

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Report

Kinds of special educational needs

Children and young people's Special Educational Needs (SEN) are generally thought of in four broad areas:

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, emotional and mental health
4. Sensory and or physical needs

Children may have needs in one or more of the areas above and approximately 15% of the school population are identified as requiring additional support from external agencies. Parents/carers are notified of this in writing.

How is the need for additional support identified?

- Parents may inform us during parent consultations, when they complete admission forms or at any other time they choose.
- External agencies like speech and language therapists, health visitors or children's centres will tell us about any additional needs they are aware of.
- We will find out when we do assessments of all children. In nursery we make a note of what children can do when they first join and then at regular intervals throughout their time in school.
- When children start Reception we do a short-computerised assessment of their understanding of language. Children are identified who may benefit from support to develop their understanding of language. Class teachers also complete a baseline assessment which may highlight areas of development that require further support.
- At the end of Reception we will have information about children's skills and those who are 'emerging' in their reading and number skills may be given additional support as soon as they start Year 1.
- At the end of Year 1 children who are below the expected level may be given additional support for reading, writing and maths.
- In Year 2 children are identified for booster groups by regular tracking of each pupil's progress
- We might be given expert advice from educational psychologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists or paediatricians as part of statutory assessment.

What interventions are offered?

- We routinely offer children extra support to gain basic skills in maths, reading and writing. This is most likely to be delivered on an individual basis or in groups of children.
- We offer language development support to children who have communication difficulties identified in school and by specialists. Children who access this may or may not have English as an Additional Language.
- We work alongside other professionals to implement specific programmes as recommended (e.g. occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy)
- We support children with social and emotional difficulties in social skills groups and, in some instances, on an individual basis. We can help children to manage anxiety, anger or loss. We have a Place 2 Be therapist in school who can also offer parenting advice.
- Some staff can use Makaton and PECS.
- We always encourage the use of visual timetables, social stories, move and sit cushions, ear defenders and writing slopes for children who may benefit.

- We try to provide low stimulation work spaces in classroom to support children who are easily distracted.
- We can provide advice and support for a range of issues that parents/carers may experience out of school like eating, toileting, behaviour management and issues frequently linked to Autistic Spectrum Condition.

What is provided for children with medical needs?

- We have a welfare officer who is responsible for overseeing the production of healthcare plans, ensuring that information is shared sensitively, and that medication stored in school is in date.
- Several members of staff are first aid trained and some are trained in paediatric first aid.
- Relevant staff attend annual asthma and epi-pen training.
- Prescribed medication can be administered in school.
- Children will be permitted to access food, fluid or medication required to manage their condition at any time.
- Special arrangements required for out of school outings will be discussed and agreed with parents in advance.

Who provides additional support?

- Additional support is provided by Teaching Assistants (TAs) and teachers, however it is the responsibility of the class teacher to ensure that all teaching planned for your child meets their needs and abilities.

Some TAs have a specialist area like developing language or supporting reading skills; others provide a range of different interventions.

- Support staff work in the classroom alongside the teacher and provide support to small groups or individuals.
- All school staff are invited to attend training in a range of special educational needs and disabilities.

Who else can help my child?

- We work with a range of people who can help and in some cases can make a referral for a specific service. Most of these people work within the Health Service and include speech & language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, dieticians, specialist nurses and paediatricians.
- We can also discuss or arrange referrals if appropriate to Social Services or Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services. We can complete an Early Help Assessment to access the key working service.
- We have access to an Educational Psychologist; Local Authority SEND Team and outreach services.

How is the quality of support monitored?

- The impact of each intervention is measured by identifying what a child can achieve before they start the intervention and what they have achieved by the end. This is then summarised at the end of the academic year and helps us identify what works best.
- Each member of staff participates in performance management and will have at least one target that is linked to the progress pupils make.
- We monitor the quality of learning and teaching through observations, looking at planning and children's work. We ask children what helps them learn and they are involved in recording their own progress.

- Written lesson observations will provide information about how well the teacher matches learning tasks to each child's ability.
- Each time we set and review targets, we will ask your child for their opinion on the support and how it helps their learning. Their views will be respected and acted upon.
- The governor responsible for SEND meets with the Inclusion lead and ensures that the school are acting in the best interests of children with SEND.

How can I and my child be involved?

- We conduct pupil conversations so that children can inform us what helps them, and we involve children when writing plans.
- Children who have social, emotional or mental health problems can have 1:1 or small group sessions with a play therapist who can help them express difficult feelings.
- You will have the opportunity to speak with the class teacher at parents' evenings plus any other time you wish. The Inclusion lead will arrange a meeting at least once each year so that you can give your views and we can jointly establish how outcomes can be achieved.
- Children will have a Pupil Profile which is updated regularly and we will seek your support to complete this.
- Any referrals to outside agencies will be discussed with you so that you can decide whether or not to give consent to this course of action.

You can attend workshops, reading sessions, meetings and our Parent SEND group

How can I find out more?

- You are always welcome to come into school and ask to see any member of staff that you feel comfortable speaking to. Sometimes an appointment will be necessary however some staff can see you when you drop in if they have no teaching commitment at that time.
- Lucy Morton, our Inclusion lead, is in school three days each week and will always be available if she has no prior commitments.
- You can check our website (www.woodendfirst.ealing.sch.uk) for policies on a range of issues.
- You can email a question to admin@woodendfirst.ealing.sch.uk or call 0208 422 5182
- You will be involved in setting targets and reviewing them as well as attending parent/carer consultations and can use these opportunities to find out more.

What if I am not happy about the support my child receives?

- Please mention any concern or worry to the person that you feel most comfortable speaking to, and they will try to respond.
- If they cannot reassure you or you are unhappy with the response, please ask to speak Mrs Morton, Miss Letch or Miss Bhachu
- If neither of the above suggestions resolves your concern then you may wish to speak to the governor responsible for Inclusion and this can be arranged via the school office. The governor for Inclusion is well informed and can support you.
- If you feel that your child needs more specialist support from another agency, Mrs Morton can discuss the options with you.

When will the support end?

- The support will end when your child has made enough progress to no longer need additional help.
- A few children may require additional support throughout their school years however this will be kept under review.
- Support needs will be balanced against developing independence and ensuring that children are not missing out by being withdrawn from class.
- We will carefully consider your child's needs when we make arrangements for transition to another class or school. Some children will have personalised support plans to make the change easier for them. The new school should work with you to determine what support may be needed for your child. School files, including support arrangements, will be forwarded to the new school.

Attendance matters

We know from experience that children who do not attend school regularly (at least 96% of the time) do not make as much progress as other children. Our efforts to support your child will be most successful if he/she does not miss any of the learning opportunities. If your child cannot attend regularly because of a medical condition, then we will already have been made aware of this. We will let you know if we feel that attendance is affecting progress and support you to ensure that your child has access to their entitlement to education.

This report reflects advice given in:

- The SEN Code of Practice (DfE, July 2014) – Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations
- Mental health and behaviour in schools (DfE, June 2014)
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions (DfE 2014)

This Policy should be read in conjunction with:

- Behaviour Policy
- Equality Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Needs

For more information about Ealing's local offer visit www.ealinglocaloffer.org.uk