

Dear Parent/Carer



As you know here at the West Norfolk Cluster of schools we are committed to providing outstanding education for all of our children and young people. We value all of our learners and actively seek to meet their individual needs. At times, this means that some children present with additional needs and some are identified as having special educational needs (SEN.)

For learners with Special Educational Needs (SEN,) we may respond to their needs by providing additional support to help them make progress. There are times where extra 'support for learning' may be required, at which point we can approach our Cluster of schools as we now share some resources that were previously held by the Local Authority.

We meet as a Cluster every term to plan the distribution of support for learning across the schools in the Cluster, and to share practice and skills to benefit learners with SEN. If your child has SEN then we will discuss with you their learning needs and the provision they require. Together we can plan the next steps for them. Often this can be adjustments made in class by the Teacher, but sometimes it may be working in small groups practising a skill or following a programme. It may include time with a Teaching Assistant working in a small group.

Our priority is identifying the best support for learners, which will promote their participation, independence and achievement at school.

We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that all learning needs are met for all of our children.

Yours sincerely

Gayle Platt

Cluster Host SENCo

Key Principles

All parents of children with Special Educational Needs should feel that they are treated as partners, able and empowered to:

- ◆ Play an active and valued role in their child's education
- ◆ Have knowledge of what they can expect for their child
- ◆ Have access to information, advice and support during assessment and any related decision making process about educational provision.

If you wish to discuss this further please contact Gayle Platt, our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). Or arrange to talk to your child's Teacher.

Alternatively go to www.norfolkparentpartnership.org.uk for further useful information.



Norfolk Parent Partnership



West Norfolk Cluster

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

Parents Information Leaflet

*"Every child deserves a fair start
in life, with the very best
opportunity to succeed."*



Information for our parents

You may be aware that the way our children with Special Educational Needs and Disability are funded has changed. This leaflet is intended to give you information on how these new funding changes may affect the pupils in the Smithdon Cluster of schools.

The Smithdon Cluster consists of:

Brancaster C of E Primary School
Dersingham VA Primary School
Docking Primary School and Foundation Unit
Heacham Infant and Nursery School
Heacham Junior School
Hunstanton Primary School
Ingoldisthorpe C of E Primary School
Sedgeford Primary School
Smithdon Academy
Snettisham Primary School

All schools are responsible for meeting the needs of children with learning difficulties, disabilities and SEN. Every child should be given work that matches their ability in order that they make progress; some children will need help that is additional to and / or different to their peers to do this.



FUNDING FOR SEND

Since April 2013 money goes direct to the schools budget and the cluster to support SEND. This money allows the cluster to work flexibly to:

- Respond promptly and efficiently
- Organise additional resources
- Achieve the greatest benefits for all children with SEN
- Identify need early
- Ensure a fair consistent system across the schools

The school's ordinary arrangements for meeting special needs should be the basis for any additional support. There should be enough to help allow the pupil to have access to the full curriculum and make learning progress, but not so much support as to interfere with the development of independence and friendships.

Even children with the greatest needs in special schools do not have unlimited amounts of individual teaching; they have regular periods where they are able to have rest breaks, and interact with other pupils. Cluster funding is used to support learning packages. It can 'top up' high level needs children, once a school has demonstrated they have used their individual budgets to support the child. Or alternatively, early

intervention learning packages can be applied for. These are for groups of learners who need a short programme of specific learning to close the gap. For example, children may benefit from a socially speaking group, or booster support for maths.

HOW WE WORK TOGETHER FOR SEND PUPILS

Headteachers and SENCOs across the cluster meet regularly to discuss good practice and to ensure that all children who need additional funding are supported well.

Across the cluster we have a wide range of expertise and qualifications. We are working together to share and expand our knowledge and skills.

Teachers and teaching assistants across the cluster have accredited training in use of structured literacy and numeracy interventions such as 'Sound Discovery; and ELKLAN for Speech and Language. When expertise does not exist we can request assessment. The cluster have bought into the additional Educational Psychology Support Services to support our learners.

