

If you are at all concerned about your child's needs their class teacher will be more than happy to discuss this with you at a mutually convenient time. You can also talk to Mrs O'Hara who is the co-ordinator for special educational needs in school (SENCO). Our role is to support children and parents to ensure the needs of your child are being met.

If you would like any independent support or advice about any aspect of your child's Special Educational Needs please contact Newcastle Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Information, Advice and Support Service (formerly known as the Parent Partnership Service)

[judith.lane@newcastle.gov.uk](mailto:judith.lane@newcastle.gov.uk)

Tel No: 0191 2840480

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# St Lawrence's RC Primary School



## Special Educational Needs Information for Parents.

### What are Special Educational Needs?

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (often called 'SEN' or 'SEND') is a legal term for children and young people who will need extra support during their education.

It is set out in the government's 2014 '[Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#)'. We often call this document 'the SEN Code of Practice'. It says:

'A child or young person has **SEN** if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.'

and that a **Disability** is when someone has 'a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities'

There are many different kinds of SEN and Disability. The SEN Code lists some examples of SEND you may have heard of. They are in four main groups: Communication and Interaction; Cognition and Learning; Social, Emotional and Mental Health; and Sensory and Physical. For some children this may be a temporary difficulty, while others may have a long term need for special help.

### My child is on the SEN register. What happens now?

If your child is identified with a special need they will be placed on our school's SEN register at SEN SUPPORT level of provision. This new term replaces the previous levels of SCHOOL ACTION and SCHOOL ACTION PLUS in the new 0-25 years Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Code of Practice 2014. Further guidance on the new code from the Department for Education can be found at

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers)

The school will work in partnership with you as the parent or carer to assess your child to identify their strengths, needs and the extra help

they require. Your child will be set targets each half term so that their progress can be monitored closely. These targets will be discussed and reviewed with you at parents evenings/SEN reviews throughout the year. These meetings will usually be held by your child's class teacher and any other members of staff who support your child in school.

### Who helps my child with their SEN?

- The class teacher
- The teaching assistant
- The SENCo (The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator - where appropriate)
- Thrive Practitioners (where appropriate)

Who may become involved with my child from outside the school? Experts from outside agencies may be asked to assess your child's needs if they continue to have difficulties or if further assessment is required. The SENCo may ask for your permission to seek additional advice from outside specialists such as health professionals, specialist teachers or educational psychologists who would:

- Carry out further assessment of your child's needs
- Provide advice to schools on how to best support your child
- Suggest resources that would help your child make progress
- Parents are wherever possible offered the opportunity to meet with these professionals during SEN reviews to discuss the results of their assessment.

### What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?

If your child's needs are very complex the school may ask the local authority, in collaboration with you as the parent or carer, to carry out an education, health and care needs assessment. This is only appropriate for a very small

number of pupils and the SENCo and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service will be able to guide you through the process should this be necessary. This assessment could lead to your child getting a Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan. This EHC plan brings all of your child's education, health and social care needs into one legal document. It replaces the previous STATEMENT of SEN from the 2001 code of practice. Further guidance on EHC plans can be found at

[www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers)