

School Offer - SEN Information Report, Weston Way Nursery School

How does the school know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

The key workers are very experienced practitioners and deliver a high standard of teaching through first hand experiences. They are continually observing and assessing the children through their engagement, motivation and thinking throughout the nursery session. Achievements are recorded using the Early Years Foundation Stage guidance enabling the staff to see if the children are making progress in line with age related expectations. The progress of the children is monitored by the key workers and the headteacher.

From this monitoring process staff bring any concerns to the SENCO. Any children making less than expected progress will be monitored and if necessary given additional support. Parents will be informed of any concerns and any additional support that is deemed necessary.

The nursery prides itself in establishing excellent partnerships with parents and all lines of communication are encouraged.

How will school staff support my child?

Key workers are responsible for the learning and progress of all the children in their group. Key workers continually assess each child's progress and differentiate activities to support and challenge the children appropriately. Children who need additional support will receive this through differentiation and if necessary, one-to-one support from a teaching assistant. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) oversees and co-ordinates all the special educational needs provision. The SENCO also ensures that appropriate external professionals are involved in planning provision.

The governors receive termly progress information from the headteacher and there is a governor specifically assigned to monitor SEN

How will I know how my child is doing?

Staff are available on a daily basis to discuss any concerns you might have with your child. There are 3 formal opportunities for you to meet with your child's key worker at our termly Parent Consultation Days. Parents of children receiving additional support are invited to discuss their progress with the SENCO and help to set their ongoing targets. The children's Portfolios are available for parents to see on request at any time. The Portfolios contain photographic evidence of the children's progress and experiences offered to them during the nursery session.

How will the learning and development provision be matched to my child's needs?

For a child who has been assessed to have special educational needs there will be termly planning meetings with the parent and the SENCO. Targets will be set for the term and then reviewed to see what progress has been made. New targets will then be set as necessary. Strategies to support the child's individual needs will be discussed and external professional advice will be included when appropriate.

What support will there be for my child's overall well-being?

The child's well-being is paramount before learning can begin. We pride ourselves in the way we encourage and support the children to become confident, independent and happy. The children are offered a wide range of experiences to celebrate and feel they are an important member of the nursery community. We take every opportunity to expose the children to many experiences from playing in the mud kitchen, growing fruit and vegetables, making Christmas puddings and visiting Whipsnade Zoo.

We ensure the children feel safe and secure in the nursery environment by establishing simple Golden Rules that are followed consistently. We teach the children to respect each other and their environment.

All practitioners are aware of child protection procedures and know how to report any concerns to the Designated Senior Person for Child Protection.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

All staff at the nursery hold relevant qualifications. All staff undertake continuing professional development covering many aspects of special educational needs. If we feel a child needs specific additional support we have access to a number of external professional services to give us guidance, these include, Educational Psychology Service, Behaviour Outreach Team, Advisory Teachers, Health Visitors, Family Support Services, Speech and Occupational Therapy Service. Best practice locally is shared through networks such as Baldock Forum, Baldock Headteachers and regular SENCO meetings.

What training have the staff, supporting the children with SEN, had or are having?

All practitioners in the nursery support children with special educational needs. We strongly believe in an inclusive education and ensure that all children have access to all opportunities offered in the school.

We have a team of outstanding practitioners who continually work together to improve their practice. All practitioners have a minimum level 3 qualification. All staff are continually developing their practice.

The SENCO and deputy SENCO attend regular Cluster Meetings and share ideas and good practice. They both attend up to date training programmes.

How will you help me to support my child's learning?

Your role as a parent is central to their education. We value your knowledge and understanding of your child and believe it is our role to support your child and their family. We will encourage you to give us information about your child and to contribute to their Portfolio's throughout the year. During the Parent Consultation with your child's key worker you will discuss their progress, interests, friendship groups and also areas that you can work on and help to develop with your child. Parents are also given the opportunity to support us by volunteering in the nursery in a variety of ways. This will give you an insight into what happens in the nursery routine and what it is like to be part of our daily routine.

How will I be involved in discussions about the planning for my child's education?

There will be regular meetings for you to discuss your child's education and progress and to be aware and contribute to the targets set. Parents are encouraged to communicate with the nursery staff about any issues concerning them about their child's progress at any time.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

All school visits are available to all the children who attend the nursery school. If a child has specific needs that might affect their participation in any aspect of the trip this would be planned for and additional support given where it is deemed necessary. For example; one-to-one support, use of a pushchair if there is a considerable amount of walking. A parent might be asked to accompany us on a trip for a variety of reasons to ensure the child is able to fully participate.

How accessible is the school environment?

The nursery is all on one level and is easily accessible to all. All doors are wide enough for wheelchair access. There is a disabled toilet in the newer section of the building. All furniture is age appropriate to nursery school age children.

Who can I contact for further information?

The school office is open throughout the day and office staff can direct all enquiries to the relevant member of staff. The headteacher and SENCO can be contacted at any time during the school day.

How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school, transfer to a new school?

Before the children start at the nursery school, staff will visit them in their pre-school setting and speak to members of the staff from the relevant setting. All children and their families have the

opportunity to attend an Open Day to meet their key worker and familiarise themselves with the nursery setting. Parents are invited to an information evening where the headteacher and members of the senior management team give them an overview of the nursery provision, what is expected of the children and their parents and the support they can expect from us.

At the end of the school year the children get the opportunity to visit their chosen reception class. Teachers from the reception class will visit the nursery to meet them and speak to the key workers about each child and their specific needs. Information is transferred to the receiving school showing the progress the child has made and any areas that need to be addressed.

How are the school's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?

The school is funded by the local authority and within the funding is an element to be used to support children with special educational needs. Staff use previous information from pre-school providers and parents to give them knowledge of any specific needs the children might have. Continual observations are made to ensure the correct provision is made for individual children. The headteacher reports regularly to the governors on the allocation of resources.

How is the decision made about how much support my child will receive?

Support is carefully matched to each child's needs. These decisions are made through careful assessment, analysis of pupil's progress, SEN support discussions and observations of children. Parents are closely involved in discussions and decisions.

How can I find information about the local authority's Local Offer of services and provision for children with special educational needs and disability?

Hertfordshire County Council's Local Offer can be accessed online at www.hertsdirect.org/local offer