

# Special Educational Needs and Disabilities at Western House Academy



### **What does SEND stand for?**

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

### **How do I know if my child has Special Needs?**

You are the expert on your child. Often you notice small pieces of a puzzle. You need to share these pieces with us so we can work together. It may be that you notice they are struggling with the same thing over and over again or they are not able to carry out age related activities. Sometimes you just suspect that something is not right and you want to talk it over.

### **What support can my child receive?**

In the first instance, all children have access to Quality First Teaching which means that all learning is made accessible to all students. Children have access to a wide range of interventions and it may be that your child needs to be added to this list. If children are still not making progress then the class teacher will alert the SENDCo (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator). The class teacher has to detail the support that they have put in place and note whether or not it has made a timely impact. If there is no impact then an Individual Educational Plan will be set up.

### **What is an Individual Education Plan?**

An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is a document that details the extra support that your child will receive. IEP's at Western House detail children's strengths and interests first and then focus on individual pupils needs. Targets are devised and it is recorded whether the intervention will take place in or out of class. At this stage, most pupils will be receiving extra small group support and interventions from the class teacher.

### **What if my child is not progressing whilst on an IEP?**

If children are not making progress despite the extra support detailed on an IEP then the teacher and the SENDCo will discuss if getting outside support is necessary. Support that we have available to us would be:

- Educational Psychologist
- Occupational Therapist
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Behaviour support
- Social services
- Child and Family Support Officer
- Healthcare practitioners

### **What if I want to secure more support for my child?**

If your child is still not making progress despite the intensive support in place then it may be that an Educational Health Care Plan is the next stage. If this is the case then the teacher, parent and SENDCo will discuss how the Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) will work.

### **Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**

An EHCP is a document that sets out the outcomes that children should achieve. During the process the EHCP coordinators will visit you and gain a thorough idea of what you would like for your child and how you think it should be achieved.

The guidelines state that the EHCP process will take no longer than 20 weeks.

### **What happens if my child receives an EHCP?**

If a child gets an EHCP then they will receive a document that is drafted with the input of outside agencies and parents. The EHCP will outline the provision that a child is entitled to. It is the class teacher's responsibility to ensure that all of the targets on the plan are met. *Some* pupils who have an EHCP will have a key worker who is assigned to them.

# Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Support at Western House Academy

A child with Special Needs is a pupil who has needs that are above and beyond the needs that are met in the classroom on a daily basis. As education professionals, we think about what needs every pupil has. For the majority of pupils, an expertly differentiated curriculum will be sufficient to meet a pupil's needs.

If your child is not making progress then it may be that their needs are not being met by a differentiated curriculum and other steps need to be taken

## Initial stage - 0-1 month

- If teachers, parents and the SENDCo are concerned about the progress of a pupil then good practice means that they will meet to discuss this
- If teachers are concerned about children they fill out a SEND Request form
- The SENDCo will ask what has happened at a classroom level to support the student

## Second Stage - 1-3 months

- The SENDCo will look at the Individual Education Plans and the Year Intervention plan to ensure that your child is having extra support
- If your child is still not progressing despite interventions then it may be appropriate to get outside agencies involved
- You need to meet with the SENDCo to discuss which outside agencies will be needed
- The SENDCo will make referrals that you will be required to sign – please ask the SENDCo what typical referral times are – they vary from a few weeks to 2 years
- Once your child has been referred and assessed then they will receive a report – this report will have recommendations on

## Third stage – 3-6 months

- The teacher will carry out the suggested recommendations and there will be a designated time period to check if progress has been made
- The outside agency will want to meet with the teachers and SENCo to ensure that their recommendations have been carried out

## Fourth stage – 6-9months

- If there is still no progress and we are concerned that the gap between your child and their peers is widening then we may consider if an Education Health and Care Plan is needed

## **Fifth stage – 9-12 months**

### **Education Health and Care Plan**

An EHCP is a document that support the child through adolescence and to the age of 25

The EHCP will use the recommendations from outside agencies, yourself, the teacher and the SENDCo.

The EHCP has outcomes and focusses on what you want the child to achieve and how we are going to get there

An EHCP does not mean that your child will have a 1:1 member of staff with them all the time

### **EHCP process**

The EHCP process takes 20 weeks

You will know before the first 12 weeks if your request has gone through to panel – this does not mean that you will get the EHCP

Once you have the plan you will be able to check in with the teacher regularly to check that the support on the plan is taking place

There will be an Annual Review each year (or six months if under 5) where a team will analyse the progress your child is making

If your child is making progress then only small changes will be made

If your child is not making progress then the plan may need to be reviewed or other settings considered

### **Useful web links**

<http://ehcpjourneys.com/>

<https://www.gov.uk/children-with-special-educational-needs/extra-SEN-help>

<http://www.specialneedsjungle.com/get-prepared/>

<https://www.ipsea.org.uk/what-you-need-to-know/ehc-plans>

<https://www.senexpertsolicitors.co.uk/what-we-do/frequently-asked-questions>

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