

## Houghton Primary School's

### Special Education Needs Information Report

All Cambridgeshire Local Authority (LA) maintained schools have a similar approach to meeting the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and /or disabilities and are supported by the LA to ensure that all pupils, regardless of their specific needs, make the best possible progress in school.

All schools are supported to be as inclusive as possible, with the needs of pupils with Disabilities and/or Special Educational Needs (DSEN) being met in a mainstream setting wherever possible.

The broad areas of DSEN need are:

Communication and Interaction.

Cognition and Learning.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties.

Sensory and/or Physical.

#### What is the Local Offer?

##### **The LA Local Offer**

The Children and Families Bill was enacted in September 2014. From this date Local Authorities (LA) and schools are required to publish and keep under review information about services they expect to be available for children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) aged 0-25. The LA refer to this as the 'Local Offer'.

The intention of the Local Offer is to improve choice and transparency for families. It will also be an important resource for parents in understanding the range of services and provision in the local area.

Link to LA Local offer <http://www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/localoffer>

#### What is the Special Education Needs Information Report?

##### **The Special Education Needs Information Report**

Schools utilise the LA Local Offer to meet the needs of SEND pupils as determined by school policy and the provision that the school is able to provide. Schools refer to this as 'The Special Education Needs Information Report.

At Houghton, we treat ALL children as individuals in all aspects of their learning during their time with us at Houghton Primary School.

**Please read the 13 commonly asked questions below for more information about the Special Education Needs Information Report for Houghton Primary School**

#### **1. Who are the best people to talk to in this school about my child's difficulties with learning/ Special Educational Needs or Disability (DSEN)?**

The Class teacher is responsible for checking on the progress of your child and identifying, planning and delivering any additional help your child may need. They will let the Special Education Needs / Disabilities Coordinator (SEND Co / SEND team) know as necessary.

If your child's needs have been confirmed as DSEN the SENDCo will invite you to a meeting with the team that work with your child in school to write a (PIP) Pupil Individual Plan for your child, which will be reviewed with you at least once each term.

Mrs Thatcher is our Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo). She is supported by Mrs Sharpe, within her role as 'SENDCo Support', and Mrs Young within a SEND team. She works closely with teachers and specialists to coordinate provision and support for children across the school. The SEND team meet with teachers and Teaching Assistants within their class teams every half term to review and ensure the provision for children with additional needs. They meet with the parents of children with SEND regularly through the year. The school has established good liaison with Cambridgeshire Access to Learning Team and other external education and health professionals. These services are published and reviewed by the Local Authority through the Local Offer.



Mrs Mead and Mrs Hobley, our Foundation Stage teachers, are very experienced Early Years practitioners. Their experience and high skill level enable them to identify learning needs early.

The head teacher ensures that the Governing body is kept up to date about issues relating to SEND.

The SEND Link Governors is Mrs Angela Passant, who will make sure that the necessary support is given for any child who attends this school, who has SEND.

Please ring to make an appointment with your child's Class Teacher or the school SENDco Laura Thatcher. School Telephone Number 01480 463398

## **2. What are the different types of support available for children with SEND in our school?**

### **Quality First Teaching**

The Class teacher has the highest possible expectations for your child and all pupils in their class. Teachers assess children individually so that their teaching is focused on closing the gaps in learning, with children having their own individualised targets.

Our children's progress in the core curriculum is tracked throughout the year and we identify children early for intervention programmes or extension work if necessary. Progress is shared with children and parents in termly meetings, or more frequently if necessary. Specific intervention programmes or extension work (supported by the SEND Co) may run inside or outside the classroom, and could be run by your child's Teacher or Teaching Assistant (TA)

We have a great team of Teaching Assistants who are very experienced and highly trained. They also meet regularly in school to share their wide ranging expertise. They work with teachers to ensure that individual learning needs are met. We are committed to small group support in each class. All classes have at least one Teaching Assistant (TA) to support children in small groups across the week.

OfSTED said of our team of Teaching Assistants: *'The contribution of teaching assistants to pupils' learning is a particular strength of the school. They are highly skilled and trained well. They are very well briefed and fully included in planning activities for pupils and assessing how well they have completed them. As a consequence, the impact of their work is considerable, and this contributes in no small way to pupils' good progress'*. (OfSTED Report: February 2014)

### **Specialist Support**

Some children with SEND may be identified by the SENDCo / Class Teacher as needing some Specialist Support from a professional agency outside the school.

This may be from the Local Authority SEND Specialist Services which provides support from Specialist Teachers and Educational Psychologists.

You may be asked to give your permission for the school to refer your child to a specialist professional e.g. a Speech and Language Therapist or Educational Psychologist. This will help the school and yourself understand your child's particular needs better and be able to support them better in school.

The specialist professional will work with your child to understand their needs and make recommendations as to the ways your child is given support.

### **Specified Individual support**

This type of support is available for children whose learning needs are, severe, complex and lifelong.

This is usually provided via a Statement of Special Educational Needs or an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). This means your child will have been identified by professionals as needing a particularly high level of individual or small group teaching.

This type of support is available for children with specific barriers to learning that cannot be overcome through Quality First Teaching and intervention groups.

Your child will also need specialist support in school from a professional outside the school. This may be from:

- Local Authority
- Outside agencies such as the Speech and Language therapy (SALT) Service, the Occupational therapist or CAMH Service

### **For your child this would mean:**

- The school, or you (the parent / carer) can request that Local Authority Services carry out a statutory assessment of your child's needs. This is a legal process which sets out the amount of support that will be provided for your child.

[For more information you can go to the Parent Partnership Link on the Local authority website \(click here\)](#)

- After the request has been made to the 'Panel of Professionals' (with a lot of information about your child, including some from you), they will decide whether they think your child's needs (as described in the paperwork provided), seem complex enough to need a statutory assessment. If this is the case they will ask you and all professionals involved with your child to write a report outlining your child's needs. If they do not think your child needs this, they will ask the school to continue with the current support.

- After the reports have all been sent in, the 'Panel of Professionals' will decide if your child's needs are severe, complex and lifelong. If this is the case they will write an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). If this is not the case, they will ask the school to continue with the current level of support and also set up a meeting in school to ensure a plan is in place to ensure your child makes as much progress as possible.
- The EHC Plan will outline the provision that your child needs and the funding that will enable this provision to be put in place by the school. It will also have long and short term goals for your child.
- Depending on the provision specified on an EHC Plan, additional adults may be used to support your child with whole class learning, run individual programmes or run small groups including your child.

### **3. How can I let the school know I am concerned about my child's progress in school?**

If you have concerns about your child's progress you should speak to your child's class teacher initially.

If you continue to be concerned that your child is not making progress, you should ask to meet with the school's SENDCo, Mrs L Thatcher, or the SENDCo support worker, Mrs N Sharpe.

The school SEND Governors, Mrs Angela Passant can also be contacted for support via the school office [office@houghton.cambs.sch.uk](mailto:office@houghton.cambs.sch.uk)

### **4. How will the school let me know if they have any concerns about my child's learning in school?**

If your child is identified as not making progress, the school will set up a meeting to discuss this with you in more detail. We will listen to any concerns you have, while planning together additional support your child may need. We will also discuss with you any referrals to outside professionals to support your child's learning.

### **5. How is extra support allocated to children and how do they progress in their learning?**

The school budget, received from Cambridgeshire LA, includes some funding for supporting children with SEND. The Head Teacher decides on the deployment of resources for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in consultation with the school governors, on the basis of needs in the school.

The Head Teacher and the SENDCo discuss all the information they have about SEND in the school, including:

- the children getting extra support already
- the children needing extra support
- the children who have been identified as not making as much progress as would be expected and decide what resources/training and support is needed.

Schools identify the needs of their pupils on a school provision map which for SEND pupils identifies all resources/training and support.

### **6. Who are the other people providing services to children with SEND in this school?**

#### **School provision**

- Teaching Assistants
- Phoenix Club
- School clubs

## **Local Authority Provision delivered in school**

- Autism Outreach Service
- Educational Psychology Service
- Sensory Service for children with visual or hearing needs
- Parent Partnership Service
- Behaviour Intervention Team
- Language and Learning Team

## **Health Provision delivered in school**

- Speech and Language Therapy
- School Nurse
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- CAMHS

## **7. How are the teachers in school helped to work with SEND children and what training do they have?**

The SENDCo's job is to support the class teacher in planning for children with SEND.

The school SENDCo provides training and support to enable all staff to improve the teaching and learning of children, including those with SEND. This includes whole school training on SEND issues such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Speech and language difficulties.

Individual teachers and support staff attend training courses run by outside agencies that are relevant to the needs of specific children in their class.

The SENDCo will also check that your child is making good progress within any individual work and in any group that they take part in.

## **8. How will the teaching be adapted for my child with SEND?**

Class teachers plan lessons according to the specific needs of all groups of children in their class and will ensure that your child's needs are met. This includes adapting the timetable to allow for movement breaks and shorter sessions if required.

The learning environment will be adapted accordingly allowing children access to quiet, learning spaces, the sensory room and the outdoor area. Class teachers will take into account the lighting, glare from windows and external noise where necessary. All classrooms have visual timetables and visual clues to support all children.

- Support staff, under the direction of the class teacher, will adapt planning to support the needs of your child where necessary.
- Specific resources and strategies will be used to support your child individually and in small groups.
- Planning and teaching will be adapted, on a daily basis if needed, to meet your child's learning needs. This will reflect the strategies and information developed in your child's Pupil Individual Plan.

## **9. How will we measure the progress of your child in school?**

We will measure the progress of your child using the same assessments used for all children in order to gain a full picture of their strengths and areas for development.

Depending on your child's needs we may use other assessment tools to measure their progress.

Children who are on a Pupil Individual Plan will have their targets and provision reviewed at least termly with class staff, the SENDCo, parents and children where appropriate.

### **10. What support do we have for you as a parent of a child with a SEND?**

The class teacher is regularly available to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have and to share information about what is working well at home and school so similar strategies can be used.

The SENDCo is available to meet with you to discuss your child's progress or any concerns/worries you may have.

All information from outside professionals will be discussed with you directly, or where this is not possible, in a report.

We work closely with parents and children, meeting initially to create a Pupil Individual Plan (PIP). Parents and children will then meet at least each term to review this plan and ensure that the support is as effective as possible.

Our Inclusion Worker, Mrs Sharpe, works closely with all staff and specialists to support children and their families throughout their time with us. Her knowledge, skills and experience is extensive in providing help and support when it is needed. She provides help, support and advice ranging from a session with a child who has fallen out with a friend, to group work on Social Skills, to supporting a family during bereavement, to running courses for parents and carers on behaviour and parenting skills.

### **11. How is Houghton Primary School accessible to children with SEND?**

At Houghton Primary School we are committed to the requirements of the SEN and Disability Act (2001), ensuring that disabled children are not treated 'less favourably' and have made reasonable adjustments to ensure that disabled children are not at a substantial disadvantage. Our new build has enabled us to increase access to education for disabled children and supports our aim to take a proactive approach to promoting disability equality and eliminating discrimination. For further information please see our School Accessibility Plan.

The school works collaboratively with third party providers to ensure they are accessible for children with SEND. Depending on the needs of the child this may include an individual risk assessment taking into account the third party provider's own risk assessments.

### **12. How will we support your child when they are leaving this school? OR moving on to another class?**

We recognise that transitions can be difficult for a child with SEND and take steps to ensure that any transition is as smooth as possible. We work closely with schools receiving our children, whatever their needs. We arrange for additional information sharing meetings which include parents, and transition activities for children with these schools if the child has identified Special Educational Needs and/or a disability.

#### **If your child is moving to another school:**

We will contact the school SENDCO and ensure he/she knows about any special arrangements or support that need to be made for your child. Also we will make sure that all records about your child are passed on as soon as possible.

#### **When moving classes in school:**

Information will be passed on to the new class teacher in advance and in most cases, a planning meeting will take place with the new teacher. PIPs will be shared with the new teacher.

In Year 6, the SENDCo will discuss the specific needs of your child with the SENDCo of their secondary school. Your child will do focused learning about aspects of transition to support their understanding of the changes ahead.

Where possible your child will visit their new school on several occasions and in some cases staff from the new school will visit your child in this school.

### **13. What Emotional and Social Development support do we have for a child with a SEND?**

We recognise that pupils with SEND may well have Emotional and Social Development needs that will require support in school.

The Emotional Health and Well being of all our pupils is very important to us. We have a robust Child Protection Policy in place; we follow National & LA Guidelines. We have a robust Behaviour and Discipline Policy. The headteacher, SLT, teachers and all staff continually monitor the Emotional Health and Well being of all our pupils. We are an Anti bullying school. We support children with their Emotional Health and Well Being in many ways including; 20:20 club and Social Skills Groups. Mrs N Sharpe, our SEND Co Support Worker / Inclusion Manager works with pupil on an individual basis to support their Emotional Health and Well being, as appropriate.

**We hope that you have found this information useful, and if you wish to discuss anything further please feel free to make an appointment with Mrs Laura Thatcher, SENDCo**