

# Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Information Report 2024 - 2025



## Rights Respecting Schools' Article/s

*A23: A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and, as far as possible, independence and to play an active part in the community.*

*A28: Every child has a right to an education.*

*A29: Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full.*

## **Q1. What are Special Educational Needs and/ or Disability (SEND)?**

A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

1. has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
2. has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

For children aged two or more, special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools, maintained nursery schools, mainstream post-16 institutions or by relevant early years providers.

## **Q2. Who can I talk to about my child's special educational needs and/ or disability?**

Mrs Sarah Smith is the school's Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDCO) who is responsible for co-ordinating provision for children with SEND.

She can be contacted on 0121 716 0444 or by email at [enquires@colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org](mailto:enquires@colmersfarm.excelsiormat.org)

## **Q3. What kinds of special educational needs does our school provide for? In our school we make provision for pupils who have significant needs in the following areas:**

- **Communication and Interaction** - Children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) find it more difficult to communicate with others. They may have difficulty taking part in conversations, either because they find it difficult to understand what others say or because they have difficulties with fluency and forming sounds, words and sentences. It may be that when they hear or see a word they are not able to understand its meaning, leading to words being used incorrectly or out of context and the child having a smaller vocabulary. Children with an Autistic Spectrum Condition (ASC), including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, have difficulty in making sense of the world in the way others do. They may have difficulties with communication, social interaction and imagination. In addition, they may be easily distracted or upset by certain stimuli, have difficulty with change to familiar routines or have difficulties with their co-ordination and fine-motor functions.
- **Cognition and Learning** - Children with learning difficulties will learn at a slower pace than other children and may have greater difficulty than their peers in acquiring basic literacy or numeracy skills or in understanding concepts, even with appropriate differentiation. A child with a specific learning difficulty (SpLD) may have difficulty with one or more aspects of learning. This includes a range of conditions such as dyslexia

(difficulties with reading and spelling), dyscalculia (maths), dyspraxia (co-ordination) and dysgraphia (writing).

- **Social, emotional and mental health** - For some children, difficulties in their emotional and social development can mean that they require additional and different provision in order for them to achieve. Children who have difficulties with their emotional and social development may have immature social skills and find it difficult to make and sustain healthy relationships. These difficulties may be displayed through the child becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as through challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. Some children may have other recognised disorders such as attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) or attachment disorder.
- **Sensory and/or physical** - There is a wide range of sensory and physical difficulties that affect children across the ability range. Many children require minor adaptations to the curriculum or the physical environment. Many such adaptations may be required as reasonable adjustments. If children require special educational provision, then they are identified as having a special educational need. Children with a visual impairment (VI) or a hearing impairment (HI) may require specialist support and equipment to access their learning. Some children and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional on-going support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

Pupils may have difficulties in more than one of these areas and we will always do our best to support their needs.

#### **Q4. How will the school identify if my child needs extra help?**

The progress and development of all pupils is monitored and tracked using the school's assessment tracking system. Pupils are assessed regularly using teacher marking, observations and questioning, as well as more formal assessments such as standardised tests.

#### **Q5. How will the school let me know if they have any concerns about my child's progress?**

If a concern has been raised about your child's progress you will be invited into school to speak to your child's Class Teacher. This is an opportunity for you to share relevant information about your child. You may also be invited to a meeting with Sarah Smith, our SENDCo.

#### **Q6. What support do you offer for children with special educational needs?**

All our pupils receive quality first teaching - the effective inclusion of all children in high quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils. We use a range of teaching and learning styles within a relevant and appropriate curriculum. Learning objectives are shared with the children and are matched to their needs. Lessons are differentiated to ensure that all pupils can achieve. Additional resources and support are provided that are appropriate to pupils' needs.

The majority of pupils can make progress through such teaching but where children may not be making adequate progress, additional intervention and support led by the Class Teacher or a Teaching Assistant will be put in place. Where pupils continue to make inadequate progress, despite high-quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness, the Class Teacher, working with

the SENDCO, will assess whether the child has a significant learning difficulty. Where this is the case then a decision will be made about the type and amount of SEND Support that is required to support the child's progress. Outcomes to be achieved through the support and the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, along with a clear date for review, will be agreed. This may involve additional intervention and support, either in a small group or on an individual basis, with the Class Teacher, an Intervention Teacher or Teaching Assistant. Advice from other relevant professionals may also be requested if required.

### **Q7. What support is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils?**

For some children, difficulties in their emotional and social development can mean that they require additional provision in order for them to achieve. We offer support from the Pastoral Team which includes Mrs J Taylor, the school's Pastoral Manager, Miss K Evans and Miss M Storer, the school's Pastoral Support Assistants.

We are a Thrive School and four members of our staff are Thrive licensed practitioners. The Thrive approach is a whole school approach designed to help children feel safe, to help them understand and manage their emotions and to have a positive self-image.

### **Q8. How do you evaluate the effectiveness of the provision?**

We set individual targets for children with special educational needs that are reviewed at least three times a year. Using evidence-based interventions helps the school monitor the effectiveness of the provision in securing progress.

### **Q9. How do you assess and evaluate my child's progress?**

Once a child is identified as having a special educational need, a graduated approach to support is taken. The child will be assessed, then support will be planned, carried out and then reviewed. At the review, any necessary changes will be made. Your child's progress will be reviewed three times a year and you will be invited into school to discuss the outcomes. The views of both parents/carers and the child are an essential part of the review process.

Your child's progress towards the targets set will be assessed by using

- the school assessment tracking system to track the attainment of your child and the progress your child has made;
- entry and exit data from interventions put in place;
- the Birmingham Language and Literacy Toolkit and Maths Toolkit to support assessment when a child is making small steps of progress;
- feedback from Teachers, Teaching Assistants, SENDCO and any other professionals involved;
- feedback from parents and pupils.

In addition, the progress of each child is discussed at pupil progress meetings with the class teacher, head teacher, deputy head teacher and SENDCO.

## **Q10. How can I be involved with my child's learning and progress?**

It is very important to us that parents/carers feel involved in the education of their children. Our school has an open-door policy to parents/carers ensuring we are always approachable.

Parents' Evenings are held twice a year. At the end of the year, you will receive a written report and you will be given the opportunity to discuss the report at a Parents' Consultation meeting.

Children with special educational needs are set individual targets. You will be informed of these targets and invited to attend review meetings where your child's progress and the impact of the provision provided will be reviewed. New targets will be set at this meeting so you will know what your child's next steps are. Some children may have a home/school diary so information can be shared between home and school.

## **Q11. How will we involve your child in decisions about their education?**

Children's views and opinions are very important to us and we use a variety of strategies to support children in contributing to the target setting and review process. Person Centred Reviews may be used to involve children in self-assessment and setting their own targets.

## **Q12. How are staff trained to support the needs of my child?**

All school staff receive appropriate training so that they have the knowledge and confidence to support children's needs. Staff training needs are reviewed regularly. All staff have received Autism Education Trust Level 1 Training and the SENDCO and Pastoral Manager have completed Level 2 and 3. Training has also included Team Teach training, Phonics training and Allergy Awareness/Epipen training, Asthma and Epilepsy.

In addition, some staff have been trained to deliver individualised interventions e.g. IDL Literacy and IDL Numeracy, Wellcomm, Better Reading Programme and Precision Teaching.

## **Q13. Who are the other people supporting children with SEN in this school?**

Where a child continues to make little or no progress, despite well-founded support that is matched to their need, the school will consider involving specialists, including those from outside agencies. Referral to these agencies will always be discussed with you and you may be asked to sign either a referral form or a parental permission form.

Here are some of the main outside agencies who work with pupils and their families.

	Who they work with
Educational Psychology Service (EPS)	Children with complex needs.
Pupil and School Support (PSS)	Children who are working significantly below the level expected for their age.

Communication and Autism Team (CAT)	Children who have Autism or communication difficulties.
City of Birmingham School (COBS)	Children with emotional, social or mental health difficulties that impact on their behaviour in school.
Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)	Children with speech and language difficulties.
Physical Difficulties Support Service (PDSS)	Children with physical difficulties which impact on their access in the school setting.
Sensory Support Service (SSS)	Children with a visual or hearing impairment.
Forward Thinking Birmingham (FTB)	Provide a mental health assessment and treatment service to children and their families.
Community Paediatric Service	Medical service for both pre-school and school age children and their families and carers.
School Nurse	Children with medical needs.

#### **Q14. How is the whole school day made accessible to children with SEN or a disability?**

As a school we make reasonable adjustments to ensure that all children are fully included. Typical adjustments include:

- the school building is accessible to children with a physical difficulty via ramps,
- the first floor of the building is accessible via the lift,
- a disabled toilet and changing facilities,
- extra-curricular activities are accessible to all children,
- purchase or hire of specialist equipment recommended by outside agencies,
- additional adult support where necessary.

#### **Q15. How can we support you as a parent of a child with SEN?**

- As part of our open-door policy the class teacher is regularly available to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have and to share information about what is working well at home and at school so similar strategies can be used.
- Sarah Smith, the SENDCO, is available to meet with you to discuss your child's progress and any worries/concerns you may have.

- All information from outside agencies will be shared with you.
- Your child's provision will be reviewed three times a year with your involvement.
- A home/school book may be used to support communication with you.
- We will signpost you to parent support groups.

## **Q16. How we will prepare and support your child during transition to the next class or new school?**

We aim to make transition to the next class or school as easy as possible for all children. When your child is starting at our school we:

- meet with you and your child to talk about their needs and answer any questions you might have about our school,
- meet/talk with staff at your child's previous school or setting,
- provide your child with a transition book with photographs of key staff and areas around our school, if necessary,
- read reports from people who have worked with your child,
- arrange visits to our school so your child gets to see it before they start properly,
- give any adult working with your child a one-page profile describing the things that help to support them in school.

When your child is moving to a new year group we:

- introduce your child to their new class teacher and teaching assistant,
- talk to you and your child so we can answer any questions you may have,
- give any adult working with your child a one-page profile describing the things that help to support them in school.

When your child is moving to a new school, we:

- may hold a review in some instances and invite key staff from the new school,
- talk to key staff at the new school about things that help your child to learn well and be happy at school,
- arrange extra visits to the new school with a member of staff from our school if necessary.
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## **Q17. What is the school's policy for SEND?**

Our school's Special Educational Needs and Disability policy can be found on our [Policies and Documents](#) page.

## **Q18. How is the school's governing body involved with SEND provision?**

- Mrs Connie Jennings is the SEND governor. She has specific oversight of the school's arrangements for SEND. • A SEND report is shared with the governing body to

ensure all governors are aware of how children with special educational needs and disabilities are being supported in the school and how well this support is working.

### **Q19. What can I do if I am not happy with the provision for my child?**

If you have a complaint about the school's provision for your child which cannot be resolved by your child's class teacher or the SENDCO, please contact the Head Teacher. Our school and governing body take complaints seriously and will act upon these on an individual basis.

### **Q20. What is Birmingham Authority's Local Offer?**

By law, Birmingham Local Authority has to provide information on a website detailing all services available in Birmingham for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. This information is called The Local Offer.

Visit: [Birmingham Local Authority's Local Offer website](#) (external link).