



Ss Alban & Stephen Catholic Infant & Nursery School

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SEND Information Report September 2016

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does the school know if children need extra help?

Through continual assessment, observations and discussions with you, the Special Needs Coordinator (SENCo - Mrs Murphy) and other specialists.

2. What should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

Discuss your concerns with the class teacher. You might be invited to meet Mrs Murphy (SENCo) or other specialists linked to the school.

3. How will school staff support my child?

Adjust and tailor the curriculum to suit your child. Give them extra support, either individually or in a small group. Follow advice from outside specialists. In some cases staff will work with you to set an individual plan of action.

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

Consultations with teachers, SENCo, support staff and sometimes outside specialists.

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

Needs will be assessed and staff, pupils and parents work together to plan what is required to help your child develop their full potential.

6. What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

As a Catholic school, we believe that everyone has a unique identity as a child of God. All staff are committed to the well-being of your child. We also have provision for some individual work (nurturing), counselling and mentoring.

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

Staff have a variety of experience of special needs, but we also regularly access specialist advice, including Educational Psychologist, Speech & Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Specific Learning Difficulties, ADHD Nurse, Advisory Teachers for ASC, physical and sensory needs, School Nurse, Counselling, Mentoring, LINKs Academy (supporting positive behavior strategies) and Play Therapist.

8. What training have the staff supporting children and young people with SEND had or are having?

This is ongoing depending on the needs of the children and staff working with them. In the past two years staff have had the following training: working with children with Autistic Spectrum Condition Level 2 & 3 needs, various speech and language courses, bereavement counselling, working with children with ADHD, delivering 'catch-up' reading and writing programmes (including refresher training), various programmes supporting children in maths, developing strategies for supporting positive behaviour and health plans for children with epilepsy. Regular training takes place for Safeguarding Children, First Aid and Epipen administration.

The following courses have already been booked for this academic year: National Award for SEN Co-ordination, mental health issues for primary aged children, speech and language strategies (Elklan course), developing social skills groups, developing nurture groups, sensory disorders, supporting children with hearing impairment, working with children with dyslexic tendencies and using computer programmes to track pupil progress, .

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

The school aims to have an 'open door' policy where parents are welcome to discuss their child with staff.

All parents are informed about the curriculum taught each half term.

Staff will let you know if your child is having extra help to follow this curriculum, the nature of the help and provide extra materials if necessary for home support.

The staff also provide regular parent workshops to explain methods used in teaching key curriculum subjects.

There are regular teacher/parent consultation sessions

Where appropriate, home/school communication books will be used.

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

Parents of children with special needs will be invited in to school regularly to help plan the way forward for their child. The opinion of your child will also be taken into account. Parents will receive copies of this Individual Plan which will be reviewed regularly.

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

The school aims to include all children in all activities as far as they are able. Special arrangements and resources will be made available to ensure this happens and you will always be kept informed and asked for suggestions.

12. How accessible is the school environment?

All areas of the school can be accessed via ramps which may be permanent (outdoors) or portable (indoors). The classrooms and hall have soundfield systems. There are toilets in both key stages for children and adults who use wheelchairs.

13. Who can I contact for further information?

Your first contact is your child's class teacher. Mrs Murphy is the Special Educational Needs Coordinator. Mrs Dempsey is also available to discuss special needs. If you are working with specialists linked to the school, they will give you full contact details or can be contacted through the school.

You can also get more information from the following school policies: Special Educational Needs, Provision Mapping, Inclusion, Teaching & Learning, Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Accessibility Plan.

14. 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?

The school staff will meet with staff in pre-school settings and those in the Junior school to make special arrangements for transition. This usually involves extra visits and a transition passport/book which is given to you to share with your child over the holidays.

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

The school budget will take account of children's special needs and attempts are made to allocate resources where needed through a plan called 'Provision Mapping'. This is updated annually as children with needs join and progress through the school.

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

This decision is made through continual assessment of how your child is progressing, what type of support your child needs and the advice given by specialists linked to the school.

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

You can find this out via www.hertsdirect.org.uk website under SEND in Services. At the moment, Helen Jackson is our Local Authority Special Needs Officer.