



Fairlands Middle School
Caring and Inspirational

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES
INFORMATION REPORT 2020-21**

HOW WE SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES

Introduction

At Fairlands Middle School, we welcome everybody into our community. The staff, governors, pupils and parents work together to make the school a happy, welcoming place, where children can achieve their full potential and develop as confident individuals. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children. We are committed to making this a reality through the attention we pay to the different children within our school community; thus providing a learning environment that enables all pupils to make the greatest possible progress and achieve their full potential in a caring, supportive and fully inclusive environment.

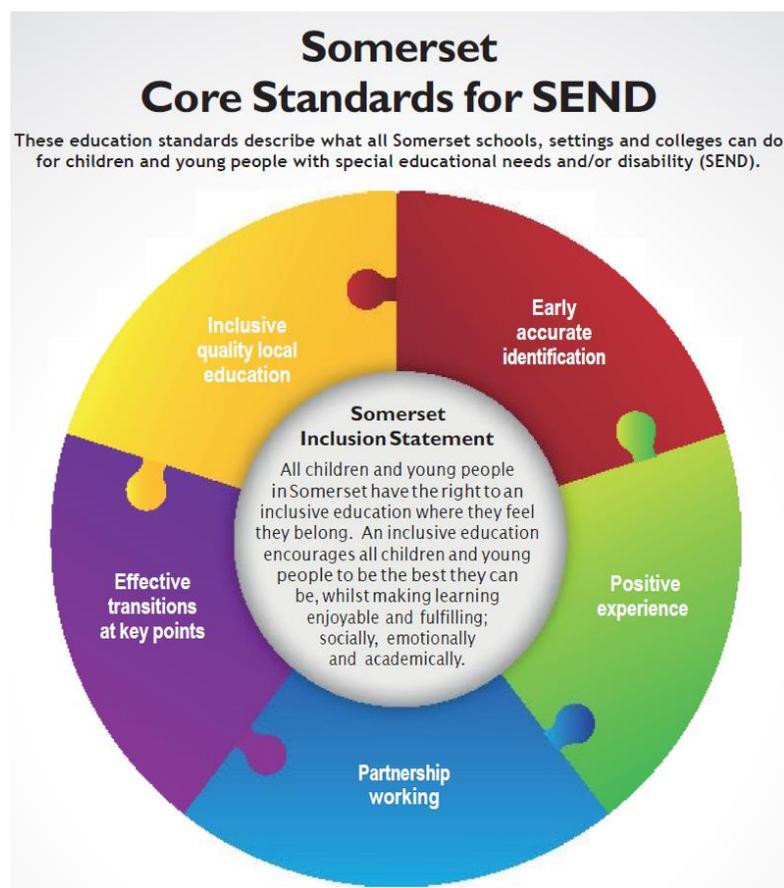
Our SEND provision aims to fulfil the expectations of the Core Standards – Somerset’s published expectations for all settings regarding the provision for SEND.

Our last Ofsted inspection took place in September 2015. The full report, as well as those from previous inspections, can be downloaded from Ofsted’s website: <https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/provider/23/123888>



Core Standards

Quality First Teaching underpins the Core Standards and all educational provision. With Quality First Teaching children's needs are met in the classroom through highly focussed and well planned personalised teaching with high expectations for all learners. The Core Standards describes the entitlement of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in early years' settings, schools and further education in Somerset. The five key aims of the standards are:



You can learn more about Somerset Core Standards at <https://www.somersetchoices.org.uk/family/information-and-advice/education/what-to-expect-from-education/>

At Fairlands Middle School, the Core Standards are embedded into our whole school approach for assessing, planning, teaching and supporting children with SEND.

How will the school know if my child needs extra help?

Fairlands Middle School is a mainstream school running from year 5 to year 8. We aim to ensure that:

- 😊 Children with learning difficulties are able to access their entitlement to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum as part of the whole school community.
- 😊 Children with SEND are educated, wherever possible, in an inclusive environment alongside their peers to enable each pupil to reach his or her full potential.
- 😊 We match levels of additional support for learning to the wide variety of individual learning difficulties, while enhancing self-esteem.
- 😊 We identify and assess children with SEND as early and as thoroughly as possible using the revised Code of Practice (2015).
- 😊 Parents/carers and children are fully involved in the identification and assessment of SEND, and we strive for close co-operation between all agencies concerned.
- 😊 We maintain up to date knowledge of current SEND good practice and methodology in order to offer support and training in these areas to all staff in the school.

There are four main types of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), decided by the Department of Education (DfE):

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, mental and emotional health
4. Sensory or physical

If your child has SEND, then their needs will fit into one or more of these areas. A school's provision for SEND is defined as support that is additional to or different from that which is available to all children.



At Fairlands Middle School, we recognise that children make progress at different rates and not always in a steady linear pattern.

When identifying a child as having SEND, we would consider the following:

- Liaison with previous educational providers
- Is the young person performing significantly below expected levels of their peer group
- Have parent/carer have raised concerns?
- Have the student's teacher raised concerns
- Liaison and advice from external agencies, e.g. physical health diagnosis from paediatrician.

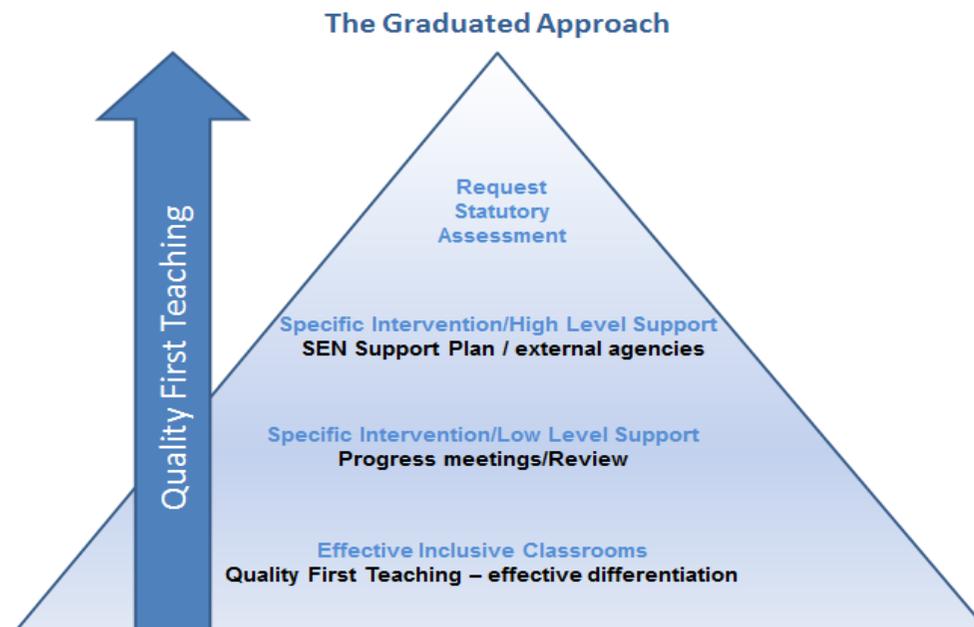
What should I do if I have concerns about my child?

If you inform us that you think your child has SEND, we will discuss this with you and investigate. We will share with you what we find and, together, agree the next steps to be taken and what can be done to help your child.

If there are concerns that your child has SEND in the first instance, they may be added to a Highlighted Needs list (monitoring). This will mean that extra support may be put in place and the impact of that support will be closely monitored. The support could range from additional differentiation from the class teacher to SMART intervention outside of the classroom. If, after this support, your child is identified as having SEND, their name will be added to the SEND register and a support plan will be put into place (ILP). We recognise that your child's needs may change over time and provision will reflect this. Subject teachers, tutors, SENDCo and other professionals will follow the sequence of Assess, Plan, Do, Review, to ensure your child's changing needs are met. This means your child may be removed from the SEND register if appropriate, but, if needed, can be re-added at a later date.

SEND Identification and Process

When identifying children with SEND, the school will follow and use Somerset's SEND pathway and graduated approach to your child's learning. This is a process which will identify whether your child needs SEND support. During this process, subject teachers, SENDCo and other professionals involved, will follow the sequence of Assess, Plan, Do, Review. This way we can constantly make sure that the school is meeting your child's needs. Children are given the opportunity to review and set their personal targets at regular review meetings with their parents and the SENDCo. The following diagram illustrates the graduated response process:



Further information on this can be found at

<https://slp.somerset.org.uk/ipost/iPost%20Documents/Core%20Standards%20for%20Schools.pdf>



How will school support my child?

Our SENDCo oversees all support and progress of any child requiring additional help across the school. Support and intervention varies and will be based on your child's individual needs.

All children have targets that are set by the subject teachers based on their individual learning needs. Some children with SEND may need additional and more specific targets to meet their needs and therefore an Individualised Learning Plan (ILP) will be put into place for those on the SEND register.

Support and intervention at our school includes:

Subject teacher input, via excellent targeted classroom teaching – Quality First Teaching.

For your child this would mean:

- That the teachers have the highest possible expectations for your child and all pupils in their class.
- Teachers access and use current student information to help individual lesson planning.
- That all teaching is built on what your child already knows, can do and can understand.
- That different ways of teaching are in place, so that your child is fully engaged and motivated in the learning in the class. (This may involve a more practical way of learning for example).
- That specific strategies (which may be suggested by the SENDCo) are put into place to support your child to learn effectively.

- Your child's teachers will have carefully checked on your child's progress and will have decided that your child has a gap or gaps in the understanding/learning and requires extra support to help them make the best possible progress. They will then make a referral to the SEND department and complete relevant paperwork.



Specific Group work

Intervention which may take place in the classroom or a group room and led by a teacher or learning support assistant (LSA) or higher level teaching assistant (HLTA).

Specialist intervention overseen by outside agencies, e.g. Speech and Language Therapy

This means a pupil has been identified by the class teacher/SENDCo as needing some extra specialist support in school from a professional outside of the school community. This may be from Local Authority support services, such as the Autism and Social Communication Team, Learning Support Team, Educational Psychology Services, etc.

What could happen?

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 yourselves to further understand your child's particular needs and be able to support them more effectively in school.

The specialist professional will work with the school and your child to better understand their needs and make recommendations as to how support is given to your child in the most effective and efficient way.

What specialist services and expertise are available to support your child?

We work closely with any external agencies that support individual children's needs within our school. These may include: GP, School Nurse, Educational Psychologist, Paediatrician, Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist, the Learning Support Service, the Autism and Social Communication Advisory Service, the Physical Impairment and Medical Support Services (PIMSS), the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS). We also work with a range of further support services including GetSet Services and Children's Social Care.

If it is decided that your child may benefit from a support from a specialist service, then they will be referred by the SENDCo. Before this referral, an Early Help Assessment (EHA) meeting may take place where the available help will be discussed.



Education Health Care Plan (EHCP)

When a child is demonstrating a significant cause for concern or their learning need is more complex and persistent than can be met by the interventions already put in place, a statutory assessment will be considered. The EHC Plan incorporates all information about the child from birth. If a Statutory Assessment is required, the school, in consultation with the child, parents and outside agencies, will submit reports for consideration by the Local Authority's (Somerset County Council) Provision Panel.

How will the school's resources be allocated and matched to my child's special educational needs?

We ensure that all children with special educational needs are provided for to the best of the school's ability with the funds available.

We have a team of learning support assistants and part of their responsibilities is to deliver programmes designed to meet individual or groups of children's needs.

How will the decision be made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

The subject teachers and SENDCo will discuss your child's needs and what support would be appropriate. Different children will require different levels of support in order to help them make progress and achieve their potential.



How will the school judge what impact the support has had on my child?

As a school we measure children's progress in learning against national age-related expectations.

The subject teachers will continually assess each child and will note areas where they are improving and where further support is needed. We track children's progress from their admission through to Year 8, using a variety of different methods, including assessment under the National Curriculum and some standardised tests, as appropriate.

When a child's Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is reviewed (3 times per year), comments are made against each target to show what progress has been made. If the child has not met the target, the reasons for this will be discussed, then the target may be adapted into smaller steps or a different approach may be used to ensure the child does make progress.

What opportunities will there be to discuss my child's progress and who will explain my child's needs and progress to me?



We strive to successfully ensure that your child's education is a partnership between parents and teachers, therefore, we aim to communicate with you regularly.

You will have an opportunity to meet your child's tutor, subject teachers and/or SENDCo at various parent meetings throughout the year, to discuss your child's needs, support and progress.

If your child is identified as having Special Educational Needs or Disability, you will be invited review meetings at set points during the year. At this meeting, a member of the SEND team will review your child's progress and set new targets if appropriate. This is a very child friendly process and we are keen to ensure they are involved at all times.



How will you help me to support my child's learning?

- 😊 The subject teachers or the SENDCo can offer advice and practical ways that you can help your child at home.
- 😊 Your child will have a Student Planner so that comments from the parents and the teachers can be shared.
- 😊 If your child is on the special needs register, they will have individual targets on their Individual Learning Plan (ILP) and this will be discussed with you as well as an in depth pupil profile. Staff are able to access this information quickly to ensure sessions are planned according to levels of need.
- 😊 Recommendations from external agencies e.g. a Speech and Language Therapist will be shared with you so that strategies can be implemented at home and school.
- 😊 If a tutor or subject teacher needs to discuss an issue with you, it will be done privately and strategies to support your child will be offered.
- 😊 The school Parent and Family Support Advisor (PFSA) is also available to give advice and support. If your child has complex special educational needs or a disability, they may have an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) which means that a formal meeting will take place annually to review your child's progress.

What is the pastoral, medical and social support available in the school to ensure my child's overall wellbeing?

- 😊 We have a caring, understanding ethos and are an inclusive school. We welcome and celebrate diversity, and believe that high self-esteem is crucial to children's wellbeing. As a nurturing school, all our vulnerable pupils are known to staff.
- 😊 Staff members are available to support pastorally. This support is tailored to meet individual need.
- 😊 We have a team of Emotional Learning Support Assistant (ELSA's) who supports some children with their behaviour and emotions.
- 😊 We have a team of trained first aiders who support children who may have medical needs.



Wellbeing

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including day to day and residential trips?



We aim for all children to be included on school day trips and residential stays. We will provide necessary adaptations, having consulted with you, to ensure that this is successful.

A risk assessment is carried out prior to any off-site activity to ensure that everyone's health and safety is not compromised. In the unlikely event that it is considered unsafe for a child to take part in an activity, we will always explore different options to include the child.

How does the school manage the administration of medicines and personal care?

- 😊 We have a policy regarding the administration and management of medicines on the school premises.
- 😊 Parents are required to contact the school if medication needs to be taken during the school day and the appropriate forms need to be completed. These can be collected from the school office. The administration of medication is overseen by a member of staff.
- 😊 If a child's health care needs are longer term, a medical or Health Care Plan will need to be put into place. This will be done by health care professionals, parents and a member of the SEND team.
- 😊 Staff receive regular training regarding conditions and medications affecting individual children so that all staff can manage a medical situation should the need arise, for example, diabetes/ anaphylaxis.
- 😊 If a child should require personal care, a Personal Care Plan will be put into place and staff will receive appropriate training so that they can undertake this level of care sufficiently.



What support is there for managing behaviour and increasing attendance?

We have a positive approach to behaviour management, with a clear behaviour policy that is followed by all staff and pupils. We are an inclusive school and we make every effort to include all pupils in learning sessions with their class. We also take every opportunity to include pupils socially at break and lunch times.

If a child has behavioural difficulties, an Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is written with the child and parents to identify the specific issues and put relevant support in place.

The attendance of every child is monitored by the school, including punctuality and unauthorised/ authorised absences. These are recorded and reported upon termly, both to parents and Governors. Parents will be informed if a child's attendance is a cause for concern.

- Wellbeing welcome
- Circle of friends
- Social Emotional Support (ELSA)
- SALT
- OT
- Drawing and Talking
- Lego Therapy
- Online mentoring (during specific periods)

How accessible is the school environment?

The school, although on split levels, is wheelchair accessible and there are strips across all stairs to support the visually impaired. We have an accessible toilet, which is large enough to accommodate changing and there are several shaded areas within the playground areas to support pupils with light sensitivity.

Please visit the school website to view the 'Accessibility Action Plan' for more information.

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

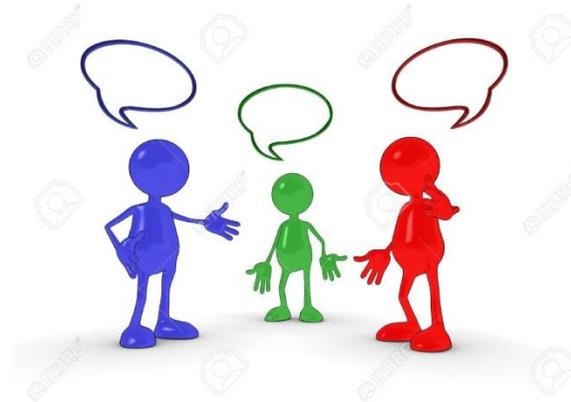
- 😊 We recognise that transition can be difficult for a child with SEND and we take various steps to ensure that this transition is as smooth as possible.
- 😊 We encourage all new children to visit the school prior to starting with us and for those leaving us we can tailor an individual transition programme to ensure a smooth transition onto their next educational phase.

- 😊 For children with special educational needs or a disability we may facilitate a phased transition to help your child to acclimatise to their new surroundings. We would also visit them in their current setting if appropriate.
- 😊 We hold transition meetings for all children with special educational needs or a disability during the summer term of Year 4 at their first schools, or Year 8 in preparation for their transfer.
- 😊 We offer additional transition days to the upper school if a child is feeling apprehensive or feel that it would be beneficial to make the transition a smoother process.
- 😊 We liaise closely with staff when receiving and transferring children from and to different schools, ensuring all relevant paperwork is passed on and all needs are discussed and understood. The SENDCo would liaise with the previous or following SENDCo.
- 😊 If your child has an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) or statement and is changing to a new school, we will, whenever possible, arrange a review meeting with relevant staff involved.

How are the school governors involved, and what are their responsibilities?

- 😊 The SENDCo reports to the Governors annually to inform them about the progress of children with SEND; this report does not refer to individual students and confidentiality is maintained at all times.
- 😊 There is a named Governor who is responsible for SEND and will meet with the SENDCo at specific times during the academic year. This 'SEND link Governor' also reports to the Governing committees in order to keep all Governors informed.
- 😊 The SENDCo informs Governors of any recent changes in SEND policies both nationally, locally and also school based.

What should I do as a parent if I think my child may have special educational needs?



Talk to us – in the first instance, contact your child’s tutor. If you still have concerns, you can contact the School SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disability Coordinator), Matthew Vincent, or the Headteacher, Stefan McHale. We pride ourselves on building positive relationships with parents. We are open and honest with parents and hope that they are the same with us.

Look at our Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy and Accessibility Action Plan, which are both available on our school website and the Somerset Local Offer (<https://www.somersetchoices.org.uk/family/information-and-advice/somersets-local-offer/>)

Who else can I contact outside of the school environment?

Somerset Parent Carer Forum is an independent group of parent carers who have joined together to share information and views alongside the experiences of the children's/young person's services (0 – 25 years) they already use or would like to use in the future.

Phone: 01278 699397

Email: Help@SomersetParentForum.org.uk

Somerset SENDIAS is an organisation that provides independent advice and support for families.

Phone: 01823 355578

Email: info@somerset.org.uk



Somerset Parent Carer Forum



Somerset SENDIAS
Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support

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

You can contact the school office to arrange a meeting with the Headteacher and a tour of the school. If your child had a Special Educational Need or Disability, you can also arrange to meet with the SENDCo, who will discuss how the school could meet your child's needs.

Phone: 01934 743186

Email: office@fairlandsmiddleschool.co.uk



Useful websites

Hearing Impairment: www.ndcs.org.uk www.signature.org.uk

Autism: www.autism.org.uk www.autismsomerset.org.uk

Vision Impairment: www.somersetsight.org.uk www.rnib.org.uk

Somerset Partnership NHS Trust
Children and Young People: www.sompar.nhs.uk/what-we-do/children-and-young-people/parent-carer



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