



Ashford Oaks

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Special Needs Policy & SEN Information Report September 2021

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Introduction

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:-

Children and Families Act 2014, SEN Code of Practice 2014, SI 2014 1530 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators, Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEN information report, Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer, Equality Act 2010, Schools Admissions Code, DfE 1 Feb 2012 SI 2012 1124, The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012 SI 2013 758, The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013.

This policy should be read in conjunction with all other school policies.

This policy was developed in collaboration with parents, parents of children with special educational needs and our governing body and will be reviewed annually.

Ashford Oaks acknowledges that children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) or certain health conditions can face additional safeguarding challenges and barriers for recognising abuse and neglect. Children with SEND will be appropriately supported to communicate and ensure that their voice is heard and acted upon.

Definition of SEN

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.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty if he or she:

- (a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- (b) Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions. *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p 4)*

Definition of disability

Many children and young people who have SEN may also have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is'...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'. This definition provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise: 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial' *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p5)*

1 The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made at the school

At Ashford Oaks we can make provision for every kind of frequently occurring special educational need without an Education, Health and Care Plan, for instance Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Developmental Coordination Disorder (DCD), speech and language needs, those with dyslexic tendencies, learning difficulties, social and mental health needs, hearing impairment and physical disability. There are other kinds of special educational need which do not occur as frequently and with which the school is less familiar, but we can access training and advice so that these kinds of needs can be met.

The school also currently meets the needs of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan with the following kinds of special educational need: ASD and ADHD. Decisions on the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP) are made by the Local Authority.

The admission arrangements for pupils without an Education, Health and Care Plan do not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs.

2 Information about the policy for identification and assessment of pupils with SEN

At Ashford Oaks we monitor the progress of all pupils three times a year to review their academic progress. We also use a range of assessments with all the pupils at various points eg Y1 phonics screening, speech link, language link, spelling age and reading age.

Where progress is not sufficient, even if special educational need has not been identified, we put in place extra support to enable the pupil to catch up. Examples of extra support are additional resources in class, additional adult support in class, small group/1:1 interventions.

Some pupils may continue to make inadequate progress, despite high-quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness. For these pupils, and in consultation with parents, we will use a range assessment tools to determine the cause of the learning difficulty. At Ashford Oaks we are experienced in using the following assessment tools Salford Reading Test, COPS and LASS Assessment, British Picture Vocabulary Scale, Language For Learning, Dyslexia Screening Test, Memory Magic, Boxall Screening Test and we have access to external advisors (Specialist Teaching and Learning Service /Speech and Language Therapy Service/Occupational Therapy Service) who are able to use additional assessment tools. The purpose of this more detailed assessment is to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make better progress. These will be shared with parents in a Provision Plan during parents evening or via email or via

request to the SENCO (Deborah Hainsworth
Deborah.hainsworth@ashfordoaks.kent.sch.uk). Provision Plans will be review three times a year as part of the 'Graduated Approach' of *Assess, Plan, Do, Review*. At this point we will place the pupil on the SEN register because the school is making special educational provision for the pupil which is additional and different to what is normally available. We also have a Concern' SEN register which will hold any children who have been on the SEN register in the past or may have had a SEN referral but no longer needed any additional support over and above the mainstream core standards.

If the pupil is able to make good progress using this additional and different resource (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it) we will continue to identify the pupil as having a special educational need. If the pupil is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different resources he or she will not be identified with special educational needs. When any change in identification of SEN is changed parents will be notified.

We will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support to be provided and the teaching approaches to be used.

Teachers, Teaching Assistant and the Pastoral Team are all able to complete SENCO referral forms if it is felt that a particular child is in need of additional support. SENCO referral forms should be submitted to the SENCO so that meetings and observations can then take place and appropriate recommendations made. If it is felt that the child needs sufficient support in school then again they will be placed on the SEN register and an appropriate Provision Plan will be created.

Teachers, Teaching Assistant and the Pastoral Team all have access to the school EduKey system which holds all information regarding a child's additional needs and interventions that are in place. All Provision Plans are accessible to Ashford Oaks Staff through the password protected EduKey system, and it is the responsibility of the class teachers to ensure that provisions are carried out and reviewed three times a year. This will be supported by the SENCO who will guide and support staff where necessary.

3 Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with special educational needs whether or not they have EHC Plans, including;

3a How the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils

Each review of the SEN support plan will be informed by the views of the pupil, parents and class/subject teachers and the assessment information from teachers which will show whether adequate progress is being made.

The *SEN Code of Practice (2014, 6.17)* describes inadequate progress thus:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between rate of progress
- Widens the attainment gap

For pupils with an EHCP there will be an annual review of the provision made for the child, which will enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of the special provision. The collation of all annual review evaluations of effectiveness will be reported to the governing body.

3b the school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs

Every pupil in the school has their progress tracked throughout the year. In addition to this, pupils with special educational needs may have more frequent assessments of reading age, spelling age etc. The assessments we use at Ashford Oaks are listed in section 2. Using these it will be possible to see if pupils are increasing their level of skills in key areas.

If these assessments do not show adequate progress is being made the SEN support plan will be reviewed and adjusted.

3c the school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs

At Ashford Oaks, we believe that high quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. We regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered *SEN Code of Practice (2015, 6.37)*

In Ashford Oaks the quality of teaching is judged to be 'good'.

We follow the Mainstream Core Standards advice developed by Kent County Council to ensure that our teaching conforms to best practice.

In meeting the Mainstream Core Standards the school employs some additional teaching approaches, as advised by internal and external assessments e.g. one to one tutoring / precision teaching, small group teaching, use of ICT software learning packages.

3d How the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs

At Ashford Oaks we follow the advice in the Mainstream Core Standards on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with special educational needs. We

also incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments, both internal and external, and the strategies described in EHCPs.

3e additional support for learning that is available to pupils with special educational needs

As part of our budget we receive 'notional SEN funding'. This funding is used to ensure that the quality of teaching is good in the school and that there are sufficient resources to deploy additional and different teaching for pupils requiring SEN support. The amount of support required for each pupil to make good progress will be different in each case. These are indicated on our class Provision Maps. In very few cases a very high level of resource is required. The funding arrangements require schools to provide up to £6000 per year of resource for pupils with high needs, and above that amount the Local Authority should provide top up to the school. With consent from the parents the school can apply for Higher Needs Funding

3f how the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs

All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils at Ashford Oaks are available to pupils with special educational needs either with or without an EHCP. Where it is necessary, the school will use the resources available to it to provide additional adult support and adaptations to enable the safe participation of the pupil in the activity

3g support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with special educational needs

At Ashford Oaks we understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching, for instance Personal Social and Health Education, social skills groups and pastoral support, and indirectly with every conversation adults have with pupils throughout the day.

For some pupils with the most need for help in this area we also can provide the following:

- access to a member of the pastoral support team
- external referral to Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
- counselling
- referral to Rising Sun
- learning breaks
- Zones of Regulation in every classroom

4 The name and contact details of the SEN Co-ordinator

The SENCO at Ashford Oaks is Deborah Hainsworth. Deborah was previously a SENCO at The North Secondary School which also had a Specialist Resource Provision (SRP) and also taught at Wyvern School. She has the National Award for SEN Co-ordination

Deborah Hainsworth is available on 01233 631259 or

deborah.hainsworth@ashfordoaks.kent.sch.uk .

5 Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and how specialist expertise will be secured

We aim that all staff will access ASC awareness training within the first 3 months of joining. Some teachers and teaching assistants have had the following training: sensory processing, Sensory Circuits, PECs, Social Stories, Zones of Regulation, Visual Supports, Clever Hands and Fizzy, Verve and DCD.

Where a training need is identified beyond this we will find a provider who is able to deliver it. Training providers we can approach are: Goldwyn School, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, educational psychologists, etc. The cost of training is covered by the notional SEN funding.

6 Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities which the school does not have, we will purchase it using the notional SEN funding, or seek it by loan.

For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of the KCC Communication and Assistive Technology team.

7 The arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

All parents of pupils at Ashford Oaks are invited to discuss the progress of their children on 3 occasions a year and receive a written report 3 times per year. In addition we are happy to arrange meetings outside these times. As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will access some additional teaching to help them catch-up if the progress monitoring indicates that this is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a special educational need. All such provision will be recorded, tracked and evaluated on a Provision Map.

If following this normal provision, improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments which will help us to address these needs better. From this point onwards the pupil will be identified as having special educational needs because special educational provision is being made. Parents will be actively supported to contribute to assessment, planning and reviews.

In addition to this, parents of pupils with an EHCP will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review, which, wherever possible will also include other agencies involved with the pupil. Information will be made accessible for parents.

8 The arrangements for consulting young people with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

When a pupil has been identified to have special educational needs because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of person-centred planning. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in the childhood years with the young person taking more responsibility and acting with greater independence in later years.

9 The arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints at Ashford Oaks are used for complaints about provision made for special educational needs. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns with class teacher, SENCO or Pastoral Support Team Leader or Headteacher to resolve the issue before making the complaint formal to the Chair of the governing body.

If the complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the governing body, then a disagreement resolution service or mediation service can be contracted. If it remains unresolved after this, the complainant can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), if the case refers to disability discrimination, or to the Secretary of State for all other cases.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have an EHCP where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.

10 How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils

The governing body have engaged with the following bodies:-

- Free membership of Local Inclusion Forum Team (LIFT) for access to specialist teaching and learning service (STLS).
- Access to local authority's service level agreement with Speech and Language Therapy Services / Occupational Therapy Services / Physiotherapy Services for pupil with requirement for direct therapy or advice
- Ability to make ad hoc requests for advice from School Nursing

- Membership of SENCO forum

11 The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32 (Parent Partnership Services)

Information, Advice and Support (IASK) provides free, impartial, confidential, advice, support and options around educational issues for parents who have children with special educational needs or disabilities (0-19). They empower parents to play an active and informed role in their child's education. They can be contacted on

Office: 03000 412 412

Helpline: 03000413000

E-mail: iask@kent.gov.uk

The Kent Parent/Carer Forum is for the parents/carers of children with SEN and disabilities to listen to their views and then help to influence change info@kpcf.co.uk

12 The school's arrangements for supporting pupils with special educational needs in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for adulthood and independent living

At Ashford Oaks we work closely with the educational settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us in order to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible.

We also contribute information to a pupils' onward destination by providing information to the next setting.

13 Information on where the local authority's local offer is published.

The local authority's local offer is published on www.kelsi.org.uk and parents without internet access should make an appointment with the SENCO for support to gain the information they require.

Approved by the GB on 29/09/2021

Next review on 29/09/2022