

School's SEND Overview for Parents

As part of the Inspirational Learning Academies Trust, we are committed to providing an inclusive, nurturing and ambitious learning environment in which all children can thrive and achieve their full potential.

We recognise that every child is unique and that some children and young people may require additional support at different stages of their educational journey. Through high-quality teaching, early identification of needs and a graduated approach to support, we aim to remove barriers to learning and ensure that all pupils can access a broad, balanced and engaging curriculum.

The Academy is committed to working in partnership with pupils, parents, carers and external professionals to secure the best possible educational, social and emotional outcomes for all children.

Whitfield Valley Primary Academy accommodates pupils with SEND in accordance with the Equality Act 2010, the Children and Families Act 2014 and the SEND Code of Practice (0-25 years). Provision is available for all four broad areas of need identified within the SEND Code of Practice.

Our SEND Team

Mrs L. Bradshaw - SENDCO and Inclusion Leader

Mrs J. Dickerson - SEND Support Assistant

The SEND Team works closely with pupils, families, school staff and external agencies to ensure that appropriate support and provision is identified, implemented and reviewed.

Common SEND Terminology

Term	Meaning
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
ASD/ASC	Autism Spectrum Disorder / Autism Spectrum Condition
APDR	Assess, Plan, Do, Review
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan

EHCNA	Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment
EAL	English as an Additional Language
EP	Educational Psychologist
OT	Occupational Therapist
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SENDCO	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator
SENDIASS	SEND Information, Advice and Support Service
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulty
VI	Visual Impairment
HI	Hearing Impairment
AP	Alternative Provision

Note: The term **IEP (Individual Education Plan)** is no longer widely used. Schools now follow the **Assess, Plan, Do, Review (APDR)** graduated approach and may use SEND Support Plans and Pupil Passports to record support and outcomes.

Current SEND Information

What is the Local Offer?

The Local Offer provides information about education, health and social care services available for children and young people with SEND and their families within the local area.

The Local Offer helps families understand:

- What support is available.
- How services can be accessed.
- What they can expect from education settings and services.
- Routes to advice, guidance and specialist support.

Information about Stoke-on-Trent's Local Offer can be accessed through the Local Authority website.

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How does the Academy know if my child needs additional support?

Concerns may be identified through:

- Teacher observations and assessments.
- Progress monitoring.
- Screening and diagnostic assessments.
- Parent or carer concerns.
- Pupil voice.
- Attendance and wellbeing information.
- Information from previous settings.
- Reports from external professionals.

If concerns are identified, staff will discuss these with parents and, where appropriate, the pupil. Support will then be considered through the graduated approach of **Assess, Plan, Do, Review (APDR)**.

If you have concerns about your child's learning, development or wellbeing, please contact their class teacher or the SENDCO.

2. How will the Academy support my child?

All pupils receive high-quality teaching that is adapted to meet their needs.

Where additional support is required, provision may include:

- Adaptive teaching approaches.
- Small group interventions.
- Targeted support programmes.
- Specialist resources or assistive technology.
- Additional adult support.
- Advice from specialist professionals.

Provision will be reviewed regularly through the **Assess, Plan, Do, Review** process to ensure it remains effective.

3. How will teaching be adapted to meet my child's needs?

Teachers employ a range of inclusive teaching strategies including:

- Adaptive teaching and flexible grouping.
- Visual supports and scaffolding.
- Alternative recording methods.
- Personalised resources.
- Reasonable adjustments.
- Assistive technology where appropriate.

Learning is planned to ensure that all pupils can access the curriculum and achieve success.

4. How will I know how my child is progressing?

Parents and carers will be kept informed through:

- Parents' evenings.
- Progress reports.
- SEND review meetings.
- SEND Support Plan reviews.
- Pupil Passport reviews.
- Discussions with teachers and the SENDCO.

Appointments can be arranged at any time should concerns arise.

The Academy operates an open and collaborative approach to communication with families.

5. What support is available for my child's wellbeing?

The Academy recognises that wellbeing plays a vital role in successful learning.

Support may include:

- Pastoral support from trained staff.
- Emotional wellbeing interventions.
- Mental health support.
- Social skills support.

- Early Help involvement.
- External agency referrals where appropriate.

We aim to ensure that all pupils feel safe, valued and supported.

Pupils with Medical Needs

Where a pupil has a medical condition:

- An Individual Healthcare Plan may be developed.
- Appropriate staff training will be provided.
- Medication arrangements will be agreed with parents.
- Reasonable adjustments will be made where required.

6. What specialist services does the Academy access?

The Academy may work with a range of professionals including:

- Educational Psychology Service.
- Speech and Language Therapy.
- Occupational Therapy.
- Physiotherapy.
- School Nursing Services.
- CAMHS and Mental Health Services.
- SEND Specialist Advisory Services.
- Social Care.
- Early Help Services.
- Attendance and Inclusion Services.
- Paediatric Services.

Referrals are made where appropriate and in partnership with parents and carers.

7. What training do staff receive?

Staff regularly receive training relating to SEND and inclusion, including:

- Autism awareness.
- Speech, language and communication needs.
- Dyslexia and specific learning difficulties.

- SEMH and wellbeing.
- Adaptive teaching.
- Supporting pupils with medical needs.
- Safeguarding.
- Assistive technology.

Training is continually reviewed to ensure staff remain informed about current research, legislation and best practice.

8. Will my child be included in trips and activities?

Yes.

The Academy is committed to ensuring that all pupils can access educational visits, clubs, events and enrichment opportunities.

Where necessary:

- Risk assessments will be completed.
 - Reasonable adjustments will be made.
 - Additional support will be arranged.
 - Specialist equipment or staffing may be provided.
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9. How accessible is the Academy?

The Academy aims to provide an accessible environment for all pupils, visitors and staff.

This includes:

- Step-free access where possible.
- Accessible toilet facilities.
- Reasonable adjustments.
- Adapted resources and equipment.
- Accessible communication methods.
- Access to information via the school website.

Specific accessibility requirements can be discussed with the SENDCO.

10. How will the Academy support transitions?

Transitions are carefully planned to ensure continuity and reduce anxiety.

Support may include:

- Additional visits.
- Transition meetings.
- Information sharing between schools.
- Visual supports and social stories.
- Enhanced transition programmes.
- Meetings with families and external agencies.

Particular attention is given to pupils with SEND moving between key stages and into secondary education.

11. How are SEND resources allocated?

SEND funding is used to support identified needs across the school.

Funding may be used for:

- Specialist resources.
- Interventions.
- Additional staffing.
- Assistive technology.
- Staff training.
- External professional support.

Resources are allocated based on need and the impact on outcomes.

12. How are decisions about support made?

Decisions are based upon:

- Assessment information.
- Progress data.
- Advice from professionals.
- Parent and pupil views.
- The graduated approach (APDR).

Support is reviewed regularly and adjusted where necessary.

13. How are children involved in decisions about their learning?

Pupil voice is central to our approach.

Children may contribute through:

- SEND reviews.
- Pupil Passports.
- School Council activities.
- Pupil Voice meetings.
- Discussions with staff.
- Target-setting activities.

We believe children should be actively involved in decisions that affect them.

14. How can parents become involved?

We value parents as partners in education.

Parents can contribute through:

- Review meetings.
- Parents' evenings.
- Meetings with teachers and the SENDCO.
- Parent surveys and questionnaires.
- Communication through school systems.
- Participation in planning and reviewing support.

We actively encourage parents to share their views and expertise about their child.

15. What should I do if I have a concern or complaint?

We encourage parents to raise concerns as early as possible.

Stage 1

Speak to your child's class teacher.

Stage 2

Contact the SENDCO.

Stage 3

Arrange a meeting with the Headteacher.

Stage 4

Follow the Trust's formal complaints procedure if concerns remain unresolved.

Parents may also access:

- SENDIASS
- Mediation Services
- Local Authority SEND Services
- SEND Tribunal processes where appropriate

16. Who can I contact for further information?

Academy SENDCO

Mrs L. Bradshaw SENDCO and Inclusion Leader

Contact via the Academy Office.

SEND Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

Telephone: 01782 234701

Website: <https://www.sendiass-stoke.co.uk>

Stoke-on-Trent Local Offer

Information regarding SEND services available across Stoke-on-Trent can be accessed through the Local Authority website.

Stoke-on-Trent SEND Team

Further information regarding Education, Health and Care Plans, assessments and SEND services is available via Stoke-on-Trent City Council SEND Services.

Our Commitment

At Whitfield Valley Primary Academy, we believe that every child deserves the opportunity to achieve, belong and flourish. Through partnership, inclusion and high-quality provision, we strive to ensure that all pupils with SEND are supported to reach their full potential and are well prepared for the next stage of their education and future life.