



What is SEND?

SEND stands for 'Special Educational Needs and /or Disability'. A child has a Special Educational Need if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him /her.

Some children will, permanently or from time to time, have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of their age.

Some children may have special needs or disabilities which prevent or hinder them from making use of the facilities provided within school.

At Highlees Primary School we will give these children individual consideration and make additional provision for them, taking into account their views, strengths and needs and working in partnership with parents / carers and outside agencies as necessary.

Within the Code of Practice (June 2014) four broad areas of need are identified. If your child has special educational needs or disabilities their needs will fall into one or more of the four main areas of SEN:

1. **Communication and interaction** -This incorporates those students with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) who have difficulty understanding and communicating with others. This may include children and young people with ASD, including Asperger Syndrome and Autism.
2. **Cognition and learning** - This focuses on those children and young people who learn at a slower pace than their peers, as well as those with Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD), including dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.
3. **Social, emotional and mental health** - Those children who may have become withdrawn or isolated, as well as those displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. The code states these behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained.
4. **Physical and sensory**- This encompasses children with a disability that prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided – including those with visual or hearing impairments, multi-sensory impairments, and/or physical disabilities.

What should I do if my child has special educational needs?

If you feel your child may have a special educational need, your first point of contact is their class teacher. You can also talk to our SENCO, Mrs Hallam.

How will the school respond to my concerns?

- We will listen to you and take note of your concerns.
- We will look into your concerns and gather information.
- We will arrange to meet with you to discuss your child's needs in further detail and plan a way forward. This may mean having the involvement of outside agencies.

How will the school decide if my child needs extra support?

After gathering information, if a potential special educational need has been identified, the school will follow a 'graduated' approach of four types of action in order to be able to put effective support into place.

The four actions are:

1. **Assess:** The class teacher and SENCO will analyse your child's needs and discuss the strategies and support already in place before identifying them as requiring SEN Support (SENS). This will be reviewed in pupil progress meetings throughout the year.
2. **Plan:** We will discuss additional provision and the possibility of further assessment if needed. You will be kept informed.
3. **Do:** Strategies and interventions will be implemented in order to support your child.
4. **Review:** The effectiveness of support will be regularly reviewed and shared with you and your child. These actions form part of a cycle which can be reviewed and refined with the growing understanding of your child's needs.

What will Highlees Primary School do to support my child?

Where a special educational need is identified, the SENCO will work alongside your child's class teacher to assess the area/s of support required and also highlight your child's strengths. This information will be used to help set targets with your child and will be shared with you. Where a child's wider ranging needs have been recorded through the Early Help Assessment Framework (EHA) process, regular Team Around the Family Meetings (TAF) take place.

Your child's needs may come under one or more of the four categories and will be tailored to their individual needs. Highlees Primary School is an inclusive school and below are some examples of the support we can offer:

Area of SEND	Intervention
Communication and Interaction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality First Teaching • Specific Speech and Language programmes provided by a Speech and Language Therapist and delivered by a trained Teaching Assistant • The Southfields Pack – Speech and Language activities • Pre-teaching of vocabulary. • Use of visual strategies to support spoken language e.g. Visual timetables and prompt cards • Use of Social Stories • Communication in Print – a visual / picture resource to support language and communication • A classroom environment that is not too cluttered and where equipment is clearly marked with a label saying what it is. • Children given time to respond to allow time for thinking. • In class strategies such as ‘Talk Partners’ • Advice from the Specialist Teaching Team
Cognition and learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality First Teaching • Differentiated work expectations linked to the child’s ability. • Differentiated approach to learning such as providing visual prompts, task planner, work station. • Additional adult routinely used to support flexible groupings, differentiation and where appropriate provide 1:1 intervention • Pupils work collaboratively in mixed-ability groups Concrete, practical-based learning activities • Specialist resources available in class e.g. coloured overlays, word mats, times table squares • Withdrawal in small groups for planned interventions for mathematics and literacy, motor skills, catch up programmes. • Advice from the Specialist Teaching Team • Use of visual strategies • Pre-teaching of vocabulary.
Social, emotional and mental health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality First Teaching • Reward strategies • Daily ‘Wellbeing’ support provided by the Learning Mentor for individual children • Collaboration with the School Nurse • Home / school communication book • Additional visits to new classes towards the end of the summer term.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Additional secondary school visits for some Year 6 children • Advice from the Specialist Teaching Team • Zones of Regulation
Sensory and/or physical	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality First Teaching • Specialist equipment such as 'sit n move' cushions, writing slopes, pencil grips, coloured overlays, • Coloured background on white board. • Work printed on coloured paper • Sensory Circuits • Access to an Occupational Therapist and Physiotherapist for individual children. • Access to specialist nurse for and/or teachers of the hearing and / or visually impaired. • Access to two sensory rooms

Who will support my child in school?

All teachers at Highlees Primary School plan lessons according to the specific needs of all children in their classes to ensure that all needs are met.

Teachers will ensure that Teaching Assistants are deployed effectively to provide individual or group support for those pupils identified as having an additional need while encouraging the skills of independent learning within the classroom setting. Sometimes interventions take place outside of the main classroom. For example, those pupils who have been identified as having additional need may work with a teaching assistant within small groups to develop literacy and numeracy skills. The class teacher retains responsibility for your child's learning.

Who else might be involved in supporting my child?

What training and experience do members of staff have for the additional support my child may need?

Training needs of staff are reviewed regularly to ensure that we keep our skills and knowledge up to date. Members of staff have attended training to support pupils with autism. Individual members of staff have received training on managing emotional and behavioural difficulties and Elklan training to encourage children's communication skills.

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

At Highlees Primary School the safeguarding and well-being of all children is paramount and the child remains at the centre of all discussions, decisions made and actions taken. We offer pastoral, medical and social support to all pupils by:

How does the school know my child is progressing?

Every child's progress is tracked from entry into Early Years through to the end of Year 6. Children are assessed at regular intervals and pupil progress meetings are held with the Senior Leaders of school, class teachers and the SENCO.

The school has scheduled parents' evenings where your child's targets and progress are discussed. Parents / carers will also receive a copy of the targets their child is working on and written a report at the end of the academic year. Annual Reviews are held for children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP).

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

Highlees Primary School is an inclusive school where all children are treated equally. Pre-trip planning and risk assessments take account of those pupils with additional needs to provide appropriate levels of support and reasonable adjustments are made. This ensures all children have safe, fulfilling opportunities alongside their peers.

How can I be involved in supporting my child?

We actively encourage dialogue between home and school. It is important parents / carers attend parent's evenings or review meetings and contribute towards the planning of the next steps for their child. Teachers and staff from outside agencies will suggest ways in which you can support your child at home. Updated APDR documents will be sent home for parental contributions and assessments.

How can I access support for myself and my family?

Talk to us and we may be able to signpost you in the right direction. The school telephone number is 01733 264294 or you can email highleesoffice@hefed.org.

The Peterborough Local Authority SEN and Disability Local Offer describes what help, support and services are available for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) and their families in Peterborough. It:

- Includes information about education, social care and health services provided by voluntary and community groups.
- Provides information about services for children and young people with Education, Health and Care Plans, Statements of SEN as well as those without.
- Sets out clearly the criteria for getting support.

It can be accessed at

<https://fis.peterborough.gov.uk/kb5/peterborough/directory/localoffer.page?familychannel=8>