



ST. SCHOLASTICA'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Your Questions Answered

From September 2014 schools and Local Authorities have been asked to provide a 'local offer' detailing what their school or authority can provide for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). We hope this section will answer any questions parents may have when deciding where to place their child.

Handy abbreviation support!

ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
EHCP	Education Health Care Plan
EP	Educational Psychologist
HLT	Hackney Learning Trust
IEP	Individual Education Plan
LT	Leadership Team
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulty
OT	Occupational Therapist
PSP	Pastoral Support Programme
SA	Statutory Assessment
SaLT	Speech and Language Therapy
SENC	Special Education Needs Co-ordinator
SEND	Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities
SLC	Speech, Language and Communication
SMEH	Social Mental and Emotional Health

SMM School Middle Managers

How will I know if my child has SEN?

SpLD Specific Learning Difficulty
TA Teaching Assistant

If the school are concerned and think your child has a learning difficulty you will be contacted by the class teacher or Mrs Sanderson and asked to come in for a meeting. We will discuss what our concerns are and let you know what kind of additional support or external agency involvement (if any) we are considering to support your child.

Who is my SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disability) point of contact?

Mrs Sanderson is our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). She is responsible for co-ordinating SEN provision across the school.

What should I do if I think my child has SEND?

Initially speak to your child's class teacher. They will be able to answer any questions you may have about your child's progress. If you continue to have concerns then ask at the office for a meeting with Mrs Sanderson.

How do the school know if a child needs extra help?

We track children's progress regularly through assessment data. If a child is failing to make expected progress then we may start to introduce some extra help. If there is a change in a child's behaviour or progress, this may be another trigger for the introduction of extra support. We also listen carefully to parents/carers if they raise any concerns. We recognise the importance of the child and their parents being involved in decision making.

What kinds of SEND are there?

A child has Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities if they have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age; or if they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities. Speech, language and communication (SLC) difficulties, Social, Mental and Emotional Health (SMEH) issues and learning difficulties (specific and moderate) are all common forms of special educational need. Some children may have sensory or physical needs such as hearing or vision impairment. It is possible that some children will have more than one need which is affecting their learning and progress.

How will I find out what support my child will get?

Mrs Sanderson and/or your child's class teacher will always inform you if we are providing extra provision for your child. You may be informed in a letter or a meeting. Your child's termly IEP will also show any extra provision that is being given to your child as well as the extra targets they have to support their SEN.

Will the school support me to help my child at home?

Your child's class teacher will be happy to give you a number of ways you can support your child at home. Mrs Sanderson may meet with you to discuss strategies to use to support your child with their additional needs. If an external agency, for example an Educational Psychologist (EP) or Speech and Language Therapist (SaLT), is involved with your child, they will probably give you strategies to use at home as well. We also run coffee mornings for parents to meet with the SaLT.

What is in place to help my child's emotional wellbeing?

St Scholastica's is a very caring and supportive environment. All children are made aware that they can speak to a number of different staff to discuss their concerns. We have a 'Playground Buddies' support network for children to access in the playground. We also are fortunate enough to have an 'A-Space' art therapist and play therapist, who work over 2 days each week in the school with children who may need some therapeutic support at one time or another. We have a family therapist who also supports children and families who need additional help or advice.

My child has health needs – how can the school help?

At the start of each academic year an up to date Medical Emergency Form needs to be completed by parents for each child in the school. Mrs Sanderson works closely with our school nurse. If your child has a medical condition, it is **very** important that you let Mrs Sanderson know so that she and the school nurse can meet with you to set up a Health Care Plan. This plan will be shared with your child's class teacher and any other staff who need to know. This plan will be updated regularly. If your child has an allergy or a serious health condition this information is shared with all staff so that everyone can ensure they give the correct care to that child.

How will I be told about my child's progress?

You will have the opportunity termly to meet with your child's class teacher, to discuss their IEP and progress. You will be invited to parents evening in the autumn and spring term, and receive a written report at the end of the summer term. You will also have an opportunity to book an appointment with Mrs Sanderson during parent's evening to discuss your child's additional needs if you wish. If you wish to make additional appointments please ask in the office.

How much progress should my child be making?

Children are expected to make roughly 2 curriculum levels progress between Year 2 and Year 6. Progress is not always linear, but we would expect roughly 2 sublevels progress per year group. Children in Year 2 are expected to make at least 3 sublevels progress by the end of their academic year.

What family support does the school offer?

Mrs Sanderson works with a number of other agencies that she can refer families to for support. We recommend that all parents of children with SEN contact 'Hackney Parent Partnership' as they are a mine of information and support in the local area. Our family therapist Camilla and our family liaison officer, Jimmy Healey, can also give advice and guidance on how to access services.

What specialists do the school work with?

We work with a number of external agencies to support children in the school. These include, but are not limited to:

- **Speech and Language Therapists**
- **Specialist Teachers**
- **Educational Psychologists**
- **Occupational Therapists**
- **Physiotherapists**
- **Hearing/Visual Impairment teachers**
- **'A-Space' Art/Play/Family therapist**
- **CAMHS clinicians**
- **First Steps**
- **Paediatricians**
- **School Nurse Service**
- **School Doctor**
- **ARK**
- **Linden Centre**