

St. James' Catholic Primary School, Orrell.



SEND School Information Report.

To be read in conjunction with Wigan LA Local Offer for SEND which can be found at <http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disability/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disabilities.aspx>

From 1st September 2014, a new law, The Children and Families Act 2014, was introduced in England. The law includes changes to the way children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) are supported and introduces an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to support children, young people and their families from birth to 25 years. The EHCP will replace statements of special educational needs.

It is fully expected that the changes will take time to embed throughout local authorities, health care trusts and schools and, if a child or young person currently has a statement of educational needs, this will not stop on 1st September 2014 – it will continue until it is time for an annual review or until the time when our local area has put the changes in place.

At St. James' Catholic Primary School, we are committed to ensuring all children experience a fulfilling, enriching curriculum so that they can achieve their full potential and become happy learners for life.

How does our school know if children need extra help?

- We liaise closely with a range of early years settings to discuss individual children, their strengths and areas of need.
- If a child has already been identified with SEND prior to starting St. James' Catholic Primary School, we will work closely with families and external agencies to discuss any provisions needed and how this will be managed.
- Professional observations, professional dialogue and conversations with parents provide a wealth of knowledge about a child and their abilities – both academic and in terms of their social and emotional development.
- We assess children's academic attainment and achievements across the curriculum through a wide variety of assessment techniques, including some testing.
- External agencies (such as speech and language therapists, health visitors, occupational therapists) work closely with school and will provide recommendations on how to meet a child's needs.
- We will contact you if we have any concerns regarding your child's progress.

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

- Initially, contact school and arrange to speak to the class teacher about any concerns you may have.
- The class teacher may invite our school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) to the meeting.
- The meeting may include decisions about actions and/or provisions in school which could be put in place to support your child's progress.
- The meeting will give you the opportunity to discuss strategies that you have or may want to try to support your child's learning.



How will school staff support my child?

- School staff will listen to you and to your child.
- We will assess your child against age-related expectations and track their progress along their learning journey. For some children, who are working below National Curriculum expectations, we will use P-scales to track their attainment, progress and achievement.
- We will inform you of any concerns we may have regarding your child's attainment, progress and achievement.
- It may be appropriate that a referral to an external agency is completed to seek specialist advice and recommendations on how best to support your child's needs.
- We will ensure that your child is happy and in the correct frame of mind to learn.



How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

- Class teachers carefully plan lessons and activities to meet the varying needs of the children in their class.
- Learning activities are differentiated so that children at different levels of attainment can access lesson content and progress with their learning.
- The use of additional adults to support some children is planned, and consistently monitored and reviewed.
- Sometimes, it is appropriate for small groups or individual children to be withdrawn from class to complete some learning activities and intervention programs. This is always based on an assessment of need and all children are still fully included in a wide range of class based learning activities.
- School will always consider the advice from specialist external agencies (such as speech and language therapy, Educational Psychology, physiotherapy) when planning the curriculum.
- Additional resources may need to be put in place for certain children to help them to reach their full potential. For example, sloping writing desks, pencil grips, dictaphones.

How will I know how my child is doing and how will school help me to support my child's learning?

- At St. James' Catholic Primary School, we have an 'open door' policy and parents are always welcome to speak to teachers at a mutually convenient time. This may mean that parents need to make an appointment or, for a relatively quick enquiry, teachers may be available immediately.
- We hold two parents' evenings per year and every class teacher will write a detailed report near the end of the school year about your child's attainment, progress and achievement.
- We inform parents about age-related expectations for their child.
- Class teachers and, if appropriate professionals from external agencies, will advise parents on how best to support their child's learning and development at home.



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

- At St. James' Catholic Primary School, we pride ourselves on ensuring that the children in our care are happy, secure and have excellent emotional well-being. Indeed, our most recent OFSTED report states that children have, 'outstanding attitudes to learning and high attendance. Pupils have high levels of engagement, politeness and cooperation, in and out of lessons.' (OFSTED report, May 2012, page 6) The OFSTED parents' questionnaire confirmed that parents, 'feel particularly pleased with the school ethos of children caring for and respecting each other.' (OFSTED report, May 2012, page 6)
- There are very close working partnerships which exist between the school, the Parish and the families at our school.
- Every child is considered a priority at our school and class teachers, senior leaders and parents will work together to ensure that the child's needs are paramount.
- Class teachers and additional support staff work collaboratively and ensure that all adults working with your child knows what their strengths are as well as their areas of need.
- School will consider recommendations from specialist external agencies when planning and delivering activities for your child.
- There are a wide range of extra-curricular activities available to the children who attend our school, including residential trips. Such activities contribute greatly to the development of a child's independence, self-confidence and social and emotional well-being.



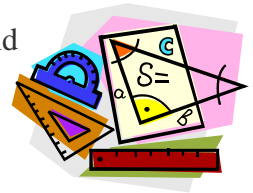
What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

- St. James' Catholic Primary School is in the Local Authority (LA) of Wigan. Every LA has a local offer to their residents for SEND. You can view Wigan LAs local offer at <http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disability/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disabilities.aspx>
- Your child's class teacher is a trained professional who will be very knowledgeable about your child's strengths and areas for development.
- If it is considered appropriate, school may refer your child for an assessment from a specialist external agency. We will always seek your permission before doing so.
- There are a wide range of specialist external agencies including:
 - Targeted Educational Support Service (TESS)
 - Educational Psychology
 - Speech and Language Therapy
 - Behaviour Support
 - Child and Adolescent Mental Health
 - Counselling
 - Outreach support from specialist teachers.
 - Support for children with a hearing impairment.
 - Support for children who are visually impaired.



What training have the staff supporting children with SEND had or what training are they having?

- All class teachers are qualified teachers.
- The SENCo attends regular LA meetings to keep up to date with practice and provision for SEND.
- The SENCo is a member of the WOWS network inclusion group which is a group of SENCos from local primary schools who work collaboratively to improve SEND provision in our schools.
- All teaching staff have regular training for a wide range of intervention programs and strategies so that the planning and delivery of specific learning activities can produce the best outcomes.
- Medical staff such as school nurses deliver training regarding medical needs as required.



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

- St. James' Catholic Primary School is an inclusive school. Provision will be made if required so that all children can access learning experiences.
- We will work closely with parents if any child needs additional support in order to access any activity.

How accessible is the school environment?

- The school site is fully wheelchair accessible.
- The school has accessible changing and toilet facilities.
- Specific physical requirements will be accessed on an individual basis and equipment will be provided with the help of the LA SEND services.

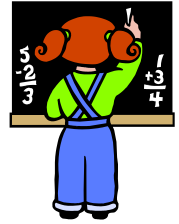
How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school and transfer to a new school?

- The school holds an open evening for prospective parents and their children to meet staff and have a look around school on an informal basis.
- When an offer of a place has been made, parents are invited to a 'New Starter's meeting and children will visit the reception class for an afternoon with their parents.
- The vast majority of the children who attend St. James' Catholic Primary School are successful in securing a place at St. Peter's Catholic High School, Orrell, under the priority of Baptised Catholic children criteria.
- Close links exist between St. James' Catholic Primary School and St. Peter's Catholic High School so that transition from one setting to the next can be as effective as possible in terms of emotional and social well-being as well as ensuring progressive learning for all children. A wide range of transition activities take place between these two schools.
- There are also pupils in year 6 who have secured a place at a different high school and a range of transition activities are also arranged with the relevant high school. For example, attending open days and learning days, pupils and staff completing questionnaires, primary and secondary school staff meeting to discuss individual children's strengths and areas for development.



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

- We use our assessment judgements and data to ensure that additional support is based on an assessment of need and directed in the most effective way.
- The class teacher, parents and, if appropriate, the SENCo will meet to discuss the types of intervention programs and strategies that can be included in the provision for your child.
- If appropriate, we will consider the recommendations from specialist external agencies.
- We will listen to the views of parents and the child.
- In some cases, school may need to apply for additional funding from Wigan LA in order to fully meet your child's needs and this would take the form of a referral for an EHCP. You can find out further information about this process at <http://www.wigan.gov.uk/Resident/Education/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disability/Information-for-professionals/Education-health-and-care-plans.aspx>
- A panel of professionals from Wigan LA make the decision about whether an EHCP is appropriate for a child.



How are parents involved in the school? How can I be involved?

- All staff at St. James' Catholic Primary School will strive to support parents as first educators of their child. As well as attending formal meetings regarding the child's attainment, progress and achievement, there are many ways in which parents can become involved in the life of the school:
 - Attending school masses
 - Parents, friends and staff association (PFSA)
 - Coffee mornings
 - Supporting your child with their learning activities at home – homework, reading, learning spellings, learning maths facts
 - Attending sports competitions
 - Being an audience member for school plays and concerts.

Who can I contact for further information?

- The SENCo at St. James' Catholic Primary School is Mrs J Hayes. Please telephone the school office on 01942 748455 if you wish to contact her or if you require further information regarding SEND provision at St. James' Catholic Primary School.

