



Oxspring Primary School

School Offer for Pupils with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND)

Welcome to our special educational needs and disability (SEND) school offer. We hope that you will find the following information useful in helping you understand the variety of ways in which we are able to support your child. It is our aim to support your child in reaching their full potential in order to ensure a successful transition into adult life.

Oxspring Primary School is an inclusive school and believe that all children should be valued and treated with respect. We use our best endeavours to ensure that the provision for **all** pupils is of the highest possible standard, whilst acknowledging that we are continually striving to improve our practice. Our Ofsted inspection of February 2013 commented on the fact that 'Disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs make good progress from their starting points and attain standards above those of their national counterparts.' We are committed to narrowing the attainment gap between children with SEND and their peers, and are working to achieve this in variety of different ways. The School works with due regard to the SEN Code of Practice (2014) and the Equality Act (2010).

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) is Paul West

Our SEN governor is Michelle Jowette

What is a special educational need?

'A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

(a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or

(b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post -16 institutions.

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if they fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them (Clause 20 Children and Families Act)' (SEN Code of Practice 2014)



What is a disability?

The Equality Act 2010 states that a person has a disability *if they have a physical or mental impairment and the impairment has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.*

A *physical or mental impairment* includes: learning difficulties including specific learning difficulties; medical conditions including epilepsy, diabetes, more severe forms of asthma and eczema; autism; speech, language and communication impairments.

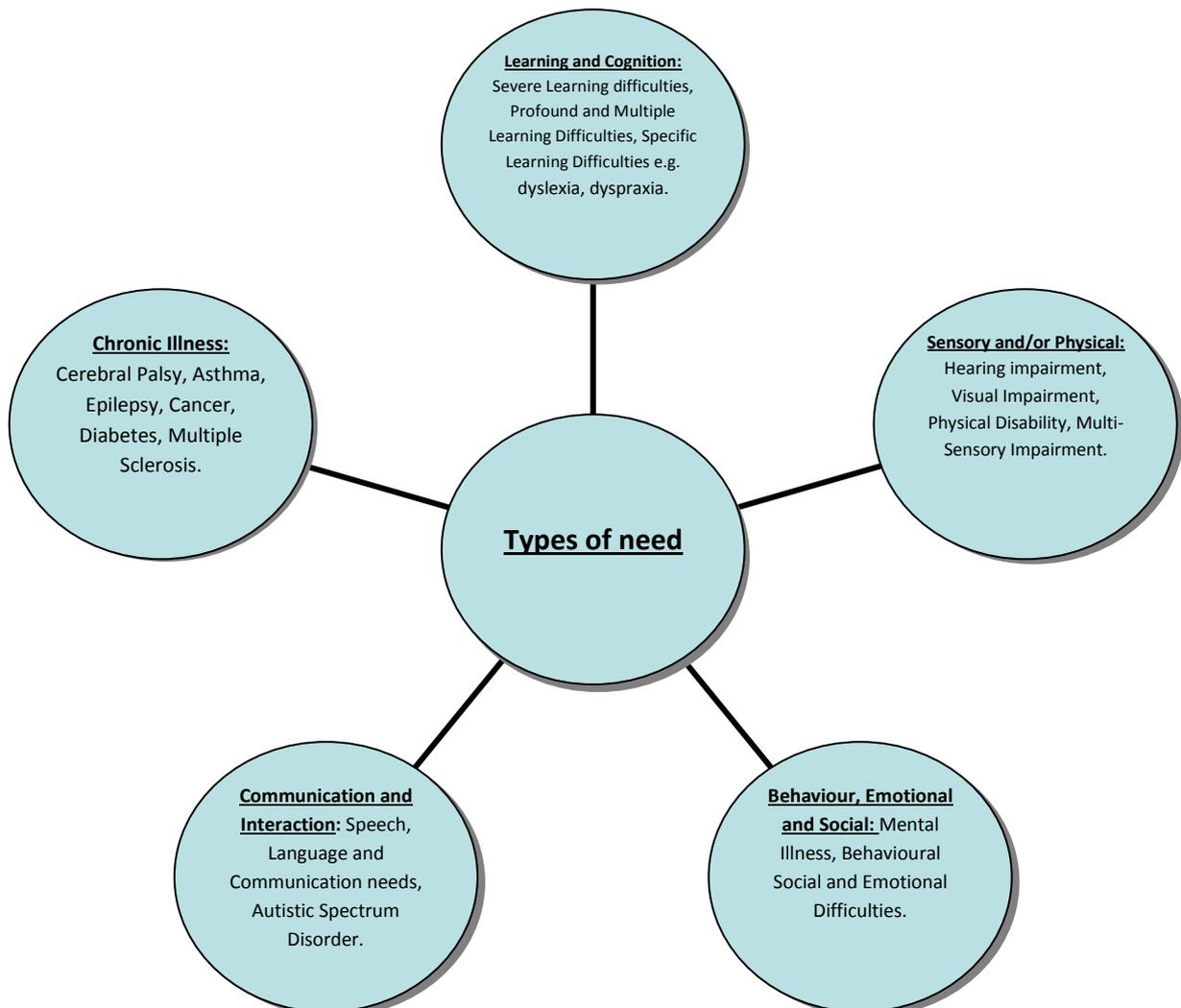
If the impairment has a substantial and long-term effect on a person's ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities it may amount to a disability.



This diagram outlines examples of the variety of SEND that may affect children in our school.

What should I do if I think my child has special needs or a disability?

If you feel that your child may have SEND then you should ask to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. If they are unable to see you straight away, they will be happy to make an appointment when you can discuss your concerns in more detail. Your child's class teacher may also feel that it would be helpful to have the SENCO attend the meeting. The School closely monitors all of its children with special needs and at the meeting we may feel that we do need to put in place some strategies and interventions to minimise or overcome your child's barriers to learning. Similarly if a teacher has concerns about your child and their progress, you will be invited to school by the teacher to discuss this.





What will happen once I have shared my concerns with the school?

For many children, simple changes to the way that the curriculum is delivered can make a significant impact on reducing the barriers to their learning, and with these changes in place they are often able to catch up with their peers and make expected levels of progress. In School we call this 'differentiating the curriculum'. Your child's class teacher will be doing this on a daily basis in order to ensure that all the children in the class can make the most of the learning experiences presented. Our school aim is to ensure that all children achieve their full potential.

For some children this may not be enough to help them make expected progress and they may need something which is 'additional to and different from' that which is normally provided for all children. If a child requires this type of support the School will monitor them according to the SEN Code of Practice. You will be kept informed of the additional support that your child is receiving by either written correspondence, at parents' evenings and/or at IEP meetings. This could mean that the class teacher may be using different strategies to help your child to learn, or perhaps your child will be receiving some additional support in a small group alongside other children with similar needs. Any small group work will be carefully targeted to address your child's needs and his or her progress will be closely monitored and evaluated. You may be asked by School to support your child's learning by carrying out some simple tasks at home such as extra reading practice, or providing opportunities to practice new skills that have been taught in class. Please ask your child's class teacher for some suggestions as to how you can best support your child's learning at home.

The School will monitor your child at this stage for a period of time. Often this level of support in addition to the classroom curriculum differentiation is sufficient to help your child and they will make greater progress. However, for some children this may not be enough and the School, with your agreement, will make the decision to increase the level of support provided. This simply means that the School have decided to involve some external professionals or agencies to provide them with more specialist advice and guidance. This external support might be from an Educational Psychologist; Speech and Language Therapist; Occupational / Physiotherapist; Specialist Advisory Teacher; or a medical professional. If your child's needs are wide ranging or more complex, then it may involve several of these people who will need to work in a co-ordinated way.



What is the SEND register and when does my child go on the register?

The SEND register is a document that indicates which children across school are considered to have SEND. It enables the school to carefully track these children as they go through school. After initial identification of a need and the implementation of additional support, the progress of your child will be monitored. This may then result in your child being added to the SEND register. You will be informed of this decision and will be kept updated about your child's progress on a termly basis.

In some instances children are able to catch up with their peers and begin to make good progress. In these cases your child can be subsequently taken off the SEND register. On such an occasion this will be communicated to you in writing by the SENCO.

What is an IEP?

An IEP is an Individual Education Plan that is written by the class teacher on a termly basis. Any child that is on the SEND register will have an IEP written for them, and this will be reviewed termly. This will record the additional and more specialised strategies and interventions that will be required to help reduce/manage the barriers to your child's learning. Children who have an IEP are made aware of their learning targets and are encouraged to reflect on the progress they feel they have made. Parents are invited to school termly to discuss IEPs and their contribution to the setting of new targets is welcomed. Once a new IEP has been written, the School will carefully monitor the progress being made. If it is felt that the targets are inappropriate for any reason then the School will discuss more appropriate targets with parents at the earliest opportunity.

What is the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)?

These can be initiated by any professional (e.g. Doctor, Health Visitor, School) who comes into contact with your child in order to support the child and the family with specific needs. These needs may be social or medical as well as educational. Therefore it is possible to have a CAF form without being on the SEND register. However many children who are on the SEND register, similarly do not need a CAF form. These forms are the means by which access to a wider range of support from professionals is gained.

Once established, the CAF will help the School to organise Team Around the Child Meetings (TAC Meetings) where everyone involved with your child, (including yourself) can sit down together and discuss the best way to help your child make progress.

Once all professionals and the parents agree that the objectives in the CAF have been met then the CAF can be closed.



What is a Statement or Education Health and Care Plan?

Only a very small percentage of children require support of an additional nature beyond those mentioned above. If this is the case, then the SENCO may discuss with you the possibility of asking the Local Authority to undertake a statutory assessment of your child's needs. If this is considered appropriate, then the School will collect together all your child's information and evidence of the interventions that have been put place. With your permission this will then be sent off to the Local Authority for them to consider the information at a Panel meeting. Then a decision will be made about whether or not to carry out a statutory assessment of your child's needs. Whilst this is taking place the School will continue to support your child's needs with the resources that are already in place.

Once the Local Authority receives a request to consider a statutory assessment, a legal timescale begins. The process of statutory assessment is carefully bound by the legislation and guidance within the SEN Code of Practice. The SENCO will be able to explain the process and timescales to you. If the decision is made to go ahead with a statutory assessment then the Local Authority will signpost you to guidance and support that will assist you through the process, for example from the Parent Partnership Service. Once the statutory assessment process is completed, you will be sent a copy of your child's Statement or Education Health and Care Plan.

A Statement is the name of the document that outlines the educational needs of a child, once agreed by the Local Authority.

The terminology 'Statement' is now changing to 'Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan)'.

Children with current Statements, will, in due course have their Statement changed to an EHC plan by the Local Authority.

An Education Health and Care plan addresses needs that are both educational and health or medical related. These are designed to address complex needs in a coordinated way, to ensure that **all** needs are met within an educational/health care setting.

What can I expect the school to do in order to meet my child's special educational needs?

'Quality First Teaching' is an entitlement for all children and we are constantly striving to ensure that teaching is of a 'good' or 'outstanding' quality at all times. This is the classroom teaching that your child receives on a daily basis from the class teacher. Lessons are carefully differentiated to take account of different learning styles and abilities. In addition, the School staff can gain knowledge and skills from a variety of training and Local Authority support which will make the delivery of the curriculum more accessible for children with



specific needs. All teachers in school have the support of a Teaching Assistant for a part of the day in the classroom. In some cases where there are children with more diverse SEND, there may be more than one Teaching Assistant working in the classroom to support these needs. In order to discourage any child from becoming too dependent on any individual adult we try extremely hard to give SEND children the opportunity to work with a range of people. Furthermore as each child grows and becomes more independent we review their needs, the level of Teaching Assistant support that they require and in what particular areas. We are always careful to ensure however that all needs are fully met.

Where appropriate, children may have access to additional small group activities for short periods of time alongside other children with similar needs. The work carried out in small groups is carefully overseen by the class teacher and SENCO who are responsible for monitoring the child's progress and targeting the support carefully. The School has a range of group interventions available for children, and these are planned for carefully, considering the needs of your child.

Some children may require interventions of a 1/1 nature for very short periods of time. Again these are overseen by the class teacher and SENCO. Progress from such interventions is carefully monitored and considered before further intervention is offered.

How is the school building and learning environment adapted to meet my child's SEND?

The School has made the following adaptations to the learning environment but if a child was thought to need something different then this would be considered.

Each classroom is equipped with suitable ICT, including an interactive whiteboard, visualiser, computers and a range of handheld technological equipment.

Acoustic checks are made when required and soft furnishings around the school support children with hearing impairments.

Wheelchairs can access all areas of school.

Disabled toilets are in both the main school building and in the Foundation Stage.

Several small group rooms are available for use with children.

External areas include a playground, a quiet garden and several environmental areas including an outdoor classroom, wooded area and gardening plots.



How will my child's learning needs be assessed and their progress monitored?

The School sets aspirational targets for all its children including those with special educational needs. Individual targets are shared with children so that they are aware of what they need to learn next. The School has a rigorous programme for assessing all children's learning, including that of SEND children, this is in addition to the termly assessment of IEP targets.

Some assessment takes place at the end of specific pieces of work to inform teachers planning. Also, on-going assessments take place on a regular basis to ensure that the opportunities presented to children are appropriate to meet need and aid their learning and development.

In some instances additional assessments may be appropriate for children with SEND in order to provide additional information to determine their strengths and areas for development. The School has access to additional assessments if they are deemed necessary to identify learning needs, and these will be discussed if appropriate. The SENCO/class teacher will be happy to discuss any additional assessments used, the results achieved and the implications for future learning. However, if it is felt that something more specialised is required then the relevant service could be contacted to discuss this.

How effective is the School's provision for children with special educational needs?

The School has a robust inclusion policy for special educational needs which is bringing about improving achievement for our SEND children. The policy is implemented by all members of staff, and its effectiveness is monitored and evaluated by the Governing Body on an annual basis. The SENCO meets with all teachers on a termly basis to discuss the progress of children with SEND and the provision made for them. In addition to this the SENCO reports to the Governing body on a termly basis. This report shares up to date information about the impact of interventions and the number of children on the SEND register. Information from parental questionnaires and children's comments are also reported to the Governing Body in relation to the support provided or feedback on the effectiveness of new resources. This helps us to ensure that we make the necessary developments to minimise the gaps in our provision for children with SEND.

We work closely with external agencies in order to monitor the effectiveness of our provision. All staff strive to adapt their teaching routines to best suit the needs of all learners.



What is the role and responsibility of the SEND Governor and the Governing Body?

The SEND Governor is the appointed Governor that communicates any SEND updates and information to the Governing Body. The SEND Governor spends time in school with the SENCO discussing current information about SEND children and their provision. The Governor may also support the SENCO with some monitoring tasks that are carried out in school regularly in order to ensure the best quality support is in place for SEND children.

The Governing body are involved with the SEND provision, as they are with all other elements of school life. It is part of their role to look at provision that is in place, and support the SENCO in decisions about SEND provision across school. They look at termly data/reports about the performance of SEND children, and strive for the best education for all children, including those with SEND. Members of the Governing body will, at times, visit school to look more closely at initiatives that are in place to support SEND children, alongside other children.

What is the Inclusion Policy and when is this reviewed?

The Inclusion Policy is the current policy that is in place to outline the procedures that are followed for SEND children. It also details the provision that is in place for SEND children. Similar to this School Offer, the Inclusion Policy is reviewed regularly and updated in light of statutory changes. New information may be added to the policy to reflect the most current and up to date initiatives that are running in school.

What extra-curricular activities are available for children with SEND?

All children that attend Oxspring Primary School can enjoy a range of extra-curricular activities during lunch times or after school. These include dance, football, gymnastics, choir and many sports clubs (which change seasonally). We have a thriving School Council, to which we give responsibility to make 'real life' decisions. Our school library is run by children in year 6 who apply to be librarians. Music also plays a key role in our school, with many children learning a musical instrument. SEND children, like all others, are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular activities in order to develop skills across the curriculum, and to join in doing activities that they particularly enjoy. Our Disability Equality Scheme action plan requires that we monitor the number of SEND children that access extra-curricular activities, and report these to Governors, in order to keep the profile for SEND children high.



What is Disability Equality?

Disability Equality is about promoting equality for all pupils, regardless of their disability. The Disability Equality Scheme can also be found through our School Website.