



MERRYLANDS
PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY

SEN INFORMATION REPORT

2023-2024

Merrylands is a mainstream primary school with an inclusive ethos and we provide for different kinds of SEN including:

- social and emotional and mental health difficulties
- autistic and social communication difficulties
- speech, language and communication needs
- learning difficulties and disabilities
- physical and neurological impairment
- sensory impairment

How does the school know if children need extra help?

At Merrylands Primary School children are identified as having SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) through a variety of ways, usually a combination, which may include some of the following:

- liaison with previous school or pre-school setting
- child performing significantly below 'age expected' levels or equivalent (e.g. percentile rankings)
- concerns raised by a parent
- concerns raised by a teacher: for example, if behaviour or self-esteem is affecting performance
- liaison with external agencies e.g. for a physical/sensory issue, speech and language
- children with an EHCP (Education Health and Care Plan) already have many of their needs clearly identified. Their placement at the school is a decision that is made by the Local Education Authority

How do I raise concerns if I need to?

Talk to us – Your first point of contact is always the class teacher. They can, if needed, follow up with the school SENCOs and/or Inclusion Manager. We also have a SEND team in the school which includes a Nurture and Sensory Lead, and as a team we can look to address any concerns and worries raised, and seek the right support where required. Appointments can be arranged in person at the School Office, by phone 01268 417893 or by email admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk

How will the school support my child?

Who will oversee, plan and work with my child and how often?

- the class teacher will oversee, plan and work with each child with SEND in their class to ensure that appropriate progress is made in every area
- the Inclusion Manager, SENCO and SLT oversee the progress of any child identified as having SEND
- there may be an LSA (Learning Support Assistant) or HLTA (Higher Level Teaching Assistant) working with your child either individually or as part of a group. The content of this support will often be explained to parent/carer when support begins, as part of a child's bespoke programme of learning and is reviewed and updated during termly learning conversations

Who will explain this to me?

- class teachers are always happy to discuss your child's needs if you have questions or concerns between more formal meetings. Please speak to them directly to arrange this
- If your child has a One Plan or Education, Health Care Plan (EHCP), the class teacher will meet with you formally on at least a termly basis (this could be part of parent consultation meetings or separately), in order to discuss your child's progress and the support that they are receiving. The SENCO and Inclusion Manager may also attend these meetings
- an appointment can be made with the Inclusion Manager to discuss support in more detail if required

What support will there be for my child's overall well-being?

What is the pastoral, medical and social support available in the school?

- we are an inclusive school and a child's emotional and spiritual development is a priority
- the class teacher, alongside other staff, will support your children with any pastoral, medical or social needs
- any additional staff working with vulnerable children requiring support during the school day will work under the direction of the Inclusion Manager

How does the school manage the administration of medicines?

- the school has a policy regarding the administration and managing of medicines, which is available on the policy page of the school website. Parents can request a paper copy of this policy from the School Office
- the parent/carer should contact the School Office if prescribed medication is recommended by healthcare professionals and needs to be taken during the school day. Any medication must be given to the school in the packaging in which it was dispensed by the pharmacy, with the child's name and administration information clearly shown. A form must also be completed by the parent and medicines handed into and collected from the School Office
- on a day-to-day basis, the administrative staff oversee the administration of medicine
- as a staff, we have regular training and updates on conditions and medication affecting individual children, so that all staff are able to manage medical situations

What support is there for behaviour, avoiding exclusion and increasing attendance?

- the school has adopted behaviour and exclusion policies available on the school website. If a child has significant behaviour difficulties, a Risk Reduction Plan (RRP) is written to identify the specific issues, put relevant support in place and set targets with a view to identifying and addressing the underlying reasons behind the behaviour. The school works with external agencies to provide help and support where a child's behaviour significantly affects their learning. Where needed our Parent Liaison Officer will engage with families to offer support and help them solve any problems that they have which could be affecting the behaviour of a child
- the school has an adopted Attendance Policy. Attendance of every child is monitored on a daily basis by the school. Lateness and absence are recorded and reported to the Headteacher, who may involve the Early Help Assessment Team, or Children's Services if this becomes a concern. Various incentive schemes are used to promote positive attendance throughout the school including the presentation of individual certificates
- the school are also able to support families by contacting other agencies who can provide appropriate support

How will my child be able to contribute their views?

- children who have One Plans, EHCPs or RRP's discuss their progress and targets when these are reviewed (age appropriate), as well as at termly meetings
- if your child has an EHCP, they will be invited to attend their One Plan Meeting (age appropriate) and discuss their progress with all the other stakeholders
- children are routinely asked to reflect on their learning and share how they feel they are progressing during the course of their usual day
- all children are provided with the opportunity to be voted onto the School Council as well as hold other positions of responsibility, by their class or class teacher

How accessible is the school environment?

- all areas of the school are accessible by wheelchair
- accessible toilet facilities are available
- Please refer to our accessibility plan available on the school website, if you have specific access queries or concerns, please speak with us

How will the curriculum be differentiated to match my child's needs?

- all learning activities within class are planned and differentiated at an appropriate level, so that all children are able to access learning according to their specific needs. Typically, this might mean that in a lesson there would be three different levels of work set for the class, however on occasions this might be individually differentiated
- the class teacher, alongside the Inclusion Manager will discuss a child's needs and what support will be appropriate
- children with SEND will have access to the appropriate resources needed in order to help them to make progress e.g. phonic mats, coloured overlays, Numicon
- the Inclusion Manager and SENCO report to the Headteacher and Governors regularly to inform them about the progress of children with SEND and how resources are being used. Information provided will never name individual children in order to maintain confidentiality at all times
- the governor responsible for SEND also meets regularly with the Inclusion Manager/SENCO. They report on their visit to the governors to keep them all informed with school or LA (Local Authority) information
- the governors agree priorities for spending within the SEND budget, including the Pupil Premium, with the overall aim that all children receive the support that they need in order to make progress. This will include resourcing appropriate equipment and facilities

How will we know if this has had an impact?

- ensuring that the child is making progress academically and socially against their targets and that they make the required progress in their time at Merrylands
- by reviewing children's targets in One Plans and EHCPs and ensuring that they are being met
- through verbal feedback from the child, the parent and teacher to build a wider picture
- through children moving off the SEN Register when they have made sufficient progress – parents will always be informed if this has taken place

How will I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

What opportunities will there be for me to discuss my child's progress?

- you are welcome to make an appointment to meet with either the class teacher, SENCO or Inclusion Manager at any time throughout the year and discuss how your child is getting on. We can offer advice and practical ways that you can help to support your child at home
- your child may have a One Plan or EHCP with targets, that will have individual targets. This is discussed with you on at least a termly basis and parents are provided with a copy. The conversation will also provide suggestions as to how you can support your child's learning at home. All parents are offered a termly opportunity to participate in a learning conversation
- when the child's plan is reviewed, comments are made against each target to show what progress the child has made

How does the school know how well my child is doing?

- as a school we track and analyse the child's progress in learning against national expectations and age-related expectations on a half-termly basis

- the class teacher continually assesses each child and notes areas where they are improving and where further support is needed. As a school, we track children's progress from entry at Reception through to Year 6, using a variety of different methods. Please ask the school if you require any further details
- pupil progress meetings are held each term between each class teacher and SLT. In these meetings, a discussion takes place concerning children who are not making expected progress and actions are discussed
- at Merrylands Primary School, children with language difficulties are re-assessed at key points to enable us to monitor progress
- where specific needs are apparent, the school has a range of assessments which can be used to explore a child's strengths and difficulties in more depth
- the Headteacher and Inclusion Manager report regularly to the Governing Body. We have a governor who is responsible for SEND, who meets regularly with the Inclusion Manager and attends briefing sessions. They also report back to the Governing Body

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

- all children are included in all parts of the school curriculum and we aim for all children to be included on school trips. We will provide the necessary support to ensure that this is successful and may discuss this in advance with parent/carer. It might be appropriate for a parent/carer to accompany a child on a school trip, depending upon the child's individual needs
- a risk assessment is carried out prior to any off site activity to ensure everyone's health and safety will not be compromised. In the unlikely event that it is considered unsafe for a child to take part in an activity, then alternative activities that will cover the same curriculum areas will be provided within the school environment, wherever possible
- the school does not operate extended services at the current time. However, a variety of after school clubs are provided during lunchtimes and after school. We aim for these to be as inclusive as possible and may provide additional staff or sessions in order to achieve this. Some children find the lunchtime period challenging. Depending upon their needs, it might not be appropriate for them to eat in the dining hall with a large number of children or spend a long period of time outside. Each child's needs will be considered on an individual basis

How will the school prepare and support my child when joining the school or transferring to a new school?

- we encourage all new children to visit the school prior to starting
- we can create 'social stories' with/for the children if transition is likely to prove challenging
- a transition form is sent to all pre-schools and other schools prior to children transferring
- the SENCO/teacher will visit settings where it is felt there is a need
- we liaise closely with the staff when receiving and transferring children to and from different schools, ensuring all relevant paperwork is passed on and all needs are discussed and understood
- if your child has complex needs, then an EHCP review will be used as a transition planning meeting to which we will invite staff from both schools
- transition between year groups and key stages within the school will be dealt with as part of our annual programme of transition and handover to the next class teacher
- at any point where a child with SEND is preparing to leave our school, we would seek to arrange additional visits for the child in question to support smooth transition. Many secondary schools also run programmes specifically tailored to aid transition for the more vulnerable pupils at the end of the primary stage of education

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

- within the school we have a culture of sharing good practice and expertise; this enables us to ensure our staff has as much knowledge as possible within the field of supporting children with SEND
- the environment is designed to support children with individual needs e.g. visual timetables, individual workstations etc as required
- as a school we work closely with any external agencies that we feel are relevant to supporting individual children's needs within our school including: Primary Behaviour Service, Health services including GPs, School Nurse, EWMHS (Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health Service), clinical psychologist, paediatricians, speech and language therapists, occupational and physiotherapists; Children's Services including Early Help locality teams, social workers; educational psychologists and specialist advisory teachers

What are your admission arrangements for children with SEND?

- All children with a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) that name the school on the statement / plan are required to be admitted to the school regardless of their place in the priority order of the admission criteria.

Whom can I contact for further information?

- please speak to the class teacher in the first instance
- general information relating to SEND can be found on the school website, including within the SEN policy. This can be found on the policy page of the school website
- further information is available from the Inclusion Manager, SENCO, Headteacher or, in exceptional circumstances, the SEN Governor
- the school has a Complaints Policy, which is available on the policy page of the school website
- you might also wish to visit the following websites: Essex County Council's Local Offer, outlining services available for children and young people who have SEND, can be found at <http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/>

Whom should I contact if I am considering whether my child should join the school?

Please contact the School Office on 01268 417893 or email admin@merrylands-pri.essex.sch.uk for further information.