

Frequently asked questions about SEND

Who are the best people to talk to in this school about my child's difficulties with learning/ Special Educational Needs or disability (SEND)?

First and most important is to talk to your child's teacher. Express your concerns and get the teacher's opinion on your child's learning needs. The class teacher knows your child well and can talk to you about their achievement and any difficulties they feel your child is experiencing. The SENCo and Head Teacher are also available to meet with by appointment. Termly Additional Learning Needs meetings will also be scheduled for you to discuss the needs of your child and the provision provided.

What are the different types of support available for children with SEND at Holmer C E Academy?

At Holmer C E Academy we modify our provision to meet the changing needs of each individual pupil. We endeavour to provide an environment where all children feel safe and supported to reach their true potential. The Additional Learning Needs Local Offer has been created to show ways in which we may support children. However, this is not a definitive list and as new resources become available our provision will change. Please view our Local Offer on the school website.

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

If you have any concerns about your child, no matter how small please do talk to the class teacher so worries can be addressed. The class teacher will be able to explain the provision provided for your child and suggest ways in which you will be able to support at home.

How will the school let me know if they have any concerns about my child's learning in school?

The school has termly parents evenings which ensure parents are regularly informed about their child's attainment. If however, the class teacher believes that there is an issue with the progress that your child is making they will arrange a meeting to inform you of their concerns and discuss any assessments or additional support that your child requires.

How is extra support allocated to children?

A child does not need to be on the SEND register to be in receipt of an intervention program. Interventions provided targeted support aimed at the needs of the children. These programs are continually monitored and adapted to ensure that the needs of individual children are met.

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

Intervention programs are delivered by both Teachers and Teaching Assistants. The school is also on some occasions able to access support from medical professionals e.g. Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists.

How are the teachers in school helped to work with children with an SEND and what training do they have?

The SENCo at Holmer C of E academy is an experienced qualified teacher who holds The National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordination. Professional development for teachers is ongoing and new information regarding Special educational needs training is filtered through to teachers as and when necessary.

How will the teaching be adapted for my child with SEND?

The way in which teaching is adapted for your individual child will depend on their needs. Resources and support are tailored to the needs of your child and can be adapted depending on their requirements. Some of the ways in which our teaching may be adapted can be seen in the School Local Offer.

What support do we have for you as a parent of child with an SEND?

The school will endeavour to offer advice and guidance on how to best to support your child at home. If you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate in coming in to speak to the class teacher. The Herefordshire Parent Partnership provides free information, advice and guidance to parents and carers of children and young people up to the age of 25 who have a disability and/or special educational needs. They offer an impartial, confidential and supportive service for parents and carers, helping you to play an active role in the education of your child. The Partnership Service can advise you on what you should expect from statutory agencies and at key transition stages in your child's life.

How will we support your child when they are leaving this school or move on to another class?

When children move on to the next class, teachers hold meetings which enable the sharing of information. These meetings ensure that the new class teacher is aware of the individual needs of your child and can then ensure the appropriate support is put in place. Holmer C of E Academy has excellent links with local feeder schools. When children are due to transfer to High School a meeting is arranged with the High School SENCo to share information about the needs of your child. This enables provision to be planned for ensuring your child has a settled start in their new school.

Changes to Special Educational Needs

What is an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan?

An EHC Plan will replace current Statements of SEN and Learning Difficulty Assessments. The plan will be a legal document describing a young person's needs, the provision to meet those needs and the suitable educational placement. Government has stated that the Plan must be person centred, focusing on the needs and aspirations of the child. EHC Plans will continue into further education and training, and for some young people up to the age of 25.

Who will have an Education Health and Care Plan?

The EHC plan is for children and young people who have special educational needs and disabilities and where an assessment of education, health and social care needs has been agreed by a multi-agency group of professionals. It is available from birth to age 25.

A child or young person has to be eligible for an assessment.

There will be a three year transition period to convert a statement of educational needs to an Education, Health and Care Plan.

Will there be help for children without an EHC Plan?

Under the current system there is additional help and support for children at school without a Statement of SEN.

Under the Children and Families Bill and the Code of Practice, School Action and School Action Plus were replaced with SEN Support. SEN Support will be the support available in school for children and young people who have special educational needs but do not have Education, Health and Care plans. Additional SEN support is support to meet a student's needs so that they can meet their individual goals.

What is a personal budget?

All families whose child has an EHC plan will have a right to request a personal budget. The personal budget will allow young people or parents to buy support identified in the plan directly, rather than relying on the local authority.

Parents or young people will be given a choice of whether they want to take control of the personal budget by an agency managing the funds on their behalf or by receiving direct payments, where they can purchase and manage the provision themselves.