



Special Educational Needs

A guide for parents

Every child learns differently, however, some children may experience learning difficulties as they develop. Some children may require different types of support to make their best progress.

Children experiencing learning difficulties aren't as uncommon as you may think. For many children, these learning difficulties can be temporary and worked through with help from their school and at home. For some children, special needs education will form a part of their journey through school. Here are some things you may want to know to know to help your child do their best.

What difficulties may children face?

Children with special educational needs can experience difficulties in education in several ways. Understanding what those difficulties are can help you to help your child both in and out of school with their learning and development.

These areas of difficulty for SEN students can include:

- **General learning, thinking and understanding difficulties:** your child may struggle with many different areas of learning, including spelling, reading and writing
- **Emotional and behavioural difficulties:** your child may find it difficult to settle down or follow rules, leading to behavioural issues in school
- **Communication difficulties:** your child may have difficulty with communication, struggling to understand others or express themselves. This can make it difficult to understand the world around them or make friends.
- **Physical and sensory difficulties:** your child may have a disability that impacts their senses or a medical condition that impacts their learning.

Small ways of overcoming the difficulties faced by SEN pupils

Whilst it can feel tricky to support your child at times we are here to help, here are a few ways you can help your child with their education.

- **Encourage your child to ask for help:** children with special educational needs may struggle with their self-esteem, particularly when it comes to learning and social situations. But you can encourage your child to ask for help when they need it. Remind your child that their feelings, thoughts and curiosities are valid.
- **Regular communication with their teacher:** if your child has special educational needs, try to keep in contact with the teacher regularly. It can also help you understand how to ensure any progress made in the classroom is carried on at home.
- **Set realistic goals:** The teacher will set goals with you but we always try to be "realistic", so we can ensure the goals you set are definitely achievable for your child. Try not to compare your child's progress with that of others. Make sure you use positive reinforcement to encourage your child to stick to these goals.

- **Be enthusiastic and excited about your child's learning:** if your child struggles with their learning, show enthusiasm for every small win that they have. That could be part of the positive reinforcement for their realistic goals.

Below is a list of the main areas of need and examples of how they may present in children.

AREA OF NEED	HOW IT MAY PRESENT
Communication and interaction	<p>Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or do not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
Cognition and learning	<p>Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia • Moderate learning difficulties • Severe learning difficulties • Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>
Sensory and/or physical	<p>Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment <p>These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

If you would like any more information regarding SEN, please see the SEN information report or SEN policy on the school website

If you have any issues relating to the points above please contact their class teacher or Mrs McCrindle (SENDSCO) via the school office.