



Chippenham

Partnership of Schools

Parents' information Leaflet – Special Educational Needs

The leaflet has been compiled by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) in the Chippenham Partnership of Schools.

Introduction

Here in Chippenham we wish to provide you with support into the understanding of what Special Education Needs (SEN) means.

Special Educational Needs (SEN) that affect a child's ability to learn can include their:

- behaviour or ability to socialise
- reading and writing
- ability to understand things
- concentration levels
- physical needs or impairments

If you think your child may have special educational needs, contact the 'SEN co-ordinator', or 'SENCO' in your child's school

Department of Education

About 1 in 5 children are likely to have special educational needs of some kind at some time during their school career. Some children may have special educational needs for a relatively short time; others will have special needs throughout their schooling. Some will have special needs in particular curriculum areas, but others may need help with all, or most aspects of their education. A small minority may have complex needs which may need a statutory assessment.

If your child has SEN then their education provision can take many different forms. It could include group or individual work, or a personalised learning programme adapted to meet a child's specific needs.

Children and young people and their parents or carers will be fully involved in decisions about their education provision.

Wiltshire Local Offer

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice

As from September 1st 2014, the Department for Education introduced a new SEN Code of Practice. The Code explains the duties of schools to provide:

- reasonable adjustments for disabled children and young people
- auxiliary aids and services to disabled children and young people

Further information about the Code of Practice is available from:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

The Code applies to all schools, Primary, Secondary or Special, and sets out a more co-ordinated approach to accessing services for children and young people which involves parents and carers, children and young people in the decision making process.

Part of the Code of Practice is that all counties have to provide a 'Local Offer' of provision for Children and Young People with SEND and that all schools also have to provide a SEN Information Report accessible from their website.

Where can I find out about the Wiltshire Local Offer?

Wiltshire's Local Offer is available on <https://www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk/> You can also telephone Wiltshire Council on 01225 757985 where they will put you in touch with the relevant person.

The website has lots of information on the Local Offer. It provides information and guidance on services for children and young people, aged 0-25, with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). It contains information about education, health, social care, preparing for adulthood and leisure.

The Local Offer website also gives information on support for you as a parent / carer, understanding what SEND means for you and your family.

What does my child's school offer?

As previously stated all schools have to publish information for parents on what provision is available for children with SEND. This is called the **SEN information report** and is available on the school's website. A hard copy is also available from the school office.

The SEN information report tells you as a parent/carer everything you need to know about what the school can offer children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

What are My Support Plans?

These are holistic plans that are put together with your child, yourself and school staff which detail what your child's needs are and the extra help or interventions in place to support your child's learning. If your child has the support of an outside agency, such as a speech and language therapist or educational psychologist, for example, he or she will also be asked to contribute to these plans.

What is an Education, Health and Care Plan?

In Wiltshire, these are called My-Plans. These are designed to replace Statements. If your child has a My Support Plan, information from this will be used to produce a My Plan. All the information held by you, your child's school, health and other professionals involved with you and your child will be in one form, which will be reviewed at least annually. You and your child will also be allocated a SEND Lead Worker, who will coordinate this plan.

Both the My Support Plans and My Plans are very child focussed, this means that your child will have a say in their learning and care. What they feel works best for them - their feelings, thoughts, and wishes are put into the plans

Other Useful information:

Wiltshire Parent Carer Council

The Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC)

<http://www.wiltshireparentcarercouncil.co.uk> provides a specialist consultation and participation service that enables parents and carers to voice their opinions about the services and support that their families receive. There is also a wealth of information about special educational needs, benefits & money, social care services, schools & learning, legal matters and more. If you do not have access to the internet please call 01225 764647 for more information.

Wiltshire Parent Partnership Service

Wiltshire Parent Partnership Service <http://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/our-services/wiltshire-parent-partnership> offers parents and carers a free confidential and impartial information; with advice about their child's Special Educational Needs (SEN). If you do not have access to the internet please call on 01380 813393 for more information.

<https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/overview>

www.nidirect.gov.uk/what-are-special-educational-needs

www.senmagazine.co.uk/

If you have any further questions about your child's additional needs, or any of the information contained in this leaflet, then please contact your child's SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) below:

SENCO CONTACT INFORMATION:

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