

# SEND Information for parents/carers

## What is SEN?

SEN is an abbreviation for Special Educational Needs. This term is used when children need support which is; additional to or different from other children working within the same group.

## What does SEN look like?

### Stage 1:

Children's needs vary. Some children fall behind and need just a few extra sessions in the area which they are struggling to help them to catch up again.

Other children find learning trickier and need more regular support with their learning. These children will receive extra help in the areas which they are finding hard. This support is organised by the class teacher.

### Stage 2:

Some children have needs which require other professionals to share their expertise and give advice to the class teachers about how to meet the needs of the child.

### Stage 3:

Other children have more severe/complex needs and require an EHCP. An EHCP is an Education Health and Care Plan. This is a document which is designed to support the child from birth through to 25 years of age. It brings together the advice given by different professionals involved in supporting the child and the aim is to support the child's development using achievable short term targets building up to long term goals.

## How will I know if my child has SEN?

Your child's class teacher will contact you and ask to meet with you to discuss the ways your child is being supported in school. He/she will explain the areas your child needs some extra help with and share some targets with you which are the focus for your child in school. The class teacher might also ask you to offer some extra support at home.

## Who do I speak to if I am worried?

If you are worried about your child's progress in school, speak to your child's class teacher. They will be able to reassure you that your child is receiving all of the help they need in order to improve in the area of need.

You can also speak to the SENCO. Mrs Zoe Daniel is the SENCO at Thomas Johnson Lower School. The SENCO is the Special Educational Needs Coordinator.

Please contact the school office if you wish to make an appointment.

You may also speak with the Head Teacher Mrs Haines – Please contact the office if you wish to make an appointment.

For more information please take a look at the 'Information Report' on the school website.

## How will my child feel about this?

The class teachers will support and nurture your child throughout this process. Your child will be valued and shown that he/she can achieve the targets they have been given. Your child's voice will be valued and we will speak with your child about; how they learn best, areas which they would like to improve and what is important to them about their learning.

## Where can I access additional support?

Parent Partnership, offering independent, free advice for parents of children with SEND:

IPSEA (Independent Parental Special Education Advice): [www.ipsea.org.uk](http://www.ipsea.org.uk)

The National Autistic Society [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

Bedfordshire Educational Psychology Service <http://www.centralbedfordshire.gov.uk/learning/local-offer/education/sen/psychology.aspx>

Bereavement support: <http://www.cruse.org.uk/>

CAMH - <http://www.fis.bedford.gov.uk/details.aspx?record=84698> – The Child and Adolescent Mental Health support team

Paediatricians - <http://www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk/paediatrics>

Occupational Therapists -

[http://www.bedford.gov.uk/health\\_and\\_social\\_care/disabilities/occupational\\_therapy.aspx](http://www.bedford.gov.uk/health_and_social_care/disabilities/occupational_therapy.aspx)

Physiotherapists - <http://www.bedfordhospital.nhs.uk/paediatric-physiotherapy>