

SEND – Frequently Asked Questions

There will be many questions parents and carers have when it comes to how the school supports their child, so below I have attempted to try to answer some of the more frequently asked questions to provide a basis of any discussion you may need to have with me, the SENCo.

- What should I do if I think that my child may have special needs?
 - ✓ The first thing you must do is speak to someone is the class teacher, as they know your child, how they are progressing academically and socially. The SENCo will then meet with the teacher and observe your child to see if there are any issues. The teacher and the SENCo will then meet with the parents to discuss how best to support the child.

- Why does my child require support?
 - ✓ Sometimes, and for various reasons, children have difficulties making progress at school. It is the school's responsibility to provide support for each and every child so that they can access the curriculum and make progress. The school will always make provision so that every child can achieve their potential.

- What input do parents have?
 - ✓ The education of a child is a partnership. It is expected that parents are consulted and have input to any part of school life they feel they can contribute to. All children's progress and attainment should be discussed with parents as a matter of course and the school should always seek permission, through consultation with parents before any work is undertaken with a child.

- What feedback should parents expect?
 - ✓ Parents should be given regular feedback, regardless of whether their child has a special need. This usually takes the form of a parents evening meeting and the school also holds other evening's for parents to discuss issues and disseminate information. For those parents who have pupils on the SEN register we offer two longer meetings to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher and the SENCo. Any child who has an EHC plan will also have an annual review. As the name suggests they are yearly and will be chaired and convened by the SENCo.

- What support will my child get? And for how long?

- ✓ This very much depends on the need of the child. There is a document, accessible by the school's website, called the 'SEN Information Report'. This details the types of interventions that may be used and is split up into the differing areas of need for ease of access. The length of the intervention is either determined by the intervention itself or set by the teacher in conjunction with the SENCo. Any support the child needs will be discussed with the parent, usually by the class teacher or the SENCo, and outcomes for the intervention will be agreed and monitored.

- How does the school discuss special needs with the children?
 - ✓ This does depend on both the age of the children and the need that is to be discussed. There are, in the school library, various books that can be used as the basis of a class discussion based around a need. The SENCo will also advise and, if the occasion merits it, deliver talks to groups of children or classes to discuss different needs and any consequences arising from them. The most important thing to note here though is that a discussion will only take place with the child's peers after a consultation has taken place with the parents and, if they are able to actively communicate, the child themselves.

- What can I do if I agree or disagree with what the school is providing?
 - ✓ If you agree you may, in certain circumstances, be required to sign to give permission for the intervention or meeting to go ahead. This is most notably the case when outside agencies are involved. If you disagree the best course of action is to meet with the SENCo to discuss your concerns so that any issues you do have can be discussed and solutions to any problems you have can be found. If you are still not in agreement then the Headteacher will arrange a meeting with all the parties concerned.

- What can I do to support my child?
 - ✓ The best person to ask about this would be your child's class teacher. The SENCo is also available to discuss ideas and strategies that may help your child with any of the things they are finding difficult. There are also a range of professionals and self-help groups out there, many of which can be accessed online, which, in time, we will have links to on the SEND page of our school website.

As always though, if you are worried about anything, or just require a bit more information, please contact the SENCo at school to either have a talk over the phone or arrange a meeting.