

School's SEND Overview for Parents

At Newstead Primary Academy we strive to support all children to enable them to achieve their full potential as we guide them through their learning journey.

Quality first teaching is vital; however for some children there are occasions when further additional support may be needed to help them achieve their learning goals.

'The school accommodates all SEND in line with Equality Act 2010 and provision is available for all 4 areas of need outlined in the 2014 SEND code of practice.'

The SEN Team consists of:

Miss Gallagher - SENCo and Inclusion Leader

Below is a glossary of the most common SEN terms.

ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit & Hyperactivity Disorder
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
BSS	Behavioural Support Service
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
COP	Code of Practice
CP	Child Protection
DCD	Developmental Co-ordination Disorder
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EH	Early Help
EP	Educational Psychologist
FSM	Free School Meals
FLO	Family Liaison Officer
HI	Hearing Impairment
IEP	Individual Education Plan
LAC	Looked After Child
LEA	Local Education Authority

LM	Learning Mentor
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulty
OT	Occupational Therapist
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disability
SEMHD	Social, Emotional, Mental Health Disorder
SENCo	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
SLCN	Speech, Language, Communication Needs
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulty
VI	Visual Impairment

Current SEN Updates

What is Pupil Premium?

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel.

Why has it been introduced?

The Government believes that the Pupil Premium, which is additional to main school funding, is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

Who decides on how the money is spent?

In most cases the Pupil Premium is paid direct to schools, allocated to them for every pupil who receives free school meals. Schools decide how to use the funding, as they are best placed to assess what their pupils need.

How are schools accountable for the spending of Pupil Premium?

They are held accountable for the decisions they make through:

- The performance tables which show the performance of disadvantaged pupils compared with their peers.
- The new Ofsted inspection framework, under which inspectors focus on the attainment of pupil groups, in particular those who attract the Pupil Premium.

Children and Families Bill 2013

The Children and Families Bill takes forward the Coalition Government's commitments to improve services for vulnerable children and support strong families. It underpins wider reforms to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what their background. The Bill will reform the systems for adoption, looked after children, family justice and special educational needs.

The Government is transforming the system for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), including those who are disabled, so that services consistently support the best outcomes for them. The Bill will extend the SEN system from birth to 25, giving children, young people and their parents/carers greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met.

It takes forward the reform programme set out in *Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability: Progress and next steps* by:

- Replacing statements and learning difficulty assessments with a new birth- to-25 Education, Health and Care Plan, extending rights and protections to young people in further education and training and offering families personal budgets so that they have more control over the support they need;
- Improving cooperation between all the services that support children and their families and particularly requiring local authorities and health authorities to work together;

- Requiring local authorities to involve children, young people and parents in reviewing and developing provision for those with special educational needs and to publish a 'local offer' of support.

What is the Local Offer?

- The Local Offer was first introduced in the Green Paper (March 2011) as a local offer of all services available to support disabled children and children with SEN and their families. This easy to understand information will set out what is normally available in schools to help children with lower-level SEN as well as the options available to support families who need additional help to care for their child."

What will it do?

- The Local Offer will provide parents/carers with information about how to access services in their area, and what they can expect from those services. With regard to Education, it will let parents/ carers and young people know how school and colleges will support them, and what they can expect across the local settings. During the last year, the Local Offer Steering Group has developed questions for schools, and trialled them with a small number of settings.
- There are 15 questions, devised in consultation with parents/carers and other agencies, which reflect their concerns and interests. These will be answered by agencies, schools and colleges to provide information to parents and carers to enable them to make decisions about how to best support their child's needs.

Here are the responses from Newstead Primary Academy to the questions;

Questions

- 1. How does Newstead Primary Academy know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?**

Newstead Primary Academy know that a child needs extra help if;

- concerns are raised by parents/carers, teachers, teaching assistants or the pupil's previous school
- there is lack of expected progress or attainment
- there is a change in the pupil's behaviour
- a pupil asks for help

If you have concerns then please contact your child's teacher or Miss Gallagher (SENCo)

2. How will Newstead Primary Academy support my child?

- Each pupil's education program will be planned by the class teacher and reviewed half termly. It will be differentiated accordingly to suit the pupil's individual needs. This may include additional general support by the teacher or teaching assistant in class.
- If a pupil has needs related to more specific areas of their education, such as spelling, handwriting, numeracy & literacy skills etc. specific interventions will be used to support them. The interventions will be regularly reviewed by all involved to ascertain the effectiveness of the provision and to inform future planning.
- Progress Meetings are held each half term. The Head of school/ Head Teacher and class teacher discuss each pupil's progress. This discussion may highlight any potential problems in order for further support to be planned which will be discussed and implemented by the SENCo and Class Teacher.
- Occasionally a pupil may need more expert support from an outside agency such as the Children's Therapy Team, Paediatrician etc. Referral forms are then completed in conjunction with parents/carers and forwarded to the most appropriate agency. After a series of assessments, a program of support is usually provided to the school and parents/carers.

3. How will teaching approaches and the curriculum be matched to my child's young person's needs?

- We aim to provide an inclusive, creative, child led curriculum that will equip children to be successful in life.
- When a pupil has been identified with special needs their work will be differentiated by the class teacher to enable them to access the curriculum.

- Teaching Assistants may be allocated to work with the pupil in a 1-1 or small focus group to target more specific needs.
- If appropriate specialist equipment may be given to the pupil e.g. writing slopes, pen/pencils grips or easy to use scissors.

4. How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

- You will be able to discuss your child's progress at Parents Evenings.
- Appointments can be made to speak in more detail to the class teacher or SENCo by visiting the school office.
- IEPs (Individual Education Plans) are sent home each term. Targets are usually set by the class teacher. Parents/carers are encouraged to contribute their input to be included on the IEP.
- The class teacher may suggest ways of supporting your child's learning through messages, at parents' evenings or if you are requested to attend a meeting.
- Miss Gallagher (SENCo) may meet with you to discuss how to support your child. The class teacher may meet with you discuss strategies to use if there are problems with a child's behaviour/emotional needs.
- If outside agencies or the Educational Psychologist have been involved suggestions and programs of study are normally provided that can often be used at home.

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

The school offers a wide variety of pastoral support for pupils who are encountering emotional difficulties.

These include:

- Members of staff such as the class teacher, teaching assistants and SENCo, readily available for pupils who wish to discuss issues and concerns.
- Pupils who find lunchtimes a struggle are able to take time out inside with a member of staff. However, for poor behaviour during break or lunchtimes children will be withdrawn from these times and spend time in study club where they are asked to reflect on their behaviour and what they can do to improve it in the future.

We hope that children will feel safe and have good relationship with their peers and adults.

Pupils with medical needs

- If a pupil has a medical need then a detailed Care Plan is compiled in consultation with parents/carers. These are discussed with all staff who are involved with the pupil.
- Where necessary and in agreement with parents/carers medicines are administered in school but only where a signed Medication agreement in line with the medication policy is in place to ensure the safety of both child and staff member.

6. What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by Newstead Primary Academy?

At times it may be necessary to consult with outside agencies to receive their more specialised expertise.

The agencies used by the school include:

- Safeguarding Children Advisors
- SENDS (Specialist advisors including Autism, Specific learning difficulties, Visually and hearing impaired)
- Educational Psychologist
- CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- AAP (Attendance Advisory Practitioner previously known as Educational Welfare Officers)
- Social Services
- Children's Therapy Team (Speech & Language/Occupational Therapy)
- Paediatricians
- An Educational Psychologist is allocated to each school.
- She/he would normally only work directly with pupils who needs are felt to be quite considerable and have not responded well to the interventions previously put in place for them.
- Once a case is opened with the Educational Psychologist, specific assessments are carried out.
- She/he will offer advice to the school and parent/carers on how to best support the pupil in order to take their learning forward.

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

All staff at Newstead Primary Academy have received some training relating to SEND. This could be through specific intervention programs or general SEND. These have included sessions on:

- How to support pupils on the autistic spectrum.
- How to support pupils on the dyslexia spectrum
- How to support pupils with emotional needs.
- Speech and Language development training
- Literacy development training
- Better Reading Program training
- Word Aware training

8. How will my child be included in activities outside this classroom including school trips?

Activities and school trips are available to all.

- Risk assessments are carried out and procedures are put in place to enable all children to participate.
- Appropriate staffing ratios to meet identified barriers

9. How accessible is the Newstead Primary Academy environment?

As an Academy we are happy to discuss individual access requirements.

We aim for all children to have;

- Access to the curriculum (differentiation which includes different ways of recording, differentiation through success criteria, differentiation through learning outcome.)
- Reasonable adjustments
- Access to the building
- Access to the wider community through the school website

Facilities we have at present include:

- 1 disabled toilets.

- Two parking spaces

10. How will Newstead Primary Academy prepare and support my child to join the school or the next stage of education and life?

Newstead Primary Academy aims to ensure that pupil's transition is as smooth as possible.

Strategies include:

- Meetings between the previous or receiving schools prior to the pupil joining/leaving. Additional visits are also arranged for pupils who need extra time in their new school.
- Whole school Transition Days where each class spend the afternoon with their new class teacher.
- Secondary school staff visit pupils prior to them joining their new school.
- Meetings between teachers, SENCo and the SENCo from the secondary schools to pass on information regarding SEN pupils.
- Where a pupil may have more specialised needs, a separate meeting is arranged with Mrs Griffin (SENCo), the secondary school SENCo, the parents/carers and where appropriate the pupil.

11. How are Newstead Primary Academy's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?

- The SEN budget is allocated each financial year. The money is used to provide additional support or resources dependant on an individual's needs.
- The additional provision may be allocated after discussion with the class teacher at pupil progress meetings or if a concern has been raised by them at another time during the year.

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

- When the children joined the Academy, support is allocated on the information provided by the feeder school. Usually, in consultation with

the SLT and their class teacher, the SENCo will allocate teaching assistants to individuals or small groups to support in class or in other focus groups tailored to the pupils' needs.

- During their school life, if further concerns are identified due to the pupil's lack of progress or well-being then other interventions will be arranged.
- Parents/carers will be able to see the support their child is receiving on a provision map. A provision map is a record of support that the pupil is receiving including the impact it is having on the pupil's learning.

13. How will our child and young person be involved in the decisions about their learning?

At Newstead Primary Academy, we feel that it is imperative that all children, including those pupils on the SEN register, have the opportunities to represent their views.

- The children have chance to pass on their views through the school council and SMSC representatives. Children can discuss their ideas and have a say in things that happen in school.
- Pupil voice meetings with the SENCo and pupil voice lead in year 6 make sure all children with SEN are heard. They have the opportunity to say their view and discuss how they feel about the support they get in school.
- Marking provides opportunities to establish next steps and celebrate where the children have done well and where they can improve. Quality first teaching ensures that the curriculum is differentiated so all children can achieve their potential.
- Each term the children's IEPs are reviewed and the children help to say how they think they did. Then they assist in setting new targets.

14. How are parents involved in the setting/school/college? How can I be involved?

All parents are encouraged to contribute to their child's education.

This may be through:

- Discussions with the class teacher.
- During parents evenings.
- During discussions with Miss Gallagher or other professionals.

At Newstead Primary Academy we actively welcome parental views regarding the learning of children and young people within our care. Assessment profiles detailing individual pupil achievements, targets and assessment results are sent home 3 times a year, with a section for parents to air their views. Regular parent's evenings are held and our open door policy allows parents to speak to their child's class teacher; with additional appointments made at convenient times for all if required.

Academy newsletters are sent home frequently to ensure that our parents are kept informed of changes and decisions involving their child's learning and parent questionnaires allow us to take on board further suggestions. Regular SEND meetings are also held between parents, class teachers and the SENCo in order to discuss pupil passports, individual education plans and provision maps in order to support your child's learning.

15. What do I do if I want to make a complaint?

At The Inspirational Learning Academies Trust, we all work very hard to build positive relationships with parents and try to enter into a partnership to ensure each child reaches their full potential and is well prepared for secondary school life at the end of their primary education. Our aim is to deal with issues and problems before they become a complaint. However, there is a clear protocol to follow if necessary and the steps to follow and their outcome are outlined in this document.

1. If any parents are unhappy with the education that their child is receiving, or have any concerns relating to the school, we encourage them to talk to the child's class teacher immediately. There is no doubt that if a concern is shared with the class teacher they can either reassure worried parents or together devise steps to take to address the concern. Parents must never worry about sharing their concerns with the class teacher. They will always be taken seriously and due consideration given to a mutually agreeable resolution.

2. We promise we will always be fair, open and honest when dealing with any complaint and to deal with them as swiftly as possible. Our focus will always be on the child and what is best for them.

3. Whilst we will take any complaint seriously at any time, we believe that complaints can be dealt with much more effectively if the issue is brought to the attention of the academy staff as soon as possible. We therefore suggest that the complaint should be within 5 working days of the issue/ incident. Historic complaints, particularly regarding members of staff/ leaders who are no longer at the academy, may be more difficult to resolve, particularly if a concern was not raised at the time. However, any issue, particularly issues regarding safeguarding will always be followed up through the complaints process.

16. Who can I contact for further information?

- SEND Information, Advice & Support Service (SENDIASS)
Tel: (01782) 234701 or 234847
E-mail: iass@stoke.gov.uk
Web: www.sendiass-stoke.co.uk
- Stoke-on-Trent Safeguarding Children Board Tel: (01782) 235863

E-mail: Carole.Preston@stoke.gov.uk
Web: <http://www.safeguardingchildren.stoke.gov.uk>
- Special Educational Needs Assessment and Monitoring Service (SENMAS)
Tel: (01782) 231863