



## Hertfordshire HAF Summer 2023 Case Study

Demonstrating the power of HAF in Hertfordshire

Theme: SEND children

### Next Thing Education

“Being part of the HAPpy programme has continued to be a central part of our organisation and focus...the SEND element of the camps have given us yet more experience and knowledge with skilled team members to support children with a wide range of needs and we are building on this base of expertise.”

Our advice would be:

- SEN passports or a similar idea are an invaluable tool in planning for each child's needs.
- Ensure you allow enough time in advance of camps to call parents/schools and fully prepare and plan for the children who are coming.
- Specific SEND equipment may be required depending on the camp – review resources and ensure these can cater for a variety of needs and that you have sensory toys or similar.
- Separate spaces for SEND children may be required – either for different activities or for quiet spaces.
- Specifically trained staff in SEND are central to supporting these children.

### What is the opportunity or issue?

When given information regarding a child with SEND in advance, we fill out SEND passports that detail their needs and can put in place measures specific to them to ensure they are able to enjoy the camp in the same way as all children attending. We invest heavily in the right staff who have extensive experience with SEND children and can often offer 1:1 support where needed.

To ensure we have the quiet space needed we hire separate areas within the school to run the SEND provision. However, we always try to integrate the children during lunchtimes with the other HAF and fee-paying children to create an inclusive environment.

### How have you capitalised on the opportunity and/or overcome the issue?

Our tech resources and equipment are specifically tailored to the SEND children where required including specialist iPads, keyboards, and accessibility screens so that everyone can make the most of the fun camp experience and learning opportunities. We also make sure we have sensory equipment and fidget toys available for children who may need them.

The staffing is key and we work on a 3:1 ratio with more staff where some children may need 1:1 consistently or are a flight risk. Our SEN staff are very experienced in supporting the children with their needs and their enjoyment of our camps. We also have a SEN Lead who is on call across all our camps and can be called on where required.

### What has been the impact?

Our SEND teams work hard to support young people by tailoring the activity plan to the ones that most appeal to them, helping them to navigate difficult situations and feel relaxed and comfortable. We recognise the break that this gives to parents over the Summer holidays who may be trying to look after other children and balancing work commitments. In terms of the impact on us as a business, the experience for our teams is invaluable in building up their own expertise and confidence in dealing with a wide variety of needs and situations. This helps us as a team to continue to deliver this offer in the best way we can.