

Parent SEND Support Guide

Welcome

At Ashwood Park Primary School, we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to support all children, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This guide has been created to help families understand how SEND is supported in school and where to access further advice and support.

What is SEND?

A child or young person may have SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability that means they need additional or different support to access education. SEND is grouped into four broad areas of need:

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

Children's needs may change over time, and support is regularly reviewed.

How we support SEND at Ashwood Park Primary School

We are an inclusive school with high expectations for all pupils. Support for SEND is delivered through a **graduated approach** in line with the SEND Code of Practice:

1. **Assess** – We identify a child's needs through observation, assessment, and discussion with parents and professionals.
2. **Plan** – Support strategies and interventions are planned collaboratively.
3. **Do** – Support is delivered through high-quality teaching and targeted interventions.
4. **Review** – Progress and impact are reviewed regularly, and next steps agreed.

Support may include classroom adaptations, small group or individual interventions, specialist programmes (such as ELSA), or advice from external professionals.

Working with parents and carers

Parents and carers play a vital role in supporting children with SEND. We are committed to open communication and partnership working. This includes:

- Regular meetings to discuss progress and support
- Sharing strategies that can be used at home
- Listening to parent and pupil views
- Signposting to additional services when appropriate

If you have concerns about your child, your first point of contact should always be your child's **class teacher**.

Emotional wellbeing and ELSA support

We offer Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) sessions to support children's emotional wellbeing. ELSA provides a safe, supportive space for children to develop emotional understanding, resilience, and coping strategies. Referrals are made through school, and support is reviewed regularly.

Neurodiversity and inclusion

We value neurodiversity and aim to create learning environments that support children with a range of needs, including autism and ADHD. Our involvement in initiatives such as the **PINS Project** helps us to:

- Provide early support at a whole-school level
- Increase staff confidence and expertise
- Strengthen partnerships with parents
- Adapt environments to reduce barriers to learning

Dudley Local Offer

The Dudley Local Offer provides comprehensive information about services and support available for children and young people with SEND (aged 0–25) and their families within Dudley.

The Local Offer includes information about:

- Education, health, and social care services
- SEND support in schools and settings
- Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

- Support services, short breaks, and community provision
- Preparing for adulthood

You can access the Dudley Local Offer here: <https://www.dudley.gov.uk/resident/learning-school/send-local-offer/>

The SENDCo or class teacher can also support you in accessing and understanding information from the Local Offer.

External support and advice

Below are trusted organisations that can provide further information and support:

General SEND Support

- **SENDAIASS** – <https://www.kids.org.uk/sendiass>
Free, impartial advice about SEND processes and education rights.
- **IPSEA** – <https://www.ipsea.org.uk>
Legal advice and guidance around SEND law and EHCPs.

Dyslexia

- **British Dyslexia Association** – <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk>
- **Dyslexia Action** – <https://www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk>

Speech and Language

- **Speech and Language UK** – <https://speechandlanguage.org.uk>
- **I CAN** – <https://www.ican.org.uk>

ADHD

- **ADHD Foundation** – <https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk>
- **ADDISS** – <https://www.addiss.co.uk>

Autism / Neurodiversity

- **National Autistic Society** – <https://www.autism.org.uk>
- **Autism Education Trust** – <https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk>

Emotional Wellbeing

- **YoungMinds** – <https://www.youngminds.org.uk>
- **Mind** – <https://www.mind.org.uk>

Health and Therapy Services

- **CAMHS Dudley** – <https://www.blackcountryhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/child-and-adolescent-mental-health-services-camhs>
- **Dudley Children's Occupational Therapy** –
<https://www.dgft.nhs.uk/services/childrens-occupational-therapy/>

What to do if you are worried about your child

If you have concerns about your child's learning, wellbeing, or development:

1. Speak to your child's **class teacher**
2. Contact the **SENDCo** for further discussion
3. Work with school to agree next steps and support

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How do I raise a concern about my child?

If you have any concerns about your child's learning, behaviour, or wellbeing, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Further discussions can then take place with the SENDCo if required.

How will the school decide if my child needs SEND support?

The school uses ongoing assessment, observations, and discussions with parents to identify needs. Support is provided using the graduated approach: Assess, Plan, Do, Review.

Does my child need a diagnosis to receive support?

No. A medical or formal diagnosis is not required for a child to receive SEND support in school. Support is based on identified needs.

How will I be involved in my child's SEND support?

Parents and carers are involved at every stage. You will be invited to meetings to discuss support plans, progress, and next steps.

What is an EHCP?

An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is a legal document for children and young people whose needs cannot be met through SEND Support alone. The SENDCo can provide advice and guidance about this process.

What happens if my child still needs support?

Support is regularly reviewed. Some children may need ongoing support, further interventions, or advice from external professionals.

Who can I speak to if I need more advice?

You can contact the SENDCo below.

Contact details

SENDCo: Mrs Caroline Francis

Phone: 01384 818545

Email: info@ashwood.dudley.sch.uk

We are always happy to discuss concerns and work together to support your child.

This guide is intended to support parents and carers and complements the school's SEND Information Report and SEND Policy.