

Dulwich Hamlet Junior School

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Report
2023-24



Reviewed and approved by the Local Governing Body during the term: Autumn 2023

Next Review date: Autumn 2024

SEND Information Report

Types of SEND

At the Hamlet, we pride ourselves on being an inclusive school, making provision for a wide range of additional needs, including:

- Communication and interaction difficulties, including speech and language difficulties
- Cognition and learning difficulties, including Dyslexia and other specific learning difficulties
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties, including Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Sensory and/or physical needs, including visual impairment, hearing impairment, sensory difficulties and physical disabilities.

Identifying pupils with SEND and monitoring their progress

Staff identify pupils who may need additional support through continuous monitoring of progress and professional conversations. The SENDCo also carries out in-class observations and looks at children's books to gather information about their progress and learning needs.

We have robust systems in place to ensure that we gather all relevant information and data from the previous school when new pupils join us, whether that be at the entry point of Y3, or as a new in-year (Y4/5/6) joiner. Please see the 'Support for children moving between phases' section.

We hold termly Pupil Progress Meetings for each class in the school, with the class teacher, Assessment Lead, Deputy Headteacher and SENDCo all present. In these meetings, we carefully track the progress of each child in Reading, Writing and Maths as well as their overall development and well-being. Where a pupil is not meeting age-related National Curriculum expectations and is not making enough progress, we will quickly identify how best to support them.

Parents are always encouraged to discuss any concerns they may have about their child's progress with the class teacher first, after which a meeting with the SENDCo may be arranged if necessary. Regular Parent and Teacher meetings also provide an opportunity for parents and teachers to discuss each child's progress, the support in place and any concerns. It is very helpful for the outcomes of any private assessments arranged by parents to be shared with the school so that we can have a joined-up approach.

When deciding whether special educational provision is required, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents. We always take into account each pupil's strengths as

well as their difficulties. We will use all of this information to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it within our universal provision, or whether something different or additional is needed.

'The support provided to an individual should always be based on a full understanding of their particular strengths and needs and seek to address them all using well-evidenced interventions targeted at their areas of difficulty and where necessary specialist equipment or software'. The SEND Code of Practice.

Universal Provision

In most cases, pupils' needs can be well met within the classroom through Quality First Teaching. Our teachers are highly skilled in:

- Adapting the curriculum to ensure that all pupils are able to access it
- Differentiating their teaching e.g. by allowing longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, breaking instructions and tasks down
- Adapting resources e.g. providing additional prompts, scaffolds and visuals to support Dyslexic learners
- Directing teaching assistants to support individuals and groups of children within the classroom
- Using recommended aids, such as IT, coloured overlays, visual timetables and sand timers.

Targeted Interventions and Support

Some children may require targeted interventions or support in addition to the Universal Provision described above. Teachers and teaching assistants with a wide range of skills, training and experience in different areas of SEND work closely together to plan and run these interventions and organise support, under the guidance and direction of the SENDCo. This support may include:

- a) Focused in-class TA support
- b) Extra reading support (e.g. 1:1 with a TA, HLTA or teacher)
- c) Small group spelling/phonics support with Amanda Freshwater or Helen Mardling (Dyslexia-trained HLTAs)
- d) Extra Literacy or Maths groups to reinforce learning, including tutoring groups and Thirdspace Maths
- e) Use of ICT (e.g. laptop, iPad)
- f) Regular use of the Nessy online spelling and phonics programme. (including home access)
- g) Use of an individual visual timetable
- h) Use of specialist equipment such as seating or learning aids
- i) Handwriting/Motor Skills group
- j) TEACCH Programme
- k) Social Communication Group (e.g. special interest group)
- l) 1:1 mentoring with a member of staff
- m) Lunchtime support and provision of structured activities

- n) Drawing and Talking Therapy (1:1)
- o) Art Therapy
- p) Lego Therapy group
- q) Use of personalised social stories
- r) Play Therapy (1:1 or group sessions)
- s) Sessions with the Pets as Therapy dog.

Support staff work flexibly with groups and individual pupils across the school. We always follow best practice guidelines (including the key principles published by the Education Endowment Foundation) on the effective use of teaching assistants to support our pupils towards a model of independent learning. We want to avoid pupils becoming over-reliant and dependent on this adult support whilst at the same time receiving the help that they need.

Specialist support

We work closely with a number of external professionals who provide specialist support to those children who require it. These professionals include:

- Claire Lekenne, Speech and Language Therapist, Words First
- Matthew Hart, Educational Psychologist
- Asia Scott, Art Therapist
- Heather Latter , Teacher of the Deaf (Southwark)

We also work with a number of organisations and services, including:

- School nursing team
- CENMAC (Assistive Technology in Education)
- Southwark Autism Support Team
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Paediatricians based at Sunshine House
- Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy
- Visual Impairment Service
- Local Authority services including Social Services and Early Help

All referrals to these professionals, organisations and services are handled by the SENDCo (and Headteacher, where appropriate). Parents will always be informed and their consent sought for any formal referral. Any reports will be shared with parents and relevant staff members. For regular support, such as Speech and Language Therapy, parents are given

regular updates on their child's progress. Advice and recommendations from external professionals are always shared with relevant school staff and are implemented whenever possible and appropriate within the context of our school.

When planning and allocating external costed provision, the school has to make decisions based on the needs of all our pupils with SEND. Where an Education and Health Care Plan stipulates the involvement of external specialists, the school has an obligation to provide this and will always make reasonable endeavours to do so.

SEN Support and Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs)

When a pupil requires provision that is significantly different to that which is ordinarily provided in the classroom, the SENDCo may decide to place them on the school's SEND register, in consultation with parents. This stage is known as SEN Support. SEN Support is the system by which schools should assess the needs of children, and then provide appropriate support. The system should follow four stages, often referred to as the Assess, Plan, Do, Review Cycle. For further information about this cycle, also referred to as the 'graduated approach', see Chapter 6 of the SEND Code of Practice.

For all pupils on the school's SEND Register, teachers create an individual learning plan using an online platform called Edukey Provision Map. With the support of the SENDCo, teachers write specific outcomes for the term ahead and details of the strategies and provision in place to support the child to achieve them. These are shared every term with parents and carers via email and are discussed in parent and teacher meetings. These individual learning plans are reviewed by staff at the end of each term and the reviewed plans are then shared with parents and carers via email.

A small number of pupils may need an Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) if their needs cannot be met by SEN Support. An EHCP identifies the pupil's educational, health and social needs and sets out the additional support required to meet those needs. A needs assessment can be requested by the SENDCo or parent. For further information about EHCPs please see: <https://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk/education-health-and-care-plan>.

Working with Parents and Carers

Parents are always encouraged to discuss any concerns they may have about their child's progress with the class teacher first, after which a meeting with the SENDCo may be arranged if necessary.

Parents and carers of all pupils on the school's SEND register are invited to an additional parent and teacher meeting in the Spring term to discuss their child's progress. This means that parents and carers of pupils with SEND have termly meetings as well as receiving their child's annual written reports. These meetings provide an opportunity for parents and

carers to discuss their child's progress, the support in place and any concerns they may have. The SENDCo may also attend these meetings upon request.

It is very helpful for the outcomes of any private assessments arranged by parents to be shared with the school so that we can have a joined-up approach.

The school also runs regular parent and carer cafés on topics relating to SEND. In addition, the SENDCo produces a termly SEND newsletter which contains key information and updates about provision and arrangements in school as well as signposting parents and carers to useful resources, events and websites. Each newsletter is emailed to all parents and carers as well as being uploaded to the SEND page of the school website.

Monitoring the impact of SEND provision

The impact of all types of support on children's progress is carefully monitored as part of the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle set out in the SEND Code of Practice. The aim is always to help children to make progress and become independent and resilient learners.

We use the online platform Edukey Provision Map to carefully record and track all of the targeted interventions and support across the school so that we can effectively organise and allocate resources and make adjustments where needed to help pupils to make progress.

Regular meetings are held among school staff to discuss progress, including termly Pupil Progress Meetings. Some meetings may be more formal where parents, relevant external agencies and, when appropriate, pupils, are invited and their contribution valued. The impact of the provision is considered along with the progress being made. Support arrangements will be updated and revised accordingly. If not involved already, this might include referral to external agencies. For pupils with Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs), we hold annual review meetings which are attended by staff and parents as well as other professionals working with the child.

Expertise and training of staff

At the Hamlet, we have a strong team of dedicated teachers and support staff who have a wide range of experience, skills and knowledge. We provide regular opportunities for staff to audit their skills and confidence levels and to share good practice. An ongoing programme of training is in place to ensure that all staff have the appropriate skills and knowledge to support pupils with SEND most effectively. Members of staff may complete additional training, for example, on a specific intervention for which we have identified a need. Staff actively seek advice and implement recommendations from external specialists such as the Educational Psychologist and Speech and Language Therapist.

We have two Dyslexia-trained Higher Level Teaching Assistants (Amanda Freshwater and Helen Mardling) on our staff team, who work with individuals and groups of children across the school under the direction of the SENDCo.

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) is Mrs Lilian Koder. She works in school on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays and can be contacted via the school office. Lilian has six years' experience as a SENDCo and holds the National Award for SEN Coordination which is the statutory qualification that all SENDCos must have in maintained schools. She has been a teacher for over 13 years and has worked in a wide range of different primary settings, including special schools.

Securing equipment and facilities

Provision for children with special educational needs will usually be financed through the school's core budget and the Notional special educational needs budget, which is an additional amount of money allocated to the school for SEND provision. The Notional SEN budget for 2023-2024 is £78,150. The school has to decide how best to spend this very limited budget in order to meet the needs of all our pupils with SEND. There are currently around 70 pupils with SEND in the school, including 19 with EHCPs. Pupils with EHCPs are awarded top-up funding by the local authority as they require significantly more support than other pupils.

The school will purchase equipment such as software designed to support pupils with SEND based on the needs identified by the school.

Tests and Examinations: Access Arrangements

For some pupils, additional arrangements and adjustments can be made to enable them to fully access tests and examinations. These might include additional time, rest breaks or the use of a scribe or word processor. Such arrangements are made when there is clear evidence to show that they are needed and the child is eligible. The SENDCo and Year 6 team will determine which pupils are eligible for access arrangements for the SATs, based on the criteria set out by the DfE, and will apply to the DfE accordingly during the Spring term

Support for improving emotional and social development

The mental health and well-being of all our pupils is always a priority at the Hamlet. Please see the lists under Targeted Intervention and Support and Specialist Support, above, for the types of provision that we offer.

In addition, we aim to provide:

- Lunchtime clubs for those who need extra structure or social skills support
- Staffed library at lunchtime, whenever possible
- Zoned playground areas with staff-led organised games

- Regular opportunities to celebrate success and boost self-esteem e.g. celebration assemblies.
- Enhanced Transition programme for identified children joining us in Year 3.

Please also see our [Values and Behaviour Policy](#) for further information.

Enabling pupils with SEND to access and engage in all activities

At the Hamlet, all of our extra-curricular activities and school visits are available to all our pupils, including our before and after school clubs. All pupils are encouraged to go on our residential trips, and careful planning takes place to ensure that appropriate provision is in place for those with SEND. No pupil is excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEN or disability.

We comply with our duties under the Equality Act 2010 towards individual disabled children and young people. We make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services for disabled children, to prevent them being put at a substantial disadvantage. We comply with our wider duties to prevent discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations. Please see our [Admissions Policy](#), [Values and Behaviour Policy](#), [Anti-Bullying Policy](#), [Equality Objectives](#) and [Accessibility Plan](#) for more detail. The school works hard to ensure that no child with SEN or a disability is treated unfairly by their peers. For example, regular assemblies on themes such as Neurodiversity and disabilities aim to celebrate difference as well as raise children's awareness of others' needs.

Admissions

Pupils with SEND are allocated places in two separate ways:

Those pupils with statements or Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs) have a separate admissions procedure overseen by Southwark's SEN team details of which can be found [here](#). Applications for children with special needs or with a disability will be treated fairly.

Those pupils who have SEND but do not have an EHCP are admitted via the normal school admissions criteria. Detailed information and guidance of how to apply for a place at Dulwich Hamlet Junior School can be found via the following link:

<http://www.southwark.gov.uk/schooladmissions> Please also view our *Admissions Policy* for specific criteria relating to Dulwich Hamlet. Any additional needs that are identified on admission are discussed with parents and carers allowing the school to put into place the most appropriate support and/or arrangements.

Supporting children moving between phases and preparing for adulthood

We run an Enhanced Transition programme for identified children joining us in Year 3 to help to make their move to the Hamlet as smooth as possible and to support the child and their family with any concerns that they may have. This may include a small group guided tour of the school, a visit to observe/meet the child in-situ at their current school setting, and a meeting for parents and carers with the SENDCo during the Summer term.

In Year 6, class teachers plan and lead a range of lessons and activities designed to prepare children for the transition to secondary school. We share information with the new school, college or other setting that each pupil is moving to, including inviting the SENDCo from the receiving secondary school to attend the child's final Annual Review meeting if they have an EHCP. The SENDCo may refer some pupils to the Southwark SEND Inclusion Practitioner Southwark (SENDIP) who can provide extra support during the transition period. Parents will always be asked for their consent before a referral is made. We make sure that all records are passed to the receiving secondary school. Where possible, children with additional needs will visit their new school, and in some cases, staff from the new school will visit them at the Hamlet during the summer term.

For pupils with an EHCP, a detailed phase review is carried out during Year 5, after which the Local Authority will amend the EHCP to ensure that it is fit-for-purpose as the pupil moves into Key Stage 3.

Complaints

At the Hamlet, we are always willing to listen to parents' concerns and by working closely together we can usually find a positive way forward. Complaints about SEN provision in our school should be made to the SENDCo or Headteacher in the first instance. They will then be referred to the school's complaints policy.

Parents of pupils with disabilities have the right to make disability discrimination claims to the first-tier SEND tribunal if they believe that the school has discriminated against their child. They can make a claim about alleged discrimination regarding:

- Exclusions
- Provision of education and associated services
- Making reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services.

The Local Authority Offer

Southwark Information, Advice and Support Service (SIAS) offers parents support, training and advice on all aspects of SEND. This service is impartial, confidential and free to all parents and carers of children attending school in Southwark. You can find contact details for SIAS at <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/schools-and-education/information-for-parents/southwark-information-advice-and-support-team-sias>.

Parents can also find out more about SEND provision in Southwark by reading the Local Offer at <http://localoffer.southwark.gov.uk>.

Monitoring Arrangements

This document will be reviewed and updated by the SENDCo and Headteacher annually. This document is approved by the governing body and is shared with all staff.

Links with other policies and documents

This document should be read alongside the Charter Education Trust SEND Policy, which is reviewed annually.

This policy also links to our other policies/documents on:

- [Equality Objectives](#)
- [Accessibility Plan](#)
- [Values and Behaviour](#)
- [Supporting pupils with medical conditions](#)
- [Admissions](#)