



SEN INFORMATION REPORT

St. Dominic's Catholic Primary School is an inclusive school and we ensure that all pupils are included in all aspects of school life. We encourage all children, regardless of their needs, to make the best possible progress at school. Quality teaching is at the heart of our practice; we ensure our children have access to a broad and diverse curriculum to develop independent and team skills.

From 2014 schools and local authorities have been asked to provide a 'local offer' detailing what their school or authority can provide for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities. We have set up this offer in a way that we hope answers some of the questions parents may have when deciding where to place their child.

We hope the following pages will answer any questions you may have about our provision. Towards the end there is a quick breakdown of what we offer for the main areas of need.

Just below are some common questions that parents may have.

Handy abbreviation support!

SEN	Special educational needs
SaLT	Speech and language therapy
EHCP	Education Health Care Plan
SLC	Speech, language and communication
ASD	Autistic spectrum disorder
BESD	Behavioural, emotional and social difficulties
CAMHS	Child and adolescent mental health services
HE	Hackney Education
MLD	Moderate learning difficulty
SpLD	Specific learning difficulty
EP	Educational psychologist
SSP	School support plan
PSP	Pastoral support programme
OT	Occupational therapist

Who is my main SEN point of contact?

Mr Andrew Armstrong is our Assistant Head teacher and SENCo. He is responsible for co-ordinating SEN provision across the school.

What should I do if I think my child has SEN?

Initially speak to your child's class teacher. They will be able to answer any questions you may have about your child's progress. If you continue to have concerns then ask at the office for a meeting with Mr Armstrong.

How does the school know if a child needs extra help?

We track children's progress regularly through analysing assessment data. If a child is failing to make expected progress then we may start to introduce some extra help.

If there is a change in a child's behaviour or progress, this may be another trigger for the introduction of extra support.

We also listen carefully to parents/carers if they raise any concerns. We recognise the importance of the child and their parents being involved in decision making.

What kinds of SEN are there?

A child has SEN if they have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of other children the same age; or if they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities.

Speech and language difficulties, emotional and social difficulties, and learning difficulties (specific and moderate) are all common forms of special educational need. Some children may have sensory or physical needs such as hearing or vision impairment.

It is possible that some children will have more than one need which is affecting their learning and progress.

How will I find out what support my child will get?

Mr Armstrong and/or your child's class teacher will always inform you if we are providing extra provision for your child.

You may be informed by letter or in a meeting. An SSP may be written which would show any extra provision that is being given to your child as well as the extra targets they have to support their SEN.

What is in place to help my child's emotional wellbeing?

St. Dominic's is a very caring and supportive environment. All children are made aware that they can speak to a number of different staff to discuss any concerns.

We are also fortunate enough to have three 'A-Space' art therapists who support children who may need some additional therapeutic input.

The WAMHS project is fully embedded in our school life. We also have a mental health support team.

How will I know if my child has SEN?

If the school is concerned and thinks your child has additional needs, you will be contacted by Mr Armstrong and asked to come in for a meeting. We will discuss what the concerns are and let you know what kind of additional support or external agency involvement (if any) that is being considered to support your child.

Will the school support me to help my child at home?

Your child's class teacher will be happy to give you a number of ways you can support your child at home.

Mr Armstrong may meet with you to discuss strategies to use to support your child with their additional needs.

If an external agency, for example an EP or SaLT, is involved with your child, they will probably give you strategies to use at home as well.

How much progress should my child be making?

Children are expected to make roughly three stages of learning progress between Year 2 and Year 6 (Assertive Mentoring).

Progress is not always linear. Children in Year 2 are expected to have secured two stages of progress.

If you have any questions about attainment class teachers or SLT

How will I be told about my child's progress?

You will have the opportunity to meet termly with your child's class teacher, receive their IEP (if applicable) and discuss their progress.

You also have an opportunity to book an appointment with Mr Armstrong during parent's evening to discuss your child's additional needs if you wish.

If you wish to make additional appointments please ask in the office.

Which specialists does the school work with?

We work with a number of external agencies to support children in the school. These include, but are not limited to:

- Speech and language therapists (SaLT).
- Specialist teachers
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists
- 'A-Space' Art therapist
- CAMHS clinicians
- FirstSteps
- ReEngagement Unit – Hackney Education
- Paediatricians
- Exclusions manager from HLT.

My child has health needs – how can the school help?

Mr Armstrong works closely with our school nurse, Victoria Addai. If your child has a medical condition, it is **very** important that you let Mr Armstrong know so that he and Ms Addai can meet with you to set up a health care plan. This plan will be shared with your child's class teacher and any other staff who need to know.

This plan will be updated regularly. If your child has an allergy or a serious health condition this information is shared with all staff so that everyone can ensure they give the correct care to that child.

What specialist family support does the school offer?

Mr Armstrong works with a number of other agencies that he can refer families to for support. Parents of children with SEN may also like to contact 'Hackney Parent Partnership' who can offer information and support in the local area.

What training have the staff supporting children with SEND completed, or are currently completing?

Different members of staff have received training related to SEN, these have included:-

- How to support children with speech and language difficulties and run language groups
- How to support children on the autistic spectrum
- How to support children with social and emotional needs
- How to support children with medical needs

How will my child be included in activities in school?

Activities and school trips are available to all of our pupils.

- Risk assessments are carried out and procedures are put in place to enable all children to participate.
- If it is felt necessary, a parent or carer may be asked to accompany a child during the activity depending on the level of support required.

How do we involve parents and families in planning support?

All parents are actively encouraged to contribute to their child's education.

This may be through:-

- Discussions with the class teacher
- Discussions with Mr Armstrong, the school SENCO and the Senior Leadership Team
- Termly SSP review meetings
- Annual EHCP review meetings
- Speech and Language and Autism Group coffee mornings

How are the school's resources allocated and matched to the pupils' special educational needs? How are decisions made about how much support my child will receive?

The SEN budget is allocated each financial year. This money is used to provide additional support or resources depending on an individual's needs.

Additional provision may be allocated after discussion between the class teacher, SENCO, Literacy and Numeracy Coordinators and Head teacher during our termly Pupil Progress reviews.

Resources may include deployment of staff depending on individual circumstances.

How is the decision made about how much support my child will receive?

These decisions are made in consultation between parents, the class teacher, SENCO and Senior Leadership Team. Decisions are based on termly tracking of pupil progress and as a result of assessments made by outside agencies.

How is the school accessible to pupils with SEN?

As a school we are happy to discuss individual access requirements. Currently we have:

- Low level access to Early Years and Key Stage 1 buildings
- Provision of FM equipment to hearing impaired pupils.

We are always willing to make adjustments to room allocations.

How will the curriculum be matched to the needs of my child?

When a pupil has been identified with SEN their work will be differentiated by the class teacher to enable them to access the curriculum and make progress.

Members of staff may be allocated to work with the pupil in a 1:1 or small focus group to meet specific needs.

If a child has been identified as having SEN they will be included in our SEN Register. Targets will be set according to their area of need. These will be monitored and reviewed by the class teachers at least three times per year.

If appropriate, specialist equipment may be given to the pupil e.g. pencil grips, writing slopes.

How will I know how St. Dominic's Catholic Primary School supports my child?

Each pupil's education programme will be planned by the class teacher. It will be differentiated accordingly to suit the pupil's individual needs. This may include additional general support by the class teacher or from teaching support staff in class.

If a pupil has needs related to more specific areas of their education, such as spelling, handwriting, numeracy or literacy skills etc. then the pupil will be placed in a small focus group. This intervention will be run by the class teacher or the class teaching assistant. The length of time that the intervention will run will vary according to need but will generally be for one term. These interventions will be regularly reviewed by all involved to ascertain the effectiveness and impact of the provision and to inform future planning. These interventions are recorded on a Provision Map.

Pupil progress reviews are held every term. In these meetings the class teacher meets with the Senior Leadership Team to discuss the progress of all the pupils in their class. This discussion may highlight any difficulties pupils are experiencing, from which additional support can be planned.

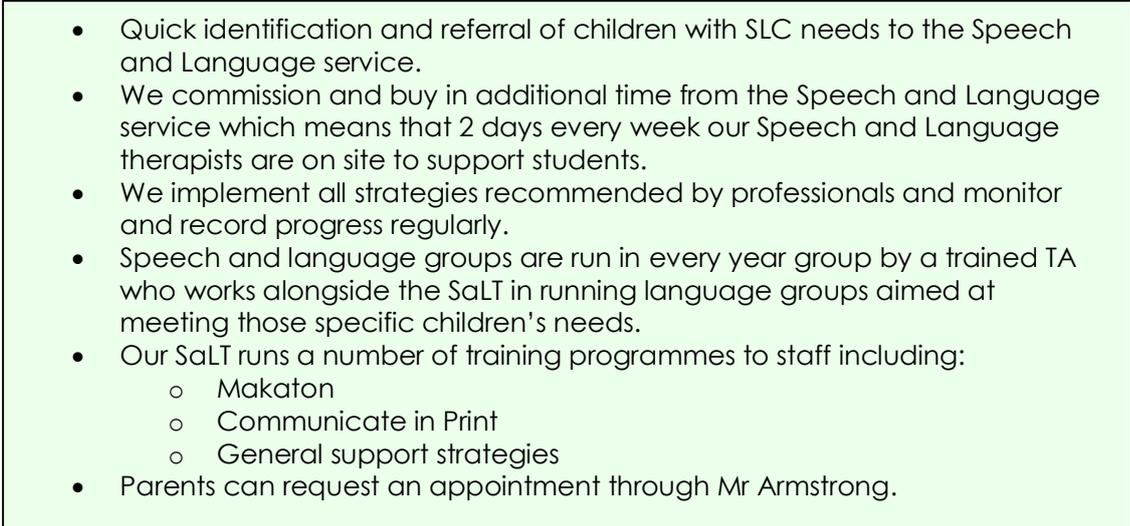
Occasionally a pupil may need more expert help from an agency outside of school, such as Educational Psychology. If this is the case, a referral will be made with your consent and forwarded to the most appropriate support agency. In some cases the pupil may undergo a number of assessments to identify areas of strength and weakness.

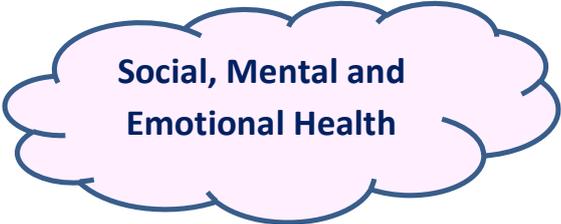


**Speech, language
and communication
needs.**

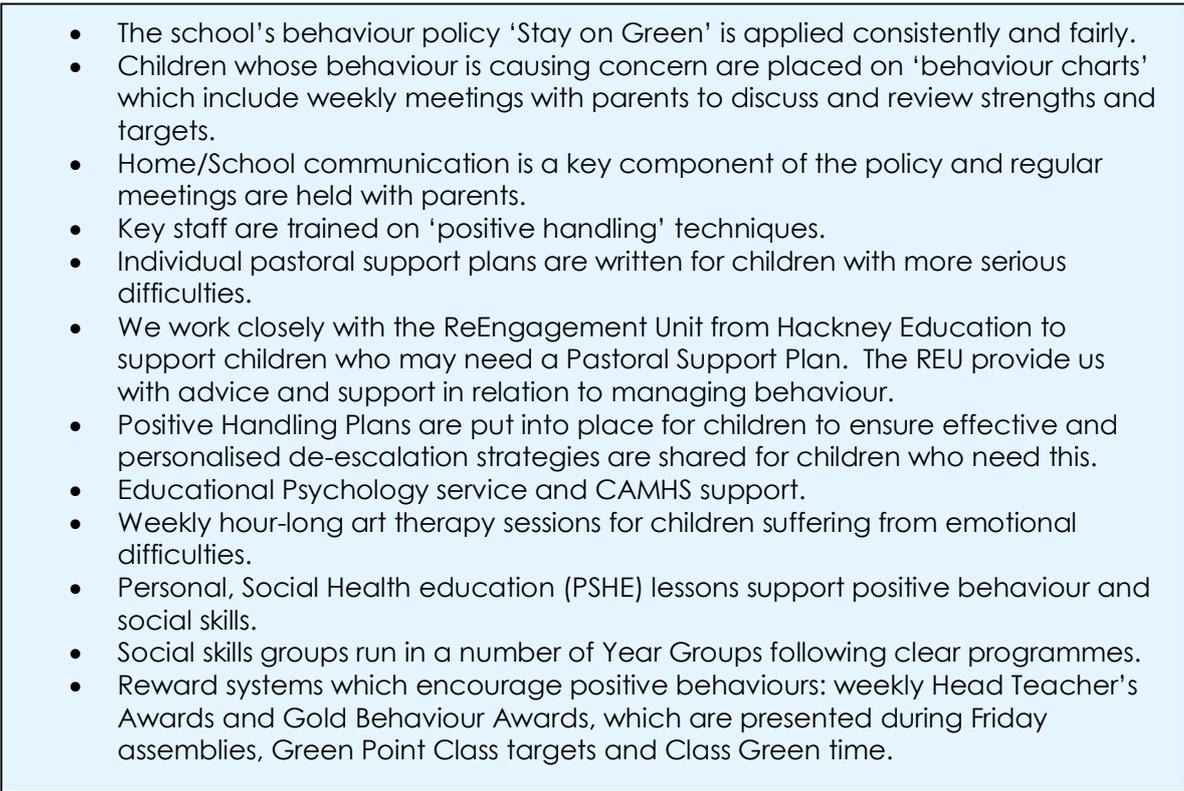


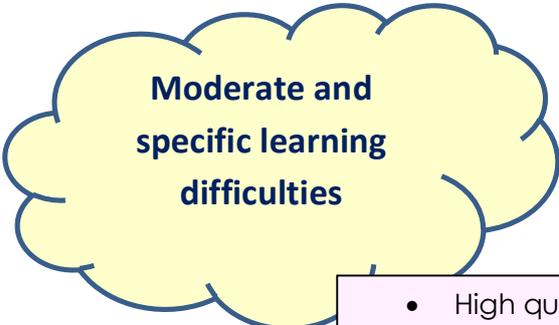
What support is there for...

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- Quick identification and referral of children with SLC needs to the Speech and Language service.
 - We commission and buy in additional time from the Speech and Language service which means that 2 days every week our Speech and Language therapists are on site to support students.
 - We implement all strategies recommended by professionals and monitor and record progress regularly.
 - Speech and language groups are run in every year group by a trained TA who works alongside the SaLT in running language groups aimed at meeting those specific children's needs.
 - Our SaLT runs a number of training programmes to staff including:
 - Makaton
 - Communicate in Print
 - General support strategies
 - Parents can request an appointment through Mr Armstrong.



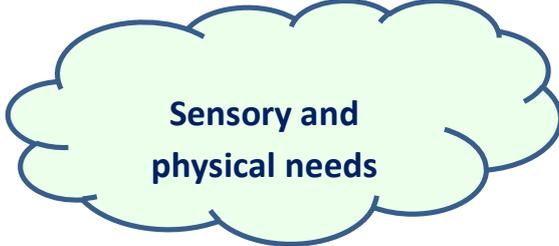
**Social, Mental and
Emotional Health**

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- The school's behaviour policy 'Stay on Green' is applied consistently and fairly.
 - Children whose behaviour is causing concern are placed on 'behaviour charts' which include weekly meetings with parents to discuss and review strengths and targets.
 - Home/School communication is a key component of the policy and regular meetings are held with parents.
 - Key staff are trained on 'positive handling' techniques.
 - Individual pastoral support plans are written for children with more serious difficulties.
 - We work closely with the ReEngagement Unit from Hackney Education to support children who may need a Pastoral Support Plan. The REU provide us with advice and support in relation to managing behaviour.
 - Positive Handling Plans are put into place for children to ensure effective and personalised de-escalation strategies are shared for children who need this.
 - Educational Psychology service and CAMHS support.
 - Weekly hour-long art therapy sessions for children suffering from emotional difficulties.
 - Personal, Social Health education (PSHE) lessons support positive behaviour and social skills.
 - Social skills groups run in a number of Year Groups following clear programmes.
 - Reward systems which encourage positive behaviours: weekly Head Teacher's Awards and Gold Behaviour Awards, which are presented during Friday assemblies, Green Point Class targets and Class Green time.



Moderate and specific learning difficulties

- High quality teaching, which is differentiated and personalised in the classroom and support from class teacher and TA.
- Streaming of children for phonics from Reception in order to target support
- Streaming of maths in Year 6.
- Individual and group support from TA and/or class teacher.
- Use of synthetic phonics to ground children's early understanding of sound and support decoding.
- Use of physical resources (numicon) in maths.
- In KS1 daily phonics interventions and 1:1 weekly phonics interventions.
- In KS1 and 2 small group focus maths interventions.
- Volunteer reading support for children not making expected progress.
- After-school writing group for targeted groups of students.
- Termly assessments to track and monitor progress.
- Individual support available for children with EHCPs
- Use of computer programmes (Accelerated/Accelerwrite) to support understanding and give additional literacy support outside class lessons.



Sensory and physical needs

- Quick identification and referral of children to Occupational Therapy service
- We implement all strategies recommended by professionals and monitor and record progress regularly.
- We provide all required or requested resources e.g.: pencil grips, special scissors, support blocks, chewy tubes etc.
- Use of specialist teachers to implement plans to include strategies for managing sensory needs.
- Regular liaison with school nurse and/or paediatrician to ensure children with physical needs can access the school environment.
- Implementation of Accessibility Plan (please see website) to ensure that St. Dominic's school is accessible to a wider range of children with different needs.
- We are committed to improving the improving both our physical environment to enable disabled pupils to take better advantage of the education, benefits, facilities and services we provide; and the availability of accessible information to disabled pupils

DATE REVIEWED: NOVEMBER 2021

For additional information on services available in Hackney, please visit the following website: <https://www.hackneylocaloffer.co.uk/kb5/hackney/localoffer/home.page>