

Special Educational Needs Provision

at

Westfield First School



What is a Special Educational Need (SEN)?

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty that calls for a form of special educational provision to be made for them. Children have a learning difficulty if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age. About one in five school children will need special help with their learning at some stage while they are at school.

How are children with SEN identified?

Some parents will know about their child's special needs before they start school but for others it may become clear that their child has special educational needs only after they have started school full time. Class teachers and/or Teaching Assistants may be the ones who notice a child has a special educational need. All members of staff have important day-to-day responsibilities in helping to identify those pupils who are not making adequate progress. The SEN Code of Practice says "All teachers are teachers of children with special educational needs. Teaching such children is therefore a whole school responsibility, requiring a whole school approach." We encourage parents to be involved in their child's education.

How children with special educational needs are helped

If your child has a particular difficulty making progress we will discuss this with you. If we feel your child needs more help his/her teacher will provide interventions that are additional to and different from those provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum. This will be called Early Years School Action or School Action. The SENCo (Special Educational needs Co-ordinator) will support the further assessment of your child, assist in planning future support for them in discussion with colleagues and monitor the action taken. We may consider it appropriate to draw up an Individual Education Plan (IEP) for your child. This will show how your child will be supported and you and your child will be involved in setting targets. We may also seek advice from external services, eg. educational psychologists (EP) or a speech therapist. This request for external services is likely to follow a decision taken by the SENCo and colleagues in consultation with you at a review of your child's IEP. This stage is called Early Years School Action Plus or School Action Plus.

For a small number of children with more severe needs we may decide to carry out a statutory assessment. This involves consideration by the LA working co-operatively with parents, the school and as appropriate other agencies as to whether a statutory assessment of the child's special educational needs is necessary.

Our aim is to provide for the needs of every child in the school and to be inclusive of all needs.

How to help your child

- ☺ Ensure your child attends school regularly
- ☺ Support and encourage your child and the school
- ☺ Keep in touch with your child's class teacher
- ☺ If you have concerns please discuss these with the class teacher
- ☺ Praise your child's strengths and achievements