

## SEN Local Offer

At Whitfield Valley Primary School we strive to support all children to enable them to achieve their full potential as we guide them through their learning journey.

Quality first teaching is vital; however for some children there are occasions when further additional support may be needed to help them achieve their learning goals.

The SEN Team consists of:

Miss M Walley - Special Educational Coordinator

Mrs L Forrester – Home School Links Officer

Below is a glossary of the most common SEN terms.

ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit & Hyperactivity Disorder
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
BESD	Behavioural Emotional & Social Difficulties
CAF	Common Assessment Framework
CAMHS	Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service
COP	Code of Practice
CP	Child Protection
DCD	Developmental Co-ordination Disorder
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EP	Educational Psychologist
FSM	Free School Meals
FLO	Family Liaison Officer
HI	Hearing Impairment
IEP	Individual Education Plan
LAC	Looked After Child
LEA	Local Education Authority
LM	Learning Mentor
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulty
OT	Occupational Therapist
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SEND	Special Educational Needs & Disability
SENCo	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
SLCN	Speech, Language, Communication Needs
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulty
VI	Visual Impairment

## **Current SEN Updates**

### **What is Pupil Premium?**

The Pupil Premium was introduced in April 2011 and is allocated to schools to work with pupils who have been registered for free school meals at any point in the last six years (known as 'Ever 6 FSM'). Schools also receive funding for children who have been looked after continuously for more than six months, and children of service personnel.

### **Why has it been introduced?**

The Government believes that the Pupil Premium, which is additional to main school funding, is the best way to address the current underlying inequalities between children eligible for free school meals (FSM) and their peers by ensuring that funding to tackle disadvantage reaches the pupils who need it most.

### **Who decides on how the money is spent?**

In most cases the Pupil Premium is paid direct to schools, allocated to them for every pupil who receives free school meals. Schools decide how to use the funding, as they are best placed to assess what their pupils need.

### **How are schools accountable for the spending of Pupil Premium?**

They are held accountable for the decisions they make through:

- The performance tables which show the performance of disadvantaged pupils compared with their peers.
- The new Ofsted inspection framework, under which inspectors focus on the attainment of pupil groups, in particular those who attract the Pupil Premium.

### **Children and Families Bill 2013**

The Children and Families Bill takes forward the Coalition Government's commitments to improve services for vulnerable children and support strong families. It underpins wider reforms to ensure that all children and young people can succeed, no matter what their background. The Bill will reform the systems for adoption, looked after children, family justice and special educational needs.

The Government is transforming the system for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN), including those who are disabled, so that services consistently support the best outcomes for them. The Bill will extend the SEN system from birth to 25, giving children, young people and their parents/carers greater control and choice in decisions and ensuring needs are properly met.

It takes forward the reform programme set out in Support and aspiration: A new approach to special educational needs and disability: Progress and next steps by:

- Replacing statements and learning difficulty assessments with a new birth- to-25 Education, Health and Care Plan, extending rights and protections to young people in further education and training and offering families personal budgets so that they have more control over the support they need;
- Improving cooperation between all the services that support children and their families and particularly requiring local authorities and health authorities to work together;

- Requiring local authorities to involve children, young people and parents in reviewing and developing provision for those with special educational needs and to publish a 'local offer' of support.

### **What is the Local Offer?**

- The Local Offer was first introduced in the Green Paper (March 2011) as a local offer of all services available to support disabled children and children with SEN and their families. This easy to understand information will set out what is normally available in schools to help children with lower-level SEN as well as the options available to support families who need additional help to care for their child."

### **What will it do?**

- The Local Offer will provide parents/carers with information about how to access services in their area, and what they can expect from those services. With regard to Education, it will let parents/carers and young people know how school and colleges will support them, and what they can expect across the local settings. During the last year, the Local Offer Steering Group has developed questions for schools, and trialed them with a small number of settings.
- There are 14 questions, devised in consultation with parents/carers and other agencies, which reflect their concerns and interests. These will be answered by agencies, schools and colleges to provide information to parents and carers to enable them to make decisions about how to best support their child's needs.

### **Here are the responses from Whitfield Valley Primary School to the questions;**

#### **Questions**

#### **1. How does Whitfield Valley Primary School know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?**

Whitfield Valley Primary School know that a child needs extra help if;

- concerns are raised by parents/carers, teachers, teaching assistants or the pupil's previous school
- there is lack of expected progress or attainment
- there is a change in the pupil's behaviour
- a pupil asks for help
- If you have concerns then please contact your child's teacher or Miss Walley the SENCo.

#### **2. How will Whitfield Valley Primary School staff support my child?**

- Each pupil's education programme will be planned by the class teacher and reviewed half termly. It will be differentiated accordingly to suit the pupil's individual needs. This may include additional general support by the teacher or teaching assistant in class.
- If a pupil has needs related to more specific areas of their education, such as spelling, handwriting, numeracy & literacy skills etc. specific interventions will be

used to support them. The interventions will be regularly reviewed by all involved to ascertain the effectiveness of the provision and to inform future planning.

Progress Meetings are held each half term. The Headteacher, Deputy Headteacher and class teacher discuss each pupil's progress. This discussion may highlight any potential problems in order for further support to be planned which will be discussed and implemented by the SENCo and Class Teacher.

- Occasionally a pupil may need more expert support from an outside agency such as the Children's Therapy Team, Paediatrician etc. Referral forms are then completed in conjunction with parents/carers and forwarded to the most appropriate agency. After a series of assessments, a programme of support is usually provided to the school and parents/carers.

### **3. How will the curriculum be matched to my child's young person's needs?**

- When a pupil has been identified with special needs their work will be differentiated by the class teacher to enable them to access the curriculum.
- Teaching Assistants may be allocated to work with the pupil in a 1-1 or small focus group to target more specific needs.
- If appropriate specialist equipment may be given to the pupil e.g. writing slopes, pen/pencils grips or easy to use scissors.

### **4. How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?**

- You will be able to discuss your child's progress at Parents Evenings.
- Appointments can be made to speak in more detail to the class teacher or SENCo by visiting the school office.
- IEPs (Individual Education Plans) are sent home each half term. Targets are usually set by the class teacher. Parents/carers are encouraged to contribute their input to be included on the IEP.
- The class teacher may suggest ways of supporting your child's learning through messages, at parents' evenings or if you are requested to attend a meeting.
- Miss Walley, the SENCo may meet with you to discuss how to support your child. The class teacher may meet with you discuss strategies to use if there are problems with a child's behaviour/emotional needs.
- If outside agencies or the Educational Psychologist have been involved suggestions and programmes of study are normally provided that can often be used at home.

### **5. What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?**

The school offers a wide variety of pastoral support for pupils who are encountering emotional difficulties.

These include:

- Members of staff such as the class teacher, teaching assistants and SENCo, readily available for pupils who wish to discuss issues and concerns.
- Pupils who find lunchtimes a struggle are able to take time out inside with a member of staff. However, for poor behaviour during break or lunchtimes children will be withdrawn from these times and spend time in remove where they are asked to reflect on their behavior and what they can do to improve it in the future.

#### **Pupils with medical needs**

- If a pupil has a medical need then a detailed Care Plan is compiled in consultation with parents/carers. These are discussed with all staff who are involved with the pupil.
- Where necessary and in agreement with parents/carers medicines are administered in school but only where a signed Medication agreement in line with the medication policy is in place to ensure the safety of both child and staff member.

#### **6. What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by Whitfield Valley Primary School?**

At times it may be necessary to consult with outside agencies to receive their more specialised expertise.

The agencies used by the school include:

- SENDS (Specialist advisors including Autism, Specific learning difficulties, Visually and hearing impaired)
  - Educational Psychologist
  - CAMHS (Child & Adolescent Mental Health Service)
  - Social Services
  - Children's Therapy Team (Speech & Language/Occupational Therapy)
  - Paediatricians
  - Behaviour Support Service
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- An Educational Psychologist is allocated to each school. At Whitfield Valley Primary School the EP is Suzy Bevington.
  - She would normally only work directly with pupils who needs are felt to be quite considerable and have not responded well to the interventions previously put in place for them.
  - If a case is opened with the Educational Psychologist, specific assessments are carried out.
  - She will offer advice to the school and parent/carers on how to best support the pupil in order to take their learning forward.

#### **7. What training are the staff supporting children with SEND have had or are having?**

All staff at Whitfield Valley have received some training relating to SEND. This could be through specific intervention programs or general SEND.

- Developing Literacy and Numeracy
- Closing the gap marking
- IEP training
- The new Code of Practice

### **8. How will my child be included in activities outside this classroom including school trips?**

Activities and school trips are available to all.

- Risk assessments are carried out and procedures are put in place to enable all children to participate.
- However, if it is deemed that an intensive level of 1:1 support is required a parent or carer may be asked to accompany their child during the activity.

### **9. How accessible is the Whitfield Valley Primary School environment?**

As a school we are happy to discuss individual access requirements.

**Facilities we have at present include:**

- ramps into school to make the building accessible to all
- One disabled toilet.

### **10. How will Whitfield Valley Primary School prepare and support my child to join the school or the next stage of education and life?**

Whitfield Valley Primary School aims to ensure that pupil's transition is as smooth as possible.

Strategies include:

- Meetings between the previous or receiving schools prior to the pupil joining/leaving. Additional visits are also arranged for pupils who need extra time in their new school.
- Whole school Transition Days where each class spend the afternoon with their new class teacher.
- Secondary school staff visit pupils prior to them joining their new school.
- Meetings between teachers, SENCo and the SENCo from the secondary schools to pass on information regarding SEN pupils.
- Where a pupil may have more specialised needs, a separate meeting is arranged with Miss Walley, the secondary school SENCo, the parents/carers and where appropriate the pupil.

### **11. How are Whitfield Valley Primary School's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?**

- The SEN budget is allocated each financial year. The money is used to provide additional support or resources dependant on an individual's needs.
- The additional provision may be allocated after discussion with the class teacher at pupil progress meetings or if a concern has been raised by them at another time during the year.

## **12. How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?**

- When the children join the school support is allocated on the information provided by the feeder school. Usually, in consultation with their Phases Leader, the SENCo will allocate teaching assistants to individuals or small groups to support in class or in other focus groups tailored to the pupils' needs.
- During their school life, if further concerns are identified due to the pupil's lack of progress or well-being then other interventions will be arranged.
- Parents/carers will be able to see the support their child is receiving on a provision map. A provision map is a record of support that the pupil is receiving including the impact it is having on the pupil's learning.

## **13. How are parents involved in the setting/school/college? How can I be involved?**

All parents are encouraged to contribute to their child's education.

This may be through:

- Discussions with the class teacher.
- During parents evenings.
- During discussions with Miss Walley or other professionals.

## **14. Who can I contact for further information?**

If you wish to discuss your child's educational needs or are unhappy about something regarding your child's schooling please follow the school's Complaints policy.

Do not hesitate to contact the school if you have further questions.