

## WENTWORTH CHURCH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR AND INFANT SCHOOL



### SEND OFFER

All Rotherham Local Authority schools have a similar approach to meeting the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and are supported by the Local Authority to ensure that all children, regardless of their specific needs, achieve their potential in school. Under the Children and Families Bill, Local Authorities and schools are required to publish information about the services they expect to be available for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25. The Local Authority refers to this as the 'Local Offer' and information will be available on the Rotherham Council website. The intention is to improve choice and transparency for families and to provide important information and signage regarding the range of services and provision within the local area. The changes in the Children and Families Bill affect the way children with special educational needs (SEN) are supported in schools. The new approach begins in September 2014 and places pupils at the centre of planning.

The key areas of the new legislation are:

1. Young people and their families should be involved in discussions about the support they need, so they can share their knowledge and feed back to the school on the young person's progress.
2. Education, health and care plans (EHC) will replace statements of special educational needs. New assessments for additional educational needs will follow the EHC guidelines from September 2014. (Existing statements will remain in force until all children and young people have completed the transition, which will be within three years).
3. School Action and School Action Plus will cease and be replaced by a single school-based category for children who need extra specialist support.
4. There are 4 areas of SEND need:
  1. Communication and interaction
  2. Cognition and learning
  3. Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
  4. Sensory and/or physical

We are well placed to adopt these changes and looks forward to working with pupils and parents/carers to ensure fully inclusive access to our learning by meeting the needs of children with SEN in a mainstream setting, wherever possible. For more information about our school – see the questions and answers below:

**1. How does our school know if children need extra help and as a parent/carer what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?**

At Wentworth Church of England School we believe that early identification and appropriate intervention improves the prospects of all children with special educational needs. For some children, giving more attention to early signs of difficulties can prevent greater difficulties later. We aim to identify a child's special educational needs as soon as possible on entry to Foundation Stage, monitoring progress and achievement in line with EYFS profile assessment criteria. Concerns may be expressed by parents or other outside agencies, on or before entry to school. Children can be identified as having special educational needs through the following criteria:

- Significantly low or unusual EYFS profile assessment
- Significantly below expected attainment for their year group
- Significantly below age related expectations in numeracy and literacy requiring work that is different from that of any group within the class
- No evidence of progress being made
- Identification of need from Health, Social or Speech and Language

**2. If my child has SEND who will be involved?**

CLASS TEACHER Before any SEND are identified, your child's class teacher will first make sure your child's learning is suited to them and will adapt the type of task, the way learning is approached, or the way they help motivate your child before seeing the SENDCo (see below) about the need for anything additional or different. Once SEND has been identified, they will ask you to work alongside them in the setting of targets for their learning. They will use any strategies, equipment or approaches identified as helpful to your child's progress and liaise with Teaching Assistants about the progress of your child in class and with any intervention work they are doing with them. Your child's views will also be sort within this process.

SENDCo- Mrs. Barker

The Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo) will help the class teacher in identifying children with SEND and consider what else can be tried within the classroom. Once children are identified, they then liaise with school staff and help with setting appropriate targets and choosing suitable interventions to help your child make progress. They may assess your child to help them do this and seek their view. They also coordinate the intervention from outside agencies such as Learning Support Service, Educational Psychology or a Child's Therapist such as a Speech and Language Therapist. The SENDCo will contact you regarding outside agency involvement and may contact you regarding the outcome of assessments, or your child's needs or progress.

**TEACHING ASSISTANTS** The Teaching Assistants support your child's learning in class, either by directly working with them, or by working with others in the class to allow the class teacher to work directly with your child. They also take children for small group or one to one intervention work, designed to help your child make greater progress.

### **3. How will the Early Years staff support my child?**

If a child with SEND is starting at our school in Foundation, the class teacher/SENDCo will where possible visit the nursery or pre-school setting and attend any review meetings prior to your child starting school. We can also discuss a transition plan so we can meet the needs of your child immediately. This may include extra induction visits, photobooks for you to share with your child during the summer holidays or a staggered start in September. In Foundation, the emphasis is on learning through play and children progress at their own pace so activities would match the appropriate level. Extra adult support may also be needed to model some of the activities and to work one to one

### **4. How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?**

All teachers deliver high quality teaching, and have the high expectations for all pupils in the class. The class teacher plans lessons according to the specific needs of all groups of children. All teaching is based on building on what your child already knows and understands. Different ways of teaching are in place so that your child is fully involved in learning in class. For your child this may involve using more practical learning, different resources, using technology or additional adult support. Your child's class teacher will have carefully assessed your child's progress informally and formally and will know where there are gaps in understanding or learning, they will decide when additional support is needed.

Specific resources may be used including:

- A quiet learning space to limit distractions
- Pencil grips to support control and to improve handwriting
- Sit-fit cushion to support with posture and to reduce fidgeting

Visual prompts to remind children of learning

Visual timetables to develop sequencing of the day

- Prompt cards such as I need help or a timeout card
- Individual behaviour chart
- Home/school communication book
- Sensory toys

### **5. As a parent/carer, how will I know how my child is doing and how will school help me to support my child's learning?**

Class teachers and teaching assistants observe and assess your child throughout each lesson. This knowledge, in addition to the information collected during planned assessments helps the class teacher to make judgments about your child's strengths and areas for development and progress made. The class teacher discusses the progress of each child at a termly pupil progress meeting with the Head teacher. It is during these meetings that the teacher highlights concerns about progress and identifies any difficulties within the learning. A support plan may be suggested to monitor progress which will be reviewed at the next meeting. This information is shared with parents/carers at the parents meeting. Progress will be reviewed with your involvement and plans and targets made for the next term. This will include an element of support from home. All information from outside professionals will be discussed with you. In addition to the designated meeting, the class teacher is regularly available to discuss any concerns you may have. The progress of a child with a statement of SEND or an education Health and Care (EHC) Plan is formally reviewed at an Annual Review with all adults involved with the child's education.

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

Unless children are happy at school, learning is not as effective as it should be. Our school has a good history of supporting children who are struggling with emotional difficulties. In addition to the high quality class teaching, we run specific programmes for small groups of children. These may be delivered in the classroom or in a learning area, they are most often run by a teaching assistant but under the direction of the class teacher or the SENCO. These include social skills groups such as 'Talk Boost'. We

use these sessions to focus on targets to help make progress in specific areas. We also use individualised programmes usually on a one to one basis, often supported by outside agencies.

### **7. What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by our school?**

We use a wide range of services to support our children and families- for more information visit the Rotherham council website. Some services which are available to be accessed are listed below:

- Learning Support Services
- Educational Psychology
- Speech and language therapy (SALT)
- Visual impairment team
- Occupational therapy
- Child and adolescent mental health service (CAMHS)
- School nurse
- Parental support advisor
- Pediatrician

### **8. What training are the staff supporting children with SEND had or are having?**

The SENCO attends relevant training in order to keep her knowledge of SEND and the strategies and interventions up to date along with current developments with SEND.

During recent years the staff have received training in:

- Working with children with Down's Syndrome
- Autism
- Early Literacy & Numeracy skills

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

As an inclusive school, every child has the opportunity to access all areas of the curriculum, therefore provision for trips and activities will be adapted to meet individual needs, this includes our residential. Any child needing specific help will have this discussed between school and home before any visit or activity.

### **10. How accessible is the school environment?**

Our school complies with legislation for disabled wheelchair users.

## **11. How will school prepare and support my child to join our school, transfer to a new setting or the next stage of education**

We recognise that transitions can be difficult for a child with SEND and we take steps to ensure that any move is as smooth as possible.

### Any child joining our school or moving to another school

All relevant information for any child starting with us is sent on from their previous school. We will pass on all records and information for any child transferring to a new school so any special arrangements and support can be put in place

### Moving classes within school

Where we feel it is required, extra visits are scheduled and time allowed to meet the new staff. If appropriate the teaching assistant may move with the child. As we are a small school, most children are familiar with all of the staff and this makes transitions easier especially as the children get older.

### In Year 6

We make sure all relevant information is discussed and sent to the SENDCo of the secondary schools to which our children transfer. Where possible we invite SENDCos or Learning Mentors to summer term review meetings to meet parents and discuss needs. We organise extra visits to the local secondary schools for children with SEND if necessary so they can become familiar with the layout and routines. If required they may be accompanied by a member of staff. They have the opportunity to meet key members of staff and make new friends. This has worked well in the past.

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

The school budget includes money for supporting children with SEND. The Head Teacher decides on the deployment of resources for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in consultation with the school governors, on the basis of needs in the school. The Head Teacher, the Deputy Head Teacher and SENDCo discuss all the information they have about SEND in the school, including the children getting extra support already, the children needing extra support, the children who have been identified as not making as much progress as would be expected and decide what resources/training and support is needed

All interventions and support for SEND pupils is identified on a school provision map which is reviewed termly and changes made as needed.

## **13. How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?**

If your child continues to make little or no progress, despite high quality teaching targeting their needs, the class teacher and the SENDCo will assess whether the child has a significant learning difficulty. Where this is the case, in consultation with yourselves as parents/carers, an agreement about the level of SEND support that is required will take place. The support will be carefully monitored to look at the impact. If there is no or very little impact, it may be necessary to apply for an Education, Health and Care plan to further support the child's needs.

Schools receive funding for all pupils including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities and they meet pupil's need from this (including equipment).

If the assessment of a pupil's needs identifies something that is significantly different to what is usually available, there will be additional funding allocated. Parents will have a say in how this is used. You will be told if this means you are eligible for a personal budget. This must be used to fund the agreed plan.

#### **14. How are you as parents/carers involved with the school?**

We are child and family centred so you will be involved in all decision making about your child's learning. We arrange termly meetings to review progress. We discuss what is working in school and how this can be adapted at home. We set and review targets together with parents/carers so we work very much in partnership.

#### **15. Who can I contact for further information?**

For initial concerns contact the class teacher, then the SENDCo.

- Our SEND Governor is Andrea Barker

Rotherham's parent/carer forum is an umbrella organisation for all parents and carers of children & young people with Special Educational Needs, disabilities and complex medical needs. They work with Rotherham Council, education, health and other providers to make sure the services they plan and deliver meet the needs of disabled children and families.

Rotherham Parents Forum Limited

c/o Mangham Manor House

Scrooby Lane

Parkgate

Rotherham

S62 6NX

Telephone: 01709 296262 (Lines open from 9.15am - 3.00pm Monday to Friday term-time only)

Website: <http://www.rpcf.co.uk>

Email Address: [info@rpcf.co.uk](mailto:info@rpcf.co.uk)

**16. What to do if you as a parent/carer are not happy with the decision or what is happening?**

Your first point of contact is always the person responsible – this may be the class teacher; the SENDCo / Head teacher. Explain your concerns to them first. If you are not satisfied that your concern has been addressed speak to the Head teacher then speak to the SEND Governor. If your concern is with the local authority, contact the Complaints and Representations Officer, contact details as follows:

Complaints and Representations Officer at: [complaints@rotherham.gov.uk](mailto:complaints@rotherham.gov.uk)

Health: <http://www.rotherhamccg.nhs.uk/concerns-and-complaints.htm>

Further information about Resolving Disagreements can be found in Chapter 11 of the SEND Code of Practice