



Hardingstone Academy SEND Information Report 2023-2024

Introduction

All schools are supported by the Academy to be as inclusive as possible, with the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) being met in a mainstream setting wherever possible. At Hardingstone Academy we have a graduated approach to SEND, ensuring early identification of needs and a continuum of support for children in order to enable them to make progress. By regularly reviewing children's progress across the curriculum, we can enable suitable provisions to be put in place that create the best impact for our children. Please refer to our Inclusion and Equality Policy, which outlines the purpose, nature and management of special educational needs within our school.

Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disability

The Code of Practice (2014) states that a child or young person has a special educational need or disability if they have a learning difficulty or disability, which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

- Have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age,

or

- Have a disability, which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

What is the Local Authority Local Offer?

The *Children and Families Bill*, enacted in 2014 requires Local Authorities and schools to publish, and keep under review, information about services they expect to be available for the children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) aged 0-25. This is the 'Local Offer'.

The intention of the Local Offer is to improve choice and transparency for families. It will also be an important resource for parents in understanding the range of services and provision in the local area.

The West Northamptonshire Local Offer can be accessed at:

Tel: 01604 366124

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

localoffer@westnorthants.gov.uk

Instagram: [Local Offer West Northants \(@localofferwestnorthants\) · Instagram photos and videos](#)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LocalOfferWN>

What is the SEND Information Report?

The SEND Information Report uses the LA Local Offer to meet the needs of pupils with SEND as determined by school policy, and the provision that the school is able to meet.

What kinds of special educational needs might children have?

Special educational needs and provision can be considered as falling under four broad areas:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health (previously behavioural, social and emotional difficulties)
- Sensory and/or physical

Communication and interaction

Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile for every child with SLCN is different, and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.

Children and young people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication, social interaction and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

Cognition and learning

Support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation delivered through quality-first teaching. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication, through to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment.

Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

Social, emotional and mental health difficulties

Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. Children and young people who have difficulties with their emotional and social development may have immature social skills and find it difficult to make and sustain healthy relationships. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Some children and young people may have recognised disorders such as attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) or attachment disorder.

Sensory and/or physical needs

Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time. Many children and young people with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning. Children and young people with an MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties, which makes it even more

difficult for them to access the curriculum or study programme than for those with a single sensory impairment.

Some children and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

Who are the best people to talk to in this school about my child's difficulties with learning/ special educational need or disability (SEND)?

The Class Teacher

Responsible for:

- Checking on the progress of your child and identifying, planning and delivering any additional help your child may need (this could be targeted work or additional support) and letting the Special Education Needs/Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENCo) know as necessary.
- Writing Individual Education Plans (IEPs) and sharing and reviewing these with parents at least once each term and planning for the next term.
- Personalised teaching and learning for your child as identified on the school's provision map.
- Ensuring that the school's SEN Policy is followed in their classroom and for all the pupils they teach with any SEN.
- Overseeing support that TAs provide for your child
- Ensuring that you are involved in supporting your child's learning.

The SENCo: Mrs Sarah Mills

Email: Sarah.Mills@hardingstone.emat.uk

Responsible for:

- The leadership and professional guidance to staff in the school and will work closely with staff, parents and carers, and other agencies to provide information, support and advice.
- Co-ordinating all the support for children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND).
- Overseeing the day-to-day operation, developing and reviewing the school's SEN policy.
- Advising on a graduated approach to provide SEN support.

- Promoting person-centred, inclusive, practice in which the interests and needs of pupils with SEN and/or disabilities are at the heart of everything that they do.
- Being aware of the provision in the Local Offer and be able to work with professionals providing a support role to the family to ensure that children with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching, make at least good progress and achieve good outcomes.
- Liaising, and being a key point of contact, with all the other professionals who may be coming into school to help support your child's learning, e.g., Speech and Language Therapy, Educational Psychology.
- Updating the school's SEN register (a system for ensuring that all the SEND needs of pupils in this school are known) and making sure that records of your child's progress and needs are kept.
- Liaising with the relevant designated teacher where a looked after pupil has SEN
- Advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively.
- Liaising with potential next providers of education to ensure a young person and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- Working with the head teacher, executive head teacher and school governors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.

Ensuring that you are:

- Involved in supporting your child's learning
- Kept informed about the support your child is getting
- Involved in setting clear outcomes and reviewing the progress that your child makes.

The Executive Head Teacher: Mrs Zoe McIntyre

is responsible for:

- ensuring that there is a qualified teacher designated as Special Educational Needs (SEN) co-ordinator (SENCO) for the school.
- overseeing the strategic development of the school.

The Executive head will give responsibility to the SENCO and class teachers, but is still responsible for ensuring that your child's needs are met.

Email address: zoe.mcintyre@emat.uk

Mrs Gill Glenn, Head of School, is

Responsible for:

- The day-to-day management of all aspects of the school; this includes the support for children with SEND.
- Making sure that the Academy Trust (EMAT) is kept up to date about issues relating to SEND.

Email: Gill.Glenn@hardingstone.emat.uk

School contact telephone number: 01604 761250

SEND Governor

Responsible for:

- Working with the executive head teacher, head teacher and SENCO to ensure that all children with SEN are catered for and that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Understand and meet their statutory responsibilities towards children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities.
- Promote improvement in teaching and learning to identify, assess and meet the needs of children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities, within a person-centred approach.

How are children with Special Educational Needs identified and assessed?

At Hardingstone Academy children are identified as having SEND through a variety of ways including the following:

- Liaison with the previous educational setting
- Tracking information - is the child performing below age expected levels?
- School based assessments carried out initially by the class teacher
- Further school-based assessments and observations carried out by the inclusion Lead where concerns raised
- Concerns raised by parents
- Concern raised by school staff

- Liaison with external agencies
- Health diagnosis

What are the different types of support available for children with SEND in our school?

"High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will meet the individual needs of the majority of children and young people. Some children and young people need educational provision that is additional to or different from this."

(SEND Code of Practice, 2015)

a) Class teacher input, through targeted classroom teaching (Quality First Teaching).

For your child this would mean:

1. That the teacher has the highest possible expectations for your child and all pupils in their class.
2. That all teaching builds on your child's prior knowledge, abilities and understanding.
3. That different ways of teaching are in place, so that your child is fully involved in learning in class. This may involve things like using more practical learning through manipulatives/ resources or accessible visuals such as working walls.
4. That specific strategies (which may be suggested by the SENCO) are in place to support your child to learn.
5. Your child's teacher will have carefully checked on your child's progress and will have decided that your child has a gap or gaps in their understanding/learning and needs some 'additional to or different from' support to help them make the best possible progress.

Specific group work

Intervention programmes which may be:

- Run in the classroom or a group room/ area.
- Run by a teacher or a teaching assistant (TA).

b) Specialist groups run by outside agencies, e.g. Speech and Language therapy

This means a pupil has been identified by the Speech and Language Team/SENCO/class teacher as needing some extra specialist support in school from a professional outside the school. This may be from:

- Health services such as occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- Sensory support services such hearing or visual impairment specialist teachers
- Outside agencies such as the Educational Psychology Service

What could happen:

- You will be asked to give your permission for the school to refer your child to a specialist professional, e.g. a Speech and Language Therapist or Educational Psychologist. This will help you and the school to understand your child's particular needs better and be able to support them more effectively in school.
- If appropriate, the specialist professional will work with your child to understand their needs and make recommendations as to the ways your child is given support.

c) Specified Individual support

This type of support is available for children whose learning needs are severe and complex.

This is usually provided via an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This means your child will have been identified by professionals as needing, a particularly high level of individual or small-group teaching.

This type of support is available for children with specific barriers to learning that cannot be overcome through Quality First Teaching and intervention groups.

Your child will also need specialist support in school from a professional outside the school, which may include any agency that is listed above.

For your child this would mean:

- The school (or you as a parent) can request that Local Authority Services carry out a statutory assessment or Education, Health and Care assessment of your child's needs. This is a legal process which sets out the amount of support that will be provided for your child.
- After the request has been made to the 'Panel of Professionals' (with a lot of information about your child, including some from you), they will decide whether they think your child's

needs (as described in the paperwork provided), seem complex enough to need a statutory assessment. If this is the case, they will ask you and all professionals involved with your child to write a report outlining your child's needs. If they do not think your child needs this, they will ask the school to continue with the current support.

- After the reports have all been sent in, the Panel of Professionals will decide if your child's needs are severe, complex, and long lasting. If this is the case, they will write an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). If this is not the case, they will ask the school to continue with the current level of support and set up a meeting in school to ensure a plan is in place to ensure your child makes as much progress as possible.
- The EHC Plan will outline how many hours of additional support your child needs. It will also outline how the support should be used, and what strategies must be put in place. It will also have long- and short-term goals for your child.
- An additional adult may be used to support your child with whole class learning, run individual programmes or run small groups including your child. Other resources may also be secured through funding, but this is a collaborative decision involving education or health care professionals and yourself.

How can I let the school know that I am concerned about my child's progress in school?

- If you have concerns about your child's progress, you should speak to your child's class teacher initially. Your child's teacher will inform and collaborate with the SENCO.
- If you continue to be concerned that your child is not making progress, you may speak to the SENCO or head teacher.

How will the school let me know if they have concerns about my child's progress in school?

If your child is identified as not making progress, the school will set up a meeting to discuss this with you in more detail and to:

- Listen to any concerns you may have.
- Plan any additional support your child may need.
- Discuss with you any referrals to outside professionals to support your child.

How is extra support allocated to children, and how do they progress in their learning?

- The school budget includes money for supporting children with SEND.
- The Executive Head and Head of School, decide on the deployment of resources for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, based on needs in the school.
- The school identifies the needs of SEN pupils on a provision map. Hardingstone uses an online tool called Edukey to centralise all of this information. This identifies all support given within school and is reviewed regularly and changes made as needed, so that the needs of children are met, and resources are deployed as effectively as possible.

Who are the other people providing services to children with SEND in our school?

School provision

- Teaching Assistants working with either individual children or small groups.
- The SENCO works with groups or individuals when needed and will observe and assess.
- ICT support in the form of literacy (phonics play,) and maths (Maths Whizz, Number Shark, Education City, Purple Mash) programmes.
- Inclusion Team offer support for children with emotional and social development through programmes such as Drawing and Talking, Protective Behaviours, Play Buddies, Relax Kids, and other social small groups.
- Child Protection - Executive Head and Head of School

Local Authority Provision delivered in school

- Educational Psychology Service (Local Authority and Psychology4Learning)
- Sensory support for children with visual or hearing needs
- Parent Partnership Service
- Virtual School (Educational Support for Looked After Children)

Health Provision delivered in school

- Speech and Language Therapy (NHS and Blossom)

- Occupational Therapy (NHS and Blossom)
- Physiotherapy (NHS)
- School Nurse
- CAMHs (Child and Adolescent Mental Health)
- Paediatricians (Community Paediatrics and Child Development Centre)

How are teachers in the school helped to work with children with SEND, and what training do members of staff have?

- The SENCO's role is to support the class teacher with children with SEN.
- The school provides training and support to enable all staff to improve the teaching and learning of children, including those with SEND. This includes whole school training on SEN issues, such as Specific Learning Difficulties, Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and speech and language difficulties.
- Individual teachers and support staff attend training courses run by outside agencies that are relevant to the needs of specific children in their class, e.g. training on Intensive Interaction by the SALT team.
- TAs receive a range of training as part of their ongoing CPD and to respond to the needs of the individual children they are working with. Some TAs have had training in the Outstanding Teaching Assistant programme, all have had training on teaching reading, phonics and all have also had training on managing behaviour. Other training includes assessing reading and tracking progress.
- All TA's have been trained specifically in de-escalation strategies and positive handling techniques where appropriate.

How will the teaching be adapted for my child with SEND?

Class teachers plan lessons and differentiate their planning according to the specific needs of all groups of children in their class, and will ensure that your child's needs are met.

- Support staff, under the direction of the class teacher, can adapt planning to support the needs of your child where necessary.

- Specific resources and strategies will be used to support your child individually and in groups.
- Planning and teaching will be adapted, on a daily basis if needed, to meet your child's learning needs.

What support do we have for you as a parent of a child with SEND?

The class teacher is regularly available to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have and to share information about what is working well at home and school, so that similar strategies can be used.

- The SENCO is available to meet with you to discuss your child's progress or any concerns/worries you may have.
- All information from outside professionals will be discussed with you with the person involved directly, or where this is not possible, in a report.
- Additional support plans will be reviewed with your involvement every term.
- A home-school contact book may be used to support communication with you when this has been agreed to be useful for you and your child.
- The Parent Partnership Service is available to give further impartial advice and support should you need it. Further information about this service can be accessed at: <https://www.iasnorthants.co.uk/Pages/home.aspx>
- Parent Workshops available through the Local Offer available here: <https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/specialist-send-support-services>
- Northants Parent Forum Group (NPFGB) is an independent parent-led group formed and run by volunteers to represent the views of all families of children and young people up to aged 25 with special education needs and/or disabilities in West and North Northamptonshire. For more information and to become a member this service can be accessed at: [NPFGB Northants Parent Forum Group](#)

How is Hardingstone Academy accessible to children with SEND?

- The school is fully compliant with Disability Discrimination Act (DDA) requirements.
- Foundation Stage is on one level with easy access and double doors where appropriate.
- Key Stage 1 on one level and is accessible by a small stairway and access ramp.

- Key Stage 2 is accessible by a stairway and a lift.
- There is a disabled toilet on the ground floor of the school building.
- There is a disabled toilet on the upper floor of KS2.
- Butterfly Meadow is on one level, with wide doorways.
- There are three disabled toilets in Butterfly Meadow.
- We ensure wherever possible that equipment used is accessible to all children regardless of their needs.
- After-school provision is accessible to all children, including those with SEN.
- Extra-curricular activities are accessible for children with SEN.

How will we measure the progress of your child in school?

- Your child's progress will be continually monitored by his/her class teacher.
- His/her progress will be reviewed formally with members of the senior leadership team every term in reading, writing and numeracy, through pupil progress meetings.
- If your child is in Year 1 or above and working below Key Stage 1 expectations, a more sensitive assessment tool can be used called Pre-Key Stage 1 standards, which shows children's attainment in more detail - breaking learning down into smaller steps.
- At the end of each key stage (i.e. at the end of year 2 and year 6), all children are required to be formally assessed using Standard Assessment Tests (SATs). This is something the government requires all schools to do and are the results that are published nationally.
- Where necessary, children will have an additional support plan based on targets agreed by teachers, parents, SENCO and/or external agencies which specific to their needs. Targets will be designed to accelerate learning and close the gap. Progress against these targets will be reviewed regularly, evidence for judgements assessed and a future plan made.
- The SENCO will also check that your child is making good progress within any individual work and in any group that they take part in.
- Regular book monitoring and lesson observations will be carried out by members of the senior leadership team to ensure that the needs of all children are met and that the quality of teaching and learning is high.
- For all children with an EHCP, an annual review will take place with all adults and relevant professionals involved with the child to review the needs and current level of support they are receiving.

How will we support your child when they are joining the school? Leaving the school? Or moving to another class?

We recognise that transitions can be difficult for a child with SEND, and we take steps to ensure that any transition is as smooth as possible.

If your child is joining us from another school:

- The SENCo will visit pre-schools with the class teacher or Foundation Stage Leader when appropriate and attend annual reviews for pre-school children.
- If your child would be helped by a social story book/passport to support them in understand moving on, one will then be made for them with information about their current placement and their new school.
- Your child will be able to visit our school and stay for a play and activity session.
- Parents will be invited to attend an information evening.
- You may be given an opportunity for additional visits where appropriate to help to prepare your child for their move to the school.

If your child is moving to another school:

- We will contact the school's SENCo and ensure she knows about any special arrangements or support that need to be made for your child. Where possible, a planning meeting will take place with the SENCo from the new school.
- We will make sure that all records about your child are passed on as soon as possible.
- If your child would be helped by a social story book/passport to support them in understand moving on, one will be made for them.

When moving classes in school:

- Information will be passed on to the new class teacher in advance and in most cases a planning meeting will take place with the new teacher. IEPs will be shared with the new teacher.
- If your child would be helped by a social story/passport to support them in understand moving on, then one will be made for them.
- Your child may participate in a transition group or be able to visit the new class more frequently where appropriate, to prepare them for the move.

In Year 6:

- The SENCo and class teacher will discuss the specific needs of your child with the SENCo of the child's secondary school. Where appropriate, a transition review meeting to which you will be invited will take place with the SENCo from the new school.
- Where possible, your child will visit their new school on several occasions, and in some cases staff from the new school will visit your child in this school.
- If your child would be helped by a social story/passport to support them in understand moving on, then one will be made for them.

How will we support your child's emotional and social development?

We recognise that some children have extra emotional and social needs that need to be developed and nurtured. These needs can manifest themselves in a number of ways, including behavioural difficulties, anxiety, and struggling to communicate effectively.

- All classes follow a structured PSHE (Personal, Social, and Health Education) curriculum to support this development. However, for those children who find aspects of this difficult we offer:
- Social skills groups to develop emotional language and literacy, and the skills needed to initiate friendships and interact socially with their peers. This includes the use of SEAL (Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning) and specific programme called 'Time to Talk' for younger children. There are also similar programmes for children at Key Stage 2 that is delivered at their level. All programmes are delivered by teachers or teaching assistants who are trained and experienced in delivering these programmes.
- A range of extra-curricular groups which all children are invited to join.
- Lunchtime and playtime support through planned activities and groups.
- 1:1 lunchtime and playtime support for children to develop skills in play and social interaction

If your child still needs extra support, with your permission the SENCO will access further support through outside agencies including links with specialist schools, Local Offer support and the Early Health Assessment (EHA) process.

Complaints Procedure

Pupils, staff and parents are expected to listen carefully and respectfully to each other. Where an issue arises, parents should, in the first instance, make an appointment to speak with their child's class teacher and seek to resolve any concerns. If a parent believes that their concern has not been resolved to their satisfaction or is of a more serious or sensitive nature, an appointment should be made to see the Executive Head, who will investigate and report back on the results of the investigation. Where an issue is not satisfactorily resolved, parents should then take up the matter with the Chair of Governors or EMLC trust member. A copy of the school's Complaints Procedure is available on request from the school.

This Policy was last reviewed: November 2023

This Policy will be reviewed: September 2024