

Harefield Primary School
SEND Information for Parents and Carers

WHAT IS SEND?

SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. A child may have SEND if they need additional support to learn, communicate, access the curriculum or manage their social, emotional or physical needs. The four broad areas of SEND are:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs

HOW WILL THE SCHOOL IDENTIFY IF MY CHILD HAS SEND?

All children receive high-quality teaching which is adapted to meet their needs. Some children may also receive additional support such as:

- Small group interventions
- Visual supports
- Speech and language activities
- Emotional support
- Additional adult guidance

If your child continues to experience difficulties despite this support, we may discuss whether they have SEND and would benefit from being placed on the SEND Register.

WHAT SHOULD I DO IF I THINK MY CHILD NEEDS SUPPORT?

We believe that parents are experts on their child and value working in partnership to ensure every child achieves their potential. If you have concerns about your child's learning, development, behaviour, communication or emotional wellbeing, the first step is to speak to your child's class teacher. In school, the class teacher knows your child best and will discuss:

- Your concerns
- How your child is getting on in school
- Any support already in place
- Possible next steps

If needed, the class teacher may involve the SENDCo, Emma Millard, to help identify ways to support your child.

We encourage parents to share concerns as early as possible. Not every concern means a child has SEND, but discussing concerns early allows us to work together to ensure the right support is in place. In many cases, simple adaptations, targeted support or additional monitoring can help a child make good progress without needing to be placed on the SEND Register.

WHAT DOES BEING ON THE SEND REGISTER MEAN?

Being on the SEND Register means your child requires support that is additional to, or different from, what is normally available through classroom teaching alone. Children on the SEND Register receive SEN Support and have an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

WHAT IS AN IEP?

An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is a school document that helps us plan and review support. It includes:

- Your child's strengths
- Areas of need
- Targets and outcomes
- Support strategies
- A review of progress

All pupils receiving SEN Support at Harefield Primary School have an IEP. IEPs are reviewed termly and shared with parents.

WHAT SUPPORT MIGHT MY CHILD RECEIVE?

Support is tailored to each child's needs and may include:

- Adapted teaching in class
- Visual resources and structured routines
- Small group interventions
- ELSA support
- Speech and Language support
- Support from specialist services and external agencies

IF MY CHILD HAS A DIAGNOSIS, WILL THEY AUTOMATICALLY BE ON THE SEND REGISTER?

Not necessarily. A medical diagnosis does not automatically mean that a child has Special Educational Needs (SEND) or needs to be placed on the school's SEND Register. The school looks at how a child's needs affect their learning, progress, communication, wellbeing and ability to access school, rather than a diagnosis alone.

Some children with a diagnosis may need additional support and will be placed on the SEND Register. Other children with the same diagnosis may be making good progress through high-quality classroom teaching and may not require SEND provision. Similarly, some children may be identified as having SEND before they receive a diagnosis, as support is based on identified needs rather than waiting for a medical assessment or diagnosis.

Any decision about whether a child requires SEN Support will be made in partnership with parents, school staff and, where appropriate, external professionals. Our focus is always on ensuring that children receive the support they need, whether or not they have a formal diagnosis.

I THINK MY CHILD NEEDS AN EHCP (Education, Health Care Plan)

If you feel your child may need an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), we encourage you to speak to your child's class teacher or the SENDCo in the first instance. An EHCP is a legal document issued by the Local Authority for children and young people with the most significant and complex special educational needs. It is intended for children whose needs cannot be met through the support that schools are normally able to provide. Before considering an EHCP, the school will usually have:

- Identified your child's needs
- Put additional support in place
- Created and reviewed an Individual Education Plan (IEP)

- Sought advice from relevant professionals where appropriate
- Monitored your child's progress over time

This evidence helps to show whether your child's needs can be met through SEN Support or whether a request for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment may be appropriate. Most children with SEND do not require an EHCP. Their needs are successfully met through high-quality teaching, SEN Support and their Individual Education Plan (IEP).

If, despite sustained support, your child continues to have significant and long-term difficulties, the school will discuss the possibility of requesting an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment with you. Parents also have the right to request an assessment directly from the Local Authority. Having a diagnosis, working with outside agencies, receiving interventions or being on the SEND Register does not automatically mean that a child will qualify for an EHCP. Decisions are made by the Local Authority based on evidence of need and the level of support required.

WHAT SUPPORT IS AVAILABLE FOR WELLBEING?

We offer:

- Two trained ELSAs – Keri Curtis and Daisy Hickman
- A Family Support Worker – Tracy C
- Access to the Mental Health in Schools Team (MHST)
- Hamish & Milo wellbeing resources
- Referrals to external agencies where appropriate

WHAT IS HAMISH & MILO?

Hamish & Milo is a child-friendly wellbeing programme used to support children's emotional health and resilience. We are very proud to be a flagship school for Hamish and Milo. Through stories, activities and discussions, it helps children to:

- Understand and manage emotions
- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Develop positive friendships
- Learn coping and problem-solving skills
- Improve resilience
- Understand anxiety and worry



Hamish & Milo resources may be used in class, in small groups or as part of wider wellbeing support. They are designed to help children develop lifelong emotional wellbeing skills in an age-appropriate and engaging way. Hamish & Milo can be used alongside ELSA support, class-based wellbeing activities and other support programmes where appropriate.

HOW DOES ELSA SUPPORT WORK?

ELSA stands for Emotional Literacy Support Assistant. Our ELSAs provide short-term, targeted support for children who may need help with:

- Managing emotions
- Friendships and social skills
- Self-esteem and confidence
- Worries and anxiety

- Bereavement or family changes (Simon Says Champion School awarded 2026)
- Developing coping strategies

ELSA support is not counselling or therapy. It helps children develop skills and strategies to manage everyday challenges more successfully. Support may be delivered individually or in small groups and is reviewed regularly.



Where a child requires more specialist support, the school may seek advice from services such as MHST or other external agencies, or offer an intervention with one of our trained Trauma Informed specialists.

HOW WILL I KNOW HOW MY CHILD IS DOING?

We will keep you informed through:

- Parent meetings
- IEP reviews
- Phone calls and meetings
- School reports
- EHCP Annual Reviews

You are always welcome to contact us for an update.

WHAT IS SOUTHAMPTON'S SEND LOCAL OFFER?

The SEND Local Offer is Southampton City Council's website for children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families. It provides information about the support, services and opportunities available locally.

The Local Offer includes information about:

- Education and SEND support
- Health services
- Social care services
- SEND assessments and EHCPs
- Neurodiversity support
- Activities, clubs and events
- Short breaks and leisure opportunities
- Support for transition into adulthood
- Support for parents and carers
- Advice, guidance and useful documents

The Local Offer has been developed with parents, young people and professionals to help families understand what support is available and how to access it. We encourage parents and carers to explore the Local Offer if they would like further information about SEND services available across Southampton.

<https://www.southampton.gov.uk/schools-learning/send-local-offer/>

Contact details: -

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