

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

From time-to-time children can experience difficulties in school. This can be for a number of reasons. Some children will need extra support for a short time while others may need support for longer. As with all West Sussex schools our policy is to include children as we believe they have a right to access high quality education, and to be given every opportunity to do their very best.

We know that early identification of a child's specific needs offers the greatest benefit to each child's individual learning. We talk to you as parents before your child starts school so that you can tell us about any specific needs that your child might have, and encourage you to come in and talk to us about any concerns you may have.

If there is a concern that a child is experiencing particular difficulties, or highlighted that a child may have exceptional ability (Gifted & Talented) we will refer the child to our Inclusion Manager. Children may then be placed at different stages on the S.E.N register or on the Gifted & Talented (G&T) register. If a child is placed on the SEN register, the class teacher will write either an Individual Learning Plan (I.L.P.) or Behaviour Plan to help the child make progress in small steps. This information is always shared with parents/carers.

In certain cases it may be necessary to involve other professionals, who may carry out further assessments, for instance a medical report or assessment by an educational psychologist. In very special circumstances the Local Authority may provide additional support for children with difficulties.

We have a Specialist Support Centre (SSC) on each school site which supports children with speech and language disorders. All children in the SSC are based in a mainstream class and have their needs met by personalised programmes which include speech therapy support, in-class group support by members of the SSC team and mainstream staff, as well as some small group and individual withdrawal work which is targeted to meet individual needs as identified on a child's Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP). Close liaison between all staff and with parents/carers promotes good learning, with the children benefitting from working alongside their peers.

Responsibility for allocating places in the SSC lies with the Special Education Section of West Sussex's Education Department. The decision is made following the advice of relevant professionals as part of the statutory assessment or EHCP review process.