



Old Park Primary Special Education Needs Information Report

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Introduction

Although the extent of need may vary between schools, areas and individuals, a proportion of pupils will require special educational support at some point during their schooling. Consequently, it is essential that all schools establish an effective policy for the identification and assessment of needs resulting in a structured programme of intervention and ensuring collaboration between parents, pupils and teachers at all times and with support services where necessary.

Statement of Entitlement

All children are entitled to have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and to take part in a range of school-based activities. The school will endeavour to meet the needs of the individual and ensure every child is fully included during the COVID pandemic.

To ensure the individual right of access, children with Special Educational Needs will be identified and supported by the Class Teacher and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and the curriculum differentiated to meet their needs. The school will strive to support children and the families of those with needs in the following areas: Cognition and Learning; Communication and Interaction; Social, Emotional and Mental Health; Physical and Sensory.

All pupils are entitled to equality of opportunity irrespective of race, gender, disability, class, religion or age.

At Old Park Primary School, we recognise and respect the uniqueness of all children and their individual learning needs. We also recognise that education is a partnership between pupil, parent and school and it is essential that the role of the learner in the development of this partnership be respected.

Pupils are entitled to :-

Access to an education that is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated to meet the needs of the individual and which seeks to maximise participation in the national curriculum. To ensure children remaining at home, has access to such tasks.

High quality teaching and support within a sympathetic, positive and enabling environment where all teachers recognise and fulfil their responsibility to meet the Special Needs of the children whom they teach.

Early and prompt assessment of their needs in their natural setting.

This assessment should be continuous and cumulative.

Parents are entitled to a genuine partnership with professionals in the Educational Services. They should also be kept fully informed about assessment procedures, resources and the options available for the education of their children. They must be encouraged to take an active part in the decision making process and be allowed to express a preference about which school their child should be placed in. During the COVID pandemic, the SENCo will remain in regular contact with the families of high need pupils (via virtual means) and will be available to all SEND families through telephone or email.

What type of SEN provision does Old Park Primary School offer?

We offer provision for anyone who has additional needs when accessing the school routine, resources and/or curriculum. These include: Hearing or visual impairment; speech, language and communication needs; specific learning difficulties; complex communication needs; emotional, social and behavioural needs; physical disabilities. This also includes anyone who has greater difficulty in learning than most children of his/her age. This may be a specific difficulty in one area or may encompass all areas of development. In addition, we ensure provision for anyone who is gifted in one or all areas of the curriculum and thus requires special help to allow these talents to become fully developed (and so avoid frustration). We also ensure Looked after Children with SEND are fully supported and included as stated in this information report.

A COVID-related risk assessment will be completed for all EHCP children, to ensure their needs are met (at home or in school). Differentiated home-learning packs and virtual access to outside agencies will be accessible for those who require it.

The identification and assessment of pupils with SEN.

Identification:

Staff should be constantly alert to the possibility of Special Educational Needs.

Procedures include:-

1. The class teacher or another member of staff identifies that there is a disparity between the performance or apparent ability of a particular child and that of the majority of their peers. This may include academic/social development; speech and language delays; progress against published targets or sensory impairment.
2. Parental concern.
3. Sensory or physical impairments or speech and language delays in very young children may be identified by Health Workers and the school informed. Staff may also identify such needs through EYFS Baseline assessments and WellComm Screenings.
4. Appraisal of newly admitted pupils.

5. Social and Emotional difficulties are assessed through the Well-Being Survey, Boxall Profiles and Behaviour Checklists.

Assessment:

Stage 1 : Initial Concern (by the class teacher and/or parent)

Stage 2 : External Consultation and Support

Children whose progress is still of concern (through assessment, monitoring and review meetings), Sandwell's Inclusion Support Team can be requested to assess and inform our practise through a consultation request. Inclusion Support can aid with moderate learning difficulties; emotional, social and mental health difficulties; specific learning difficulties and complex communication needs. Children experiencing hearing or visual difficulties are referred to the Sensory Team. Targets and actions are agreed and reviewed. If progress is still of concern, a request for further assessments and 1:1 work will be requested. CAMHS can also be contacted if school or parents have increasing concern over a child's social or emotional skills. If it is agreed that a child needs extra support and/or resources to be made available above the notational budget given to schools for children with special education needs, Statutory Assessment is considered. This assessment will be child-centred and involve family and professionals working with the child, including the child themselves.

Dependent on individual risk assessments, some support from external agencies is currently virtual, with video evidence submitted to help support assessments (upon request).

EHCP (Education Health Care Plan)

The child's special educational needs are assessed by the Educational Psychologist or lead key worker from Inclusion Support and subject to their agreement; a request for a community assessment meeting (CAM) is completed by all agencies involved. At this meeting, a decision to request for an Education Health Care Plan will be decided. The LEA (Panel) considers these submissions and if satisfied that the child fulfils the published criteria, instructs the agencies involved to carry out a formal assessment. If a request is rejected, an additional meeting will be held similar to a CAM to create a new action plan to support the child's needs. The child will still be entitled to support by external agencies, including Sandwell's Inclusion Support Team.

These meetings may still be virtual, but will be accessible to all who support the pupil. If deemed appropriate and in line with current risk assessments, these meetings will be held in school (following Government legislation).

Early Years Intervention Grant

Children under 5 years of age who require additional support (as advised by the Early Years Inclusion Support Team) can be assessed for an Early Years Intervention Grant. A maximum of 15 hours funding can be issued to support early interventions. Any funding allocated is reviewed on a termly basis by the SENCO. A CAM will be held if an EHCP request is felt necessary (i.e. if the need for additional support above the notational budget is required after

the child reaches 5 years of age).

These meetings may still be virtual, but will be accessible to all who support the pupil. If deemed appropriate and in line with current risk assessments, these meetings will be held in school (following Government legislation).

Multi-Agency Assessments:

For complex communication difficulties, a multi-agency assessment (MAA) may be requested to consider a formal diagnosis (for example, Autism). However, a diagnosis from an MAA does not automatically lead to a CAM or an EHC plan. The stage above would still need to be carried out.

Dependent on individual risk assessments, some support from external agencies is currently virtual, with video evidence submitted to help support assessments (upon request).

Reviews:

Stage 1 - Initial Concern:

Progress and support will be monitored by the SENCO. Parents are to discuss their child's progress by the class teacher or SENCO, via a telephone or video call. The child's views should be ascertained, when appropriate.

Stage 2:

Staff involved with the child in school, reviews the child's progress against set targets and evaluates the extent to which the school has carried out recommendations. A review meeting is then held to determine future action, which involves inclusion support. Parents are invited to all reviews. The child's views should be ascertained, when appropriate. All reviews will be held virtually.

CAM / Request for an EHC plan

Although this stage is intrinsically an assessment stage, set paperwork is completed by SENCO and includes: pupil and parent views; evidence of progress and interventions; training offered to staff; involvement by Inclusion Support; pupil profiles and overview of parental liaison. The child will also be invited into the meeting to share their views. CAMs will be held virtually.

EHC plan

Children who are subject to an EHC plan undergo an annual review, which includes school and external assessments and contributions from parents, pupils and any relevant external agencies. The outcome of the review will determine whether the statement/support should continue or be modified. This is then sent to the LEA. All reviews will be held virtually.

Provision at Old Park: An overview.

Old Park Primary School thrives to be an inclusive school. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for all our children. We make this a reality through the attention we pay to the different individuals and groups of children within our school.

Wave 1: Quality first teaching ensures activities are differentiated to meet the needs of all children.

The school curriculum is carefully planned to meet the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. We meet these needs through:

- setting appropriate learning challenges through differentiated and resources lessons across the whole curriculum;
- ensuring all learning styles are planned for and explored;
- responding to the diverse needs of the children;
- the use of Makaton, PECS and Communication in Print throughout the school;
- overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils (e.g. coloured overlays, symbol support, ICT equipment to record ideas);
- providing other curricular opportunities to meet the needs of individuals or groups of children;
- advice and support will be requested for children with special needs to ensure the needs of all children are met.
- collaboration between schools, children, parents and outside agencies will sought to ensure the needs of the child are met.
- Access to a weekly 'Well-Being Curriculum' and therapeutic strategies such as emotion coaching, mindfulness and peer massage.

Wave 2: Small group work and catch up groups

Wave 3 Intervention: Specialised, small group or 1:1 support

Due to staffing requirements during the COVID pandemic, specific interventions led by support staff cannot be maintained. Children with high needs, will be supported by a key-worker within class and will support them with Wave 1 provision. EHCP children will also access bespoke provision to support their EHCP targets (such as Speech and Language support).

Face-to-face access to the school's Speech and Language and Drama Therapy is available (in line with the school's risk assessment and Government guidance).

Children with physical disabilities:

We are committed to meeting the needs of children with physical as we are to meeting the needs of all groups of children within our school. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure that these children are not placed at a substantial disadvantage compared to non-disabled children. A COVID-related risk assessment will be completed upon school return to ensure the school can make reasonable adjustments, whilst taking into account Government guidance on social distancing and preventative measures to minimise the risk of infection spreading.

Care plans for children with medical needs are also drawn up and are accessible to all relevant staff. Training requirements are also met and reviewed so that all staff are fully equipped to work with children with medical or physical needs. Virtual training will be sought if required. School will seek virtual advice from Occupational Health and School Nurse to ensure needs are met.

Teachers modify their learning and teaching expectations as appropriate for children with disabilities. For example, they may be given additional time to complete certain activities or modify teaching materials. In their planning, teachers ensure that they give children with disabilities the opportunity to develop skills in practical aspects of the curriculum. We have access to a Teacher of the Deaf, who regularly contacts children with hearing impairments.

Monitoring Provision:

Inclusive practice is a main element evaluated during any subject monitoring cycle to ensure quality first teaching is accessible to all children. Planning, resources and support will be monitored.

Training and External Agency Support at Old Park.

Training:

Where possible, the SENCO will attend online courses relating to current developments and legislation, the code of practice, discipline issues and any courses relevant to particular special educational needs. Information is then disseminated amongst staff during virtual staff meetings.

Any special needs support assistants or teachers in school are encouraged to attend relevant training/raising awareness sessions, appropriate to the pupils they support. Whole staff (including non-teaching staff and lunchtime supervisors) receive training in a variety of aspects of special needs. At present, online training opportunities are shared with staff to complete.

External Agency Support:

The school works closely with a wide range of External Agencies in order to provide pupils the maximum opportunity to achieve their full potential.

The governing body and senior leadership team liaise with all Health and Social services; Inclusion Support; Sensory support team; Speech and Language Team and other external agencies to ensure the provision given to children with additional needs is specific, measurable and suitable for each individual. Old Park have regular contact with all external agencies and will contact these agencies if any advice or support is needed to ensure the best provision is being given to all.

Dependent on individual risk assessments, some support from external agencies is currently still virtual.

Health Services

The school has:-

Extensive experience of working with speech and language therapists (including bi-lingual specialism). Individual programmes of work are regularly carried out and virtual support is still accessible from this service.

Worked with visiting physiotherapists and occupational therapists who have also advised staff on appropriate action. Again, support and advice can be accessed virtually.

Frequently called upon the services of the School Nurse to advise the school and parents. Support and advice can be accessed virtually.

A number of pupils who are subject to Social Services involvement. Difficulties or disruption in the home environment frequently result in developmental delay or learning difficulties. It is essential that the school and Social Services department works closely together and ensures passage of information. The school has an onsite safeguarding officer to support this procedure, and the safeguarding policy and procedures have been updated in response to COVID-19.

Inclusion Support:

We have designated members from Inclusion Support to advise and assess children with learning, emotional, behavioural, social and complex communication difficulties. We also have access to a Teacher of the Deaf and the Sensory Support Team. Support and advice can be accessed virtually, if individual risk assessments do not allow face-to-face visits.

Arts of Change:

We have a Service Level Agreement to access weekly support from a fully-qualified and experience Family and Play Therapist. This is to support children with social, emotional or mental health needs. Support and advice can be accessed face-to-face (following Government guidance and school risk assessment).

Speech and Language

We have a Service Level Agreement to access fortnightly support from a fully-qualified therapist to provide support and training, to staff and parents, above our NHS allocation. Support and advice can be accessed face-to-face (following Government guidance and school

risk assessment).

Transition Plans:

When a child with SEN moves classes, a transition plan is designed and will vary in length and content depending on the individual needs of each. Virtual tours and/or transition books will be created following discussions with parents (and external professionals if required). Teachers will pass on important details of SEN children (including needs, targets, strategies) through virtual meetings. If the transition is a particular concern, parents are also invited to help aid the process (for example, a home book to share over holidays etc.). Inclusion Support also offer advice and attend transition meetings for children who need such input. Transition Plus Pathway is used to ensure the correct timescale is followed for children transitioning to secondary school. This process is closely shared by the SENCO to the child and parents to ensure a child-centred approach.

Parental Involvement:

The collaborative practice between school and the wider community is a high priority for our school. We strive to enhance this relationship through:

- Virtual parent meetings and reviews for SEND children (telephone or video call)
- Carefully tailored transition plans.
- Annual parent questionnaires distributed during parents evening.
- Text alerts; school website, Twitter and Facebook pages are made available to all parents to ensure up-to-date information readily accessible.
- Our pastoral team and safeguarding team enables parents to contact us for support and advice.
- Face-to-face access to our school's Play Therapist and Speech and Language Therapist
- Makaton videos and challenge posts uploaded to social media.

Local Offer:

Sandwell's Local Offer can be accessed using the following link:

[http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200295/schools and learning/3697/what is the local offer](http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200295/schools_and_learning/3697/what_is_the_local_offer)

Complaints Procedure:

The governing body will appoint a designated member to oversee Special Educational Needs provision. They will produce an annual report, which will include a section on the provision and progress of Special Educational Needs. They should, in co-operation with the Head Teacher, determine the school's general policy and approach to provision for children with SEN's, establish the appropriate staffing and funding arrangements and maintain a general overview of the school's work.

If there any complaints issued concerning the provision of any child receiving additional support and/or has special education needs, the SENCO and senior leadership team will investigate and take action as needed. The governing body will be made aware of any formal complaint and will lead investigations into the matter. Any persons involved in the complaint will be informed of next steps by the governing body and senior leadership team.

Parents will also be signposted to SENDIASS support. They provide free, impartial and confidential service. Contact information is detailed in the table below.

Related Policies:

Local Offer
Inclusion Policy
Disability, Equality and Accessibility Plan
Disability and Equality Policy

Contact Details:

School Inclusion Team	Samantha Pearce (SENCO) Kelly Harding (SEN Governor) Old Park Primary School 0121 5262 2669
Inclusion Support	Shantelle Sturridge (SENAT-L) Tom Rees (EP) Emma Cox (CCT) Amanda Jones / Richard Barker (SENAT-SEMH)
Speech and Language	Alice Murphy
Visual / Hearing Impairment	Visiting teacher for IS assigned to individual cases.
SENDIASS	0121 500 4010
The Local Authorities local offer can be found on the Sandwell education website.	
Our Local Offer can be viewed on our school website.	

