

Schools Offer (SEND Information Report)

1. How does the school know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

The attainment and progress of all pupils is monitored frequently and consistently. Children falling behind age appropriate expectations will be identified through regular class monitoring, teacher discussions and pupil progress meetings during the year. Children causing concern will be highlighted to all adults working with them and the Special Educational Needs Co-coordinators (SENCOs). Additional assessment will be carried out by school staff in order to identify specific areas of difficulty. High quality teaching targeted at the areas of weakness will be put in place and the child's progress monitored over time. Parents will be informed of this at parent consultations evenings or earlier if necessary. If progress continues to be less than expected it may be necessary to put in place additional support and a thorough assessment of a child's needs takes place. This will be supported by the SENCO and includes views of the parents and child concerned. The child may then be recorded as 'SEND support'. Parents will be informed and involved throughout this process. Parents who are concerned that their child may have SEND issues should initially speak to their child's class teacher.

2. How will school staff support my child?

If a child has been identified as making less than expected progress the first response is high quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness. If progress continues to be less than expected it may be necessary for the teacher to organise additional support or targeted intervention. This support could be extra group or individual support led by a trained adult. Different teaching resources may be used. Interventions can range from a short daily session to longer less frequent sessions a week depending on the need of each child. It is the teacher's responsibility to provide for children with SEND in his/her class and to follow the school's procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision to meet those needs. Where the interventions involve teaching away from the main class the teacher still retains responsibility for the child and works closely with support staff to plan and assess the impact of the interventions and how they can be linked back to classroom teaching. The SENCO provides advice, monitoring, and links with outside agencies. There is a school governor for SEND who oversees the school's work with SEND and ensures the quality of provision is regularly monitored.

3. How will I know how my child is doing?

High expectations of each child in their class coupled with skilled differentiation usually ensures that children are making at least expected progress and frequently higher than expected progress. However some children still require additional support in spite of this. Where a child requires additional support parents are informed and targeted intervention is put in place. This support is monitored closely by both class teacher and SENCO and regularly modified. Most interventions take place over 1 or 2 terms and progress is reported back to parents at parent consultations or more regularly if needed.

The effectiveness of the school's provision for children with SEND is evaluated, reported to governors and monitored by OFSTED.

4. How will the learning and development provision be matched to my child's needs?

A detailed assessment which draws on the teacher's assessment and experience of the child, their previous progress and attainment, their development in comparison to their peers, the views and experiences of parents and the pupils' own views takes place. This ensures that any barriers to learning are identified and effective provision suited to a child's specific needs is implemented. Children are consulted through the whole process and are key to decisions about what support is needed and will yield most impact.

5. What support will there be for my child's overall well being?

All staff are trained in Safeguarding. We work hard to ensure that all children are treated with respect and feel valued. We use circle times to allow children to discuss their feelings and behaviour. We follow a well planned PSHE curriculum, which again helps children to explore feelings and their responses to those feelings. We have an Emotional Well Being Mentor who works with individual children. The Emotional Well Being Mentor and other staff are trained to provide Protective Behaviours, My Time and Drawing and Taking; all of which are 1:1 interventions, giving children a safe way to discuss and explore their feelings. As a school we have access to play, drama and music therapists who will provide support for children's social, emotional and mental health needs. The school nurses will work with parents and staff to help address a child's health needs. In some instances we may need to refer a child to access a specialist support service.

The school has a consistent behaviour policy which is published on the school website.

Our staff are highly skilled in implementing personalised effective behaviour strategies and working closely together with parents and children to ensure strategies are consistent with those at home. We use a restorative justice approach to ensure that playtime issues are resolved fairly and that all the children are listened to and agree with the outcome.

We find ways to develop children's self-esteem, such as giving the year 4 children responsibilities around the school. We give awards in assembly for 'Friend of the Week' and 'Star of the Week'. The school adheres to the statutory guidance 'Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions' and all medication is kept in a secure place and is only administered by designated people. Individual health care plans are written for children with medical conditions and shared with all staff that work with the child, including lunch time staff.

6. What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

All teachers are well trained and supported. All teaching assistants receive additional training to deliver appropriate interventions. The school has a link Educational Psychologist and Speech Therapist. The school nurse team are able to refer to different health services such as: CAMHs and Child Development Centre. The school can also access outreach services such as North Herts Education Support Centre.

7. What training have the staff, supporting children with SEND, had or are having?

Staff are trained in First Aid and Safeguarding. There are a number of specially trained paediatric first aiders for each phase of the school and two designated staff (DSPs) for safeguarding concerns. Our school specialisms include behaviour support, Autism, Specific Learning Difficulties e.g. dyslexia, dyscalculia, literacy and maths interventions, gross and fine motor skills difficulties e.g. dyspraxia, Speech and Language and signing. Training is refreshed regularly and all opportunities for additional training are sought to ensure that staff have an up to date working knowledge of SEND issues and current legislation.

8. How will you help me to support my child's learning?

Parent's Consultation Evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring terms, to keep parents fully informed of their child's progress and an annual report is written for each child in the Summer Term. Parents are involved in reviews where extra support has been put in place and their views are sought at each opportunity to help support their child's learning.

A meeting for parents is held at the beginning of the school year. Information on our school website shows parents which topics will be covered. Parents are invited in to meet their child's new teacher informally in the summer term for the next academic year. On occasions informative evenings for parents are held on aspects of their child's education. The Emotional Well Being Mentor has knowledge of supportive local agencies and services and is able to signpost parents effectively.

9. How will I be involved in discussions about and planning for my child's education?

There are formal occasions such as Parent's Consultation Evening where parents are involved in discussions about their child's education. However, we have an 'open door' policy where parents are usually able to speak to a teacher before or after school to pass on a message or a piece of information, if a longer discussion is needed a meeting will be planned. Working parents are able to telephone to arrange for a teacher to call them back or email via the school office if there is a particular issue they wish to discuss. Parents are represented on the school governing body and there is also a very active PTA in school. The interventions and actions used with children with SEND are recorded on a Provision Map, parents will be involved in reviewing this map to identify progress and the next steps.

10. How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

For all school trips a risk assessment is undertaken to ensure that each child is kept safe from harm. All children with SEND are included on all school trips and when appropriate additional staff are deployed. If necessary parents will be consulted to ensure appropriate participation and active engagement of all children.

11. How accessible is the school environment?

The school is fully compliant with the Equality Act and reasonable adjustments are made for all children with SEND where necessary. The building is fully wheelchair accessible and has disabled changing and toilet facilities. Specialised equipment is provided where appropriate for children with SEND needs and advice is sought from the appropriate medical/health professionals to ensure all children's health and physical needs are catered for within the school environment.

12. Who can I contact for further information?

The school has a SENCo who can be contacted by telephone or email and is available to meet with parents if you have any concerns about your child. It is however, more appropriate to speak to your child's teacher with any initial queries. If you wish to make a complaint the school has a complaints procedure which is available from the school office.

13. How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school, transfer to a new school or the next stage of education and life?

There is a detailed transition programme in place for children new to the school, moving to new classes or leaving the school. The level of support offered is dependent on each child's needs, age and development. If you have any concerns that your child is worried about in terms of induction or moving on please contact the class teacher.

14. How are the school's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?

The school has an amount identified within its overall budget called the notional SEND budget. This is used for resources to support the progress of children with SEND; to employ teaching assistants to work with the children, to buy specialist equipment, books or stationary, to provide specialised training for staff. Where a child requires provision which exceeds the nationally prescribed threshold additional, top-up funding can be applied for through the local authority (Exceptional Needs Funding).

15. How is the decision made about how much support my child will receive?

The amount and type of support offered to a child is determined by a detailed analysis of a child's needs, barriers to learning, stage of development, parental views, their own views and consultation with their class teacher. This support is reviewed regularly with amendments being made to the programme of support. Interventions typically last between 1 and 2 terms with the emphasis being on early identification and targeted effective support to minimise any long term need for additional support.

16. How can I find information about the local authority's Local Offer of services and provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disability?

The authority's local offer of services and provision for children and young people with SEND can be accessed at www.hertsdirect.org/localoffer