



Boston West Academy **SEND Information Report**



At Boston West Academy we are committed to supporting all children to thrive and achieve their very best. The information below will help you understand the support and provision available to children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities in our school.

What is a 'Special Educational Need'?

A Special Educational Need (SEN) is a difficulty or barrier that affects a child's ability to learn and access the curriculum. According to the SEND Code of Practice 2015:

'A pupil has SEN where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age.'

What is a disability?

The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as when a person has a 'physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on that person's ability to carry out normal day to day activities.'

What should I do if I think my child may need support with SEND?

If you have any general concerns, make an appointment to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance, as they will probably be able to give you all the information you need. Your child's teacher will also be able to talk to you about the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities process and support available in our school.

If, at any point, you have more specific questions relating to Special Educational Needs, you can also arrange an appointment to speak to the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) Mrs Emma Bills. Our Deputy SENCos are Mrs Ceri Braybrook and Mrs Sarah Marsters. You can make an appointment via telephone or email.

How will the school respond to my concern?

To gain a full picture of your child's difficulties and needs, sharing information from home and school is beneficial. Using this information, we will decide on the next steps. If your child is seen to have a Special Educational Need and needs extra support to help them learn, they will be placed on our SEND register. We will then work with you, as parents and carers, to form a plan of action and involve the appropriate people or agencies to support your child.

How does the school know if my child needs extra help?

At our school, we monitor the progress and attainment of every child on a regular basis. Class teachers and other members of staff will speak with the SENCo if they have any concerns about your child. If any child is encountering difficulties, we will consider the intervention necessary to support his/her learning. 'Extra help' does not only relate to learning; it includes emotional well-being, social interaction, communication difficulties, mental health and physical or sensory difficulties. If we think your child needs to be placed on our SEND register, we will arrange a meeting with you.

How will the school support my child?

Every child is unique and so each child will receive different support depending upon their specific needs. The support begins at a school level, such as in-class targeted intervention, individual specific activities or use of appropriate learning resources. Most special educational needs and disabilities will be met within class, through adapting teaching approaches and resources to meet individual needs. Additional intervention, be it with school staff or external specialist agencies, is not always needed. However, in consultation with you, we would decide whether involving an agency would be beneficial. The agencies and support services we currently work with are:

- Educational Psychologist
- Speech and Language Therapy Service



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- Specialist Teaching Team
- Behaviour Outreach Support Service
- Community Paediatrician
- Sensory Education Support Team
- Child and Young People's Nurse Team
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Physiotherapy Service
- Working Together Team (Lincolnshire Autism, Social Communication and SEND Outreach Service)
- Healthy Minds Lincolnshire Service
- Sensory Education and Support Team
- Occupational Therapy Service
- Early Support Care Co-ordination Service

How do I get a 'diagnosis' for my child?

A specific difficulty is something that can be identified by an expert or medical practitioner, to be a barrier to learning, such as Dyslexia, Autism or a medical need.

If you are concerned that your child has a specific difficulty such as ADHD or Autism, the SENCo can make a direct referral to the Community Paediatrician. If the referral is accepted, you will receive an appointment with a paediatrician, who will assess your child and give you further information.

If you are concerned that your child has a learning difficulty such as Dyslexia, the SENCo can make a referral to a Specialist Teacher. They can identify whether your child has difficulties consistent with Dyslexia and provide advice about how best to support their learning needs.

If you are concerned your child has a speech and language difficulty, the SENCo can make a referral to the Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT). A therapist may then identify a specific speech or language difficulty and provide advice about how best to support their needs.

Referral times vary considerably depending on the agency involved, and it can take several months to receive an appointment. Not all pupils will be seen and/or receive a diagnosis. At Boston West Academy, we do not wait until a diagnosis has been made to put support in place.

How will I know how well my child is doing?

Partnership between school and home is crucial. If your child is on our SEND register, you will be kept informed of progress each term. Monitoring progress is an integral part of teaching and every child's progress will be reviewed by the class teacher, SENCo and Senior Leadership Team at key assessment points throughout the year. We currently assess each child using National Curriculum Expected Standards, the Development Matters EYFS Framework or following The Engagement Model for smaller steps. If your child is on the SEND register, their progress will also be reviewed against individual targets and next steps identified. This will be shared with you. For those children who have external agency intervention, we would also arrange a termly review meeting. For all other children, you are given the opportunity to arrange a meeting with your child's class teacher each term. In addition, the progress of children with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) will be formally reviewed at an Annual Review meeting with all those involved in the pupil's education and care. Assessment and progress checks may also be carried out by appropriate external agencies who support your child. These reports will be shared with parents and carers. If, at any point, if you require further support or advice, contact your child's teacher and arrange a meeting. Conversely, we would contact you if we had any concerns regarding your child.



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How will my child be involved in the process and be able to contribute their views?

At every review point in the year, your child will have the opportunity to talk about his/her learning and think about next steps in relation to individual targets. We want all our pupils to take ownership of their learning, so we talk to them about targets and next steps.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Every child in our school will have access to a broad, balanced and inspirational curriculum. Your child's class teacher will adapt the learning for all the children in the class, ensuring tasks match the children's abilities, whilst still providing the correct level of challenge. To support learning in the classroom, we will utilise ICT, physical resources and visual representations, familiar routines, careful grouping of pupils, peer support and, when appropriate, additional adults.

What training have staff supporting children with special educational needs had?

There is an ongoing programme of training in place to ensure that all teachers and support staff have the appropriate knowledge and skills to support the provision for children with special educational needs and specific difficulties. Recent staff professional development includes training on: British Sign Language, Autism, Thrive, Attachment Disorder, Visual Impairments, EpiPen Training, Sensory Processing & Sensory Circuits, Positive Handling, First Aid, Diabetes and Attention Autism.

How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school?

We will want to meet with yourself and your child to discuss any needs before they join us. There will be an opportunity to meet with your child's new class teacher and the SENCo. Before joining our school, we liaise with the child's nursery and any agencies who may be involved to discuss any specific training that may be required for our staff to support your child when starting our school.

How will the school prepare and support my child to transfer to a new setting/school?

We think carefully about transitions, be it to a new class or to secondary school. When moving into the next class, all class teachers pass on information and take time to discuss any pupils with SEND. There will be opportunities for your child to get to know their new class teacher and class. When preparing for secondary school, we can offer guidance about the process. We will invite a representative from your child's confirmed secondary school to attend a review meeting. If this is not possible, we will endeavour to talk with someone before your child moves on. All relevant paperwork, including details of provision for your child, will be transferred to the secondary school.

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

Parents Evenings take place three times a year, which provide the opportunity for you to talk to your child's class teacher about their general progress. Your child's class teacher will also share ways in which you can support your child with specific areas of learning. We will suggest activities and resources or signpost you to relevant websites or games you can do with your child at home. We are always available and if you require any further advice or support, you can arrange a meeting with the class teacher or the SENCo.

How can I access support for myself and my family?

There is further information about various aspects of support on the Local Authority's website:

<https://www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/send-local-offer>



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