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Mrs C Kirby  
Headteacher



**Welcome to Highgate Infant School**

**SEND Information Report for Parents**

**2021/2022**

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## Our SEND Report

The aim of this report is to inform all how we at Highgate support children with Special Educational Needs.

As a member of UNITY multi-academy trust we are supported by the trust as well as the Local Authority to ensure that we are always striving to include and meet the needs of children with SEND.

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

The four broad areas of need are

- Communication and Interaction,
- Cognition and Learning,
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties,
- Sensory and Physical Needs.

Our SEND Information Report is part of Norfolk's Local Offer and it is reviewed every year.

Anyone can see details of the Local Offer on Norfolk County Council website at

<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer>

### What is the local offer?

It gives information on all the support available for children and families both county wide and locally with regard to SEND.

### The LA Local Offer



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•The Children and Families Bill became enacted in 2014. From this date, Local Authorities and schools are required to publish and keep under review information about services they expect to be available for the children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) aged 0-25. This is 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.

### The School SEND Information Report

This utilises 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 meet. This report is updated annually.

## Your child has Special Educational Needs, what do we at Highgate Infant School offer you?

At Highgate Infant School, we embrace the fact that every child is different, and, therefore, the educational needs of every child are different; this is certainly the case for children with Special Educational Needs.

In our school at present 13.9% of our pupils have special or additional needs. 0% have an Education Health Care Plan and 13.9% receive extra support to help them overcome barriers to learning. This compares to national figures as a whole where 15.9% pupils have SEND, 3.7% with an EHCP and 12.2% receiving extra support. So as a school our data is very similar to the data across the country.

## Who are the best people to talk to if your child needs extra support?



The Class Teacher:

Responsible for: High quality first teaching



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Checking on the progress of your child and identifying, planning and delivering any additional help your child may need (this could be targeted work or additional support) and letting the Special Education Needs/Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCO) know as necessary.

Pupils individual progress is monitored and every child is discussed at half-termly Pupil Progress meetings where all the class team plus head, SENDCO and Intervention staff are present. If it's felt a child needs individual or small group intervention these are planned at this time.

Setting individual targets and writing an Individual Learning Plan for each child identified with an additional need. Sharing and reviewing these with their Class Team and with parents at least once each term and planning for the next step. If a child is working below the curriculum level PIVATS (Performance Indicators for Value Added Target Setting) will be used to identify where the child's learning is at present and what the next step will need to be. PIVATS cover Number, Maths using and applying, Reading and Writing.

Personalised teaching and learning for your child as identified on the school's provision map ie; planning and teaching is adapted to ensure access by the child, the targets will reflect small steps of progress expected. Progress will be assessed daily and next plans will revise and move on learning.

Ensuring that the school's SEND Policy is followed in their classroom.

Liaising with parents.

### The SENDCO (Special Education Needs Co-ordinator)

Mrs Melissa Coleman

MSc Clinical Child Psychology

Currently undertaking SENDCO Award.

Responsible for:

- Developing and reviewing the school's SEND policy.
- Co-ordinating all the support for children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) via a Provision Map
- Ensuring that you as the parent are welcome in school, that you are involved in supporting your child's learning at home and that you are kept informed about your child's progress in school and about any interventions or extra help that they are getting.



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- Liaising with all the other people who may be coming in to school to help support your child's learning, e.g. Speech and Language Therapy, Educational Psychology.
- Updating the school's SEND Record (a system for ensuring that all the SEND needs of pupils in this school are known) and making sure that records of your child's progress and needs are kept.
- Providing specialist support for teachers and support staff in the school, so that they can help children with SEND in the school to achieve the best progress possible, this includes organising training to help to meet any additional needs in school.
- If the child despite robust intervention has needs that cannot be met in school the SENDCO in co-operation with the child, parents/carers, class team and outside professionals will apply to the local authority for an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) Needs Assessment. The authority will then decide if an EHCP will be written. The recommendations in the plan will then be put in place in school. It should be noted that this is a lengthy process and the school will continue to work together with parents throughout the process to meet the needs of the child as far as possible.
- Coordinating and supporting provision for EAL pupils and those with social and emotional needs.
- Liaising with SENDCO's from all other schools in the UNITY Academy to ensure the best use of resources and sharing best practise.
- Designated Teacher for LAC (looked after and previously looked after children)



The Head Teacher: Mrs C Kirby

Responsible for

- The day-to-day management of all aspects of the school; this includes the support for children with SEND.



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The Head teacher will give responsibility to the SENDCO and class teachers, but is still responsible for ensuring that your child's needs are met.

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 must make sure that the Governing Body is kept up to date about issues relating to SEND.

The SEND Governor - at present this is Robyn Press who as well as having a child in school is also the Chairperson of the LIT.

Responsible for;

The Governance Handbook 2017 states that the governing body, along with the head should decide 'the school's policy and approach to meeting the children and young person's SEND requirements, including those with or without statements of SEND or Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)

### **What are the different types of support available to children with SEND at Highgate.**

Class teacher input, via excellent targeted classroom teaching (Quality First Teaching).

For your child this would mean:

- That the teacher has the highest possible expectations for your child and all pupils in their class.
- 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 involved in learning in class. This may involve things like using more practical learning using a multi-sensory approach.
- That specific strategies (which may be suggested by the SENDCO) are in place to support your child to learn.



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These strategies may include pre-teaching (where a child is introduced to a topic or area of the curriculum ahead of a lesson being taught), individual support - either from a member of staff or a resource the teacher has prepared eg; word mat, writing frame. Visual timetables - both class and individual, work station, reward charts, home/school diaries.

•Your child's teacher will have carefully checked on your child's progress and will have decided that your child has a gap or gaps in their understanding/learning and needs some extra support to help them make the best possible progress.

### **Individual support and/or specific group work**

Sometimes after discussion between the class teacher/SENDCO or someone from outside who is giving advice we may feel that your child would benefit from working for short periods either 1:1 or in a small group outside the classroom.

Interventions may be:

- Run in the classroom or a group room.
- Run by a teacher or a teaching assistant (TA).

At present the Interventions we are running include EAL Support (Racing to English), Family Fisher Trust FFT literacy intervention, Nurture groups, Sensory Circuits, Nuffield Early Language Intervention, 1:1 Speech and Language sessions.

As a result of the Covid 19 lockdowns we began running some 'catch-up' sessions in Maths and Phonics to help children fill any gaps in their learning that has occurred due to time away from school. Results have shown that these sessions have a positive effect and children have begun to catch up quickly. Similar intervention groups have continued into this academic year also.

If your child is working on an intervention the progress they make is carefully monitored and as a parent you are very welcome to talk about this with the class teacher or with the SENDCO (Mrs Coleman) at any time.

Specialist groups run by outside agencies, e.g. Speech and Language Therapist, Behaviour Support, S2S, Educational Psychologist and Learning Support teachers and Short Stay School and Churchill Park.



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## 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 you to understand your child's particular needs better and be able to support them more effectively in school and at home.
- The specialist professional will work with your child to understand their needs and make recommendations as to the ways your child is given support.

Sometimes a child needs more support than school can provide - if their learning needs are severe, complex and lifelong.

This is sometimes provided via 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 ("Including All Children" documentation from LA).

- The school (or you) 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.
- After the request has been made to the 'EHCP case worker' (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, it will be decided 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.

**How can I let the school know that I am concerned about my child's progress?**



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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 may speak to the Special Education Needs/Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCO).
- The school SEN Governor can also be contacted for support.

### **How will the school let me now if they have any concerns about my child 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 and to

- Listen to any concerns you may have.
- Plan any additional support your child may need. This may include an Individual Learning Plan that will have 2 or 3 targets that your child will be working on over the coming weeks.
- Discuss with you any referrals to outside professionals to support your child

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 that 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.

Regular opportunities for you to find about your child's progress i.e. parents evenings.

- All information from outside professionals will be discussed with you, with the person involved directly, or where this is not possible, in a report.
- Personal progress targets will be reviewed with your involvement every term.
- Homework will be adjusted as needed to your child's individual requirements.
- A home-school contact book may be used to support communication with you when this has been agreed to be useful for you and your child.

The school employs a Parent Support Advisor who is able to support any parent if needed



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There is a great deal of support available for parents/carers of children with SEND, the SENDCO will be able to suggest and advise on how to access this help and all the information is on the [norfolk.gov.uk](http://norfolk.gov.uk) website, go to Local Offer - advice and support for parents and carers where there is information on everything including sleep issues, children with a diagnosis, behaviour issues, bullying, sensory support or worries around mental health as well as specific organisations to support parents which include Family Voice or Norfolk SEND Partnership.

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

- The school budget, received from Norfolk LA, includes money for supporting children with SEND, the SEND Notional budget.

If a child has an EHCP school will receive an extra allocation of money to help provide the additional support the school needs to support the additional complex needs. At present we have one child with an EHCP and another child who is due to come into school after Christmas.

We can also apply for additional High Needs Funding, this is done termly and we have to show how the children with SEND are supported, how much this costs and what the impact is. We also need to prove that we've used the SEND budget before applying. We have received funding from this source during the last term.

- The Head Teacher and the SENDCO discuss all the information they have about SEND in the school and from this information, they decide what resources/training and support are needed in school.

- The school identifies the needs of SEND pupils on a Provision Map. This identifies all support given within school and is reviewed regularly and changes made as needed, so that the needs of children are met, and resources are deployed as effectively as possible.

Children who will benefit from extra support are included on the school's SEND Record, at present there are 11 children listed on this record, 7 come under Communication and Interaction, 5 are under Cognition and Learning, 1 - Sensory/physical and 4 need support within SEMH - Social Emotional and Mental Health. Some children fall into more than one category of course.



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Additional advice and sharing of good practice comes from being part of the UNITY academy, Essential SENCO Network and the Virtual School's SEND Forum. We continue to be part of phase one of The Core Consultation which helps to support and challenge schools with regard to their provision. One main area of focus has been to look at ways to best support children with ASD, we received input from the ASD support team from which strategies and ideas have since been implemented, and training planned for all staff. This Consultation process continues and we have another scheduled meeting for next term.

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

### **School Provision**

- Teachers responsible for quality first teaching
- Teaching Assistants and HLTA's working mainly with individual children or small groups
- Teaching Assistants and HLTA's offering support with emotional and social development through Nurture
- PSA supporting families with identified needs
- Intervention teachers and TA's who are highly skilled to develop specific areas of learning
- EAL support for pupils with English as an additional language
- School leadership team and Governing Body

### **Other Provision available in school**

- Educational Psychology Service
- Sensory Service for children with visual or hearing needs
- Norfolk SENDIASS <https://www.norfolksendiass.org.uk/>
- Just One Number <https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/our-services/just-one-number-and-parentline>
- Mental Health Support Team for Schools
- SALT (Speech and Language Therapy)
- School 2 School support



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- SRB (Specialist Resource Bases, these are centres based in schools around the county who support children with a specific need)
- Children's Centres
- Occupational and physio therapy
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team (CAMHS)

### **How are the staff in school helped to work with children with SEND and what training do they receive?**

•The school provides training and support to enable all staff to improve the teaching and learning of children, including those with SEND. In the past year this has included training on SEND issues, such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Working Memory, NELI, Mental health and Trauma and Attachment.

•Individual teachers and support staff attend training courses run by outside agencies that are relevant to the needs of specific children in their class, e.g. from the Short Stay School or School2School.

As part of the UNITY Academy the SENDCO also attends the half-termly meetings for SENDCO's from all the schools in the academy.

Teacher and TA appraisals are used to highlight the training needs of individual teachers and this becomes part of their targets and corresponding CPD.

### **How will we measure your child's progress?**

•Your child's progress will be continually monitored by his/her class teacher.

•His/her progress will be reviewed half termly, in reading, phonics, writing and numeracy, in progress meetings where all staff will be accountable for setting next steps and support.

•At the end of each key stage (i.e. at the end of year 2), all children are required to be formally assessed using Standard Assessment Tests (SATs). This is something the government requires all schools to do and are used to aid teacher assessments which are published nationally.

•Where necessary, children will have an Individual Learning Plan and may include targets set by outside agencies specific to their needs. Targets will be set with regard to the barrier to learning that an individual child is experiencing and these targets are designed to accelerate



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learning and close the gap as well as capturing progress. Progress against these targets will be reviewed regularly, evidence for judgements assessed and a future plan made. We use the PIVATS assessment programme for Reading, Writing and Number, this breaks down each objective into smaller steps and it means we can capture these small steps of progress that children with SEND make. PIVATS are being used in interventions to help monitor the effectiveness of the intervention as well as the progress each child is making. In addition some of our interventions have a standardised assessment that is carried out on entry and exit. These include Sandwell Number Assessment, FFT Assessment, NASSEA tracking, NELI assessment and TALC assessments for children with Speech and Language as a barrier to learning.

- The progress of children with an EHC Plan will be formally reviewed at an Annual Review with all adults involved with the child's education.
- The SENDCO will also check that your child is making good progress within any individual intervention or group that they take part in through regular monitoring of the data from intervention assessments and Pupil Progress meetings.
- Regular book scrutiny's and lesson observations will be carried out by the Senior Management Team to ensure that the needs of all children are met and that the quality of teaching and learning is high.

### **How would we support your child's social and emotional development?**

We recognise that some children have extra emotional and social needs that need to be developed and nurtured. These needs can manifest themselves in a number of ways, including behavioural difficulties, anxiousness, and being uncommunicative.

All classes follow a structured PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) curriculum which encompasses a range of programmes including Mind to be Kind and PATHS. However, for those children who find aspects of this difficult we offer nurture. We use the Boxall online assessment and tracking programme to assess every child in each class, the results show us the health of each child's social, emotional and mental health and then go on to suggest activities and strategies that we can use to support children in this area.

If your child still needs extra support, with your permission the SENDCO can access further support through the Family Support Process. This may include support in the home if a parent identifies the need. The SENDCO can also make contact with the Mental Health Support team, who can arrange some session either within school or out of school to work



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closely with you and your child to support you in addressing any low level behaviour or anxiety issues.

## **How is Highgate Infant School accessible to children with SEND?**

Highgate Infant school aims to be fully inclusive and has a small family feel which supports pupils with SEND, they will be known by all members of staff and every child is valued and we have 'High Aspirations' for all.

The school however is a small Victorian building and does have limited access to some areas of the school.

- The school is on a single level with limited access.
- There is one disabled toilet.
- We ensure where ever possible that equipment used is accessible to all children regardless of their needs.
- After-school provision is accessible to all children, including those with SEND.
- Extra-curricular activities are accessible for children with SEND.
- . For those children with a specific need adaptations will be made.

## **How will we support you child joining and leaving school?**

We recognize that transitions can be difficult for a child with SEND and we take steps to ensure that any transition is as smooth as possible.

If your child is joining us from another school:

- Your child will be able to visit our school and stay for a taster session and the SENDCO and/or class teacher can contact your child's present school to meet and talk to staff who know your child.
- The SENDCO can visit the Pre School setting when appropriate.
  - The Early Years team will carry out a home visit to enable you to discuss your child's needs in confidence.
  - Reception class TA's liaise with parents on a daily basis and feedback on how children are settling and progressing.

If your child is moving to another school:



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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. In the past few years the SENDCO from the other schools come to Highgate to discuss any specific needs your child may have and to meet you and your child.

We will make sure that all records about your child are passed on as soon as possible.

There is a robust transition process in place when our pupils move to Junior school and this includes regular contact and visits to their new school and staff and pupils from these schools visit us here too.

We are able to arrange extra visits for pupils with additional needs.

We can also seek help from the Mental Health Support team who will work with children who are anxious about the transitioning to a new school.

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. Targets will be shared with the new teacher.

Last year we employed a TA to support a group of children who struggled with being outside with everyone else at break and lunch times, this enabled these children to have playtime in a small group and to be able to spend some of their lunchtime inside working on focused activities before going outside to join with the rest of their class but to be supported.

All children will have a transition time in their new class with extra transition for those children who struggle with change.

Our aim is always that every child including those with SEND is nurtured, supported and valued by everyone in school.

Sue Foot left Highgate at Christmas 2020 and Melissa Coleman took over as SENDCO in January 2021.

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