



Leeds Local Offer

Meeting the needs of children with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities

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

Arrange an appointment to speak with your child's class teacher or the Special Educational Needs coordinator (SENCO) to discuss any concerns about your child. The Acting Special Educational Needs coordinator is currently Mrs Liz O'Carroll. Following a discussion about your child a course of action will be decided; this may involve support within school or possibly involvement from an outside agency to ascertain any difficulties and what strategies may be implemented to address these issues. The SENCO will support any access needed to outside agencies.

How will school support my child?

Your child's class teacher will plan and organise learning activities that meet the needs of your child. They may need to write a programme for your child called an Individual Inclusion Provision Map (PM) or SEND Support Plan (SSP) which will be overseen by the SENCO. This plan will identify your child's learning objectives, success criteria, strategies, who is going to help them and for how long each week. The class teacher will discuss the plan with you at Parents Consultations, or at another date agreed. The plan will be reviewed at least termly, if not before, depending on the objectives, and progress made will be recorded in the review session attended by the SENCO, class teacher and learning support staff. A new plan will then be written to follow. Progress is closely monitored by the SENCO and interventions are put into place for children who may not make expected progress.

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

All class teachers differentiate the curriculum according to the needs of the children in their class. Children may be grouped according to ability, in mixed ability groups, pairs or with an additional adult (learning support assistant or teacher). If your child has a PM or SSP this will detail any special arrangements. Additional resources may be provided for support and some adapted resources may need to be accessed through outside agencies. Some children may also be withdrawn from class to participate in special intervention programmes devised by the class teacher.

We strive to include all children, no matter what their additional needs are, but if the differentiated activity is still not accessible, children will be supported by an additional adult to work on their PM or SSP targets instead.

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

Three yearly Parents Consultations and the end of year report currently provide opportunities for you to discuss your child's educational needs. In addition to this, with an appointment, your child's class teacher will discuss any progress your child has made against their PM or SSP and next steps. This way school and home can work together to assist your child effectively. Also, if you make an appointment, the SENCO is available to talk with you about your child's targets and progress.

Termly Assess, Do, Review meetings will be held in school with the SENCO. Letters will be sent to you prior to the meetings.

If you are interested in any courses or need support at home please contact the SENCO.

What support will there be for my child's overall well-being and social, emotional and behavioural development?

In school we have the SENCO and a Learning Mentor (Kirsty Winfield) who provides support to our children to help them overcome barriers to learning. These barriers may include problems with friendships, emotional difficulties and bereavement. Additional support can also be provided for families regarding attendance and parenting strategies, at Great Preston C of E Primary School we have a dedicated team who will be able to support families. Occasionally, when families are experiencing difficulties and many agencies are involved, it may be beneficial to carry out an Early Help Plan (EHP) in order to provide a multi-agency approach which will form a stronger network to support the family.

Great Preston C of E Primary is part of the Brigshaw Cluster and through this cluster we can access a wide range of professionals to help with our children's needs. For example; Parent Support Workers, Emotional Health and Well-being Workers.

There are a number of school policies in place which support the well-being of children at Great Preston. They include: SEND, Disability Equality Scheme, Behaviour, Teaching and Learning, Safeguarding and Health and Safety. These can all be accessed through our website.

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

We have many outside agencies that the SENCO, Learning Mentor and school staff are able to access in order to provide support to our children and families.

In partnership with Leeds City Council and the Brigshaw Cluster we can access Parent Support Workers, Behaviour Support Workers, Educational Psychologists, Cluster Inclusion Workers,

Emotional Health and Well-being Workers and a Child and Adult Mental Health Worker (CAMHS).

As well as this, The Complex Needs Service can be accessed by the SENCO to provide support for children with a range of difficulties including: learning, social, emotional and mental health, medical, physical and complex needs.

If a child has speech and language difficulties the Speech and Language Therapy Service can be accessed. If you wish to make a referral to the service make an appointment to speak with the SENCO in the first instance who will discuss this with you. The toolkit for resources for Speech and Language can be found on the Speech and Language website www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk (LINK). As a parent or carer you will also be provided with a copy of your child's SALT plan in order for you to support them at home as well as in school. The therapist will assess your child when needed and amend your child's plan accordingly.

We also have access to a number of other specialist services, including the School Nursing Team, SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs Information Advice and Support Service), Visually Impaired Team, Deaf and Hearing Impaired Team and STARS (Specialist Teachers Autism Response Service).

What training do staff supporting children with Special Educational Needs or a Disability have?

The SENCO, who is also a qualified teacher with a vast experience of working with children with a range of SEND needs, is also a national trainer for both the 'Thrive' approach and Mental Health First Aid (MHFA). *The 'Thrive Approach' uses the most up to date research into neuroscience and child development to tailor interventions to meet the needs of individuals.*

Great Preston provides training for staff supporting a child on a 1:1 basis and training for staff to access dependent on the children that they are supporting. Additional training for Class teachers and Learning Support Assistants can also be accessed through the Complex Needs Service and other outside agencies.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom?

All children at Great Preston are supported to engage in all aspects of school life wherever possible. This includes accessing educational visits, residentials and after school clubs. If specialist provision is required, the SENCO will liaise with the parents or carers and the class

teacher to plan what is needed and wherever possible ensure that the child is able to access what is on offer.

How accessible is the school?

The whole of the school is accessible on one level. When accommodating children with physical difficulties classes can be moved around to ensure fair access for all. The local authority representative and parents will also be invited to look round and check the accessibility of the building. The school works effectively with relevant professionals (eg. Visually Impaired Team. Occupational Therapy team , Physiotherapy team etc) to enable children with specific needs to attend our school, ensuring appropriate access internally and externally.

How will the school help my child on transfer to the next phase of education?

At Great Preston we have excellent links with our feeder secondary schools and the Year 6 teacher works with them to plan effective transition for the Year 6 children. The SENCO and the Learning Mentor will also organise additional transition meetings for those children who are considered vulnerable or have SEN or a disability. The child and family will be involved with this extra process. The SENCO collates all the SEN records for Year 6 children who are leaving and passes this information on to the secondary school for the Autumn Term.

How are the school's resources/funding allocated and matched to children's needs?

We aim to ensure that all children's needs are met in school and the budget is used effectively to enable us to achieve this aim. Our school receives a notional inclusion budget that is spent on providing extra adult support in the classroom where appropriate and additional resources dependent on the specific needs of the children. For children with more complex needs, school can apply for 'Top Up' funding to allow us to ensure that their individual needs are met. The Senior Leadership Team and SENCO will work within the local authority guidelines to ensure that any funding applications are submitted at the appropriate time and advice and guidance from outside agencies is sought to ensure that the child's needs are fully understood.

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

The school has an open door policy and we welcome parental involvement. Parents and Carers are informed regularly about learning and events through weekly newsletters, parent's consultations, parent meetings, letters, text messaging and emails. Parents are invited into school assemblies, sports days, performances, etc. If parents wish to, they can nominate themselves to take an active role as a Parent Governor on our Governing Body as and when places become available.

Who can I contact for further information?

If you are considering applying for a place, please contact the school office 0113 232 0034

If you would like to discuss something about your child's needs, please contact Mrs L O'Carroll (SENCO), Mrs K Pashley (Head teacher) or the school office to arrange an appointment.

If you would like information about the Leeds Local Offer visit www.leeds.gov.uk/localoffer.