>

<http://islingtoncamhs.whittington.nhs.uk/professionals-2/professionals/>

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