

# **SEN Information Report (2021 – 2022)**

## **LARKS HILL J & I SCHOOL**



### **What kinds of special educational needs is provision made for at our school?**

Our school is an inclusive school where every child matters; we aim to address children's needs and support their development in the most appropriate way possible and celebrate effort as much as achievement. Our school's SEND policy document is available on this website, detailing our philosophy in relation to SEND. Additional and/or different provision is currently being made in school for children with a range of needs, including:

- Cognition and Learning – Moderate learning difficulties; Specific learning difficulties - dyslexia, dyspraxia.
- Sensory, Medical and Physical – hearing impairment, sensory processing difficulties, epilepsy.
- Communication and Interaction – autistic spectrum condition, speech and language difficulties.
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health – attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, early developmental trauma.

Our SENCo was appointed in November 2018 and gained her National Award for Special Educational Needs Coordination in January 2021.

All our staff are trained each year on the needs of new children joining the school – this can include training from specialist agencies or consultants, or other staff with relevant expertise.

SEND training forms part of the continuing professional development of all teachers and LSA's and is organised in accordance with the needs of the children. The school works closely with other local schools, sharing training opportunities including INSET days and outside experts. The SENCO meets with the SLT once per half term to review and plan the training, guidance and advice that staff across the school need to ensure they meet the additional learning requirements of our children. Our school's Accessibility Plan (available on request in school) outlines adaptations made to the building to meet particular needs and enhance learning.

## **What are school's policies with regard to the identification and assessment of children with SEN?**

Our school's Assessment Policy (available on request in school) outlines the range of assessments regularly used throughout the school. Additional and different assessment tools may be required when children are making less than expected progress, which can be characterised by progress which:

- is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
- fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers
- widens the attainment gap.

Progress in areas other than attainment is also considered, e.g. where a child needs to make additional progress with social needs in order to be fully integrated into school life or make a successful transition to high school.

If behaviour is causing concern, it is always considered whether there are any underlying difficulties; if there are none, the class teacher would speak to parents/carers about anything that might have happened at home. The class teacher/SENCo would gather information about incidents occurring, at what time of day, during which lessons and behaviour checklists may also be used to analyse and consider any patterns of behaviour. Observations would be conducted in class/on playground to record behaviours, considering involvement of others/environmental factors and an intervention devised taking into account all information gathered. See SEN policy for further information relating to behaviour support.

Parents are always informed if school staff consider that their child has an additional need and parents and children (as appropriate depending upon age and capability) are involved in the planning to meet the need. We often recommend initially that eyesight and hearing are checked to discount these aspects as possible underlying causes of learning issues.

At Larks Hill, a range of specific, more specialised tests are used to assist in the identification of an individual child's needs in order to plan targeted programmes for them and to use as a benchmark for measuring the impact of subsequent interventions:

To obtain further understanding of a child's learning difficulties, we may use a range of diagnostic tests and advice from external agencies.

Other specialised assessments, which may be used in school to identify barriers to learning include:

- social, emotional, behavioural checklists – e.g. Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire, ELSA materials
- observation schedules - e.g. for behaviour, concentration, attention.

In addition, school commissions the services of The PAT Speech and Language Therapist – Mrs. Maria Mearis who supports us in identifying the speech and language needs of our children using a range of specialist assessments.

Further information relating to identification and assessment of children with SEN can be found in our SEND Policy document.

## **What are school's policies for making provision for children with SEN whether or not they have Education, Health and Care Plans?**

### **a) How do we evaluate the effectiveness of provision for children with SEN?**

- use of a provision map
- evaluation of individual education plans - Supporting Me to Learn Plans, My Support Plans and Educational, Health and Care Plans
- use of assessment information/progress rates, etc. pre- and post- interventions
- use of attainment and progress data for children with SEN across the school
- part of whole-school tracking of children's progress generally – 3x yearly
- use of questionnaires (pupil voice, work monitoring by subject leaders)
- monitoring by SENCo.

### **b) What are our arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of children with SEN?**

- our school's Assessment Policy (available on request in school) outlines the range of assessments regularly used throughout the school
- evaluation of Supporting Me to Learn Plans , My Support Plans and Educational, Health and Care Plans
- tracking of pupil progress generally as part of whole school tracking system – 3x yearly
- progress of children with speech and language needs is assessed and reviewed regularly throughout the year by the SALT therapist commissioned by school – Mrs. Maria Mearis.
- a cycle of consultation meetings, based on the plan-do-review model takes place throughout the year for children involved with our Educational Psychology service

- an Annual Review is held for children with EHC Plans; interim reviews can also be arranged throughout the year if deemed necessary
- when children are assessed by external agencies, meetings take place with the parents/carers and the class teacher to discuss the findings and how best to address need and meet targets
- when assessing children with SEN , consideration is given to recording needs e.g. a reader, scribe, additional time or rest breaks may be necessary – generally whatever support is provided in the class room is provided as far as is permitted during tests
- initial concerns about a child's progress are discussed with the SENCo and parents and followed by referrals to external agencies or placement on intervention programmes as deemed appropriate.

### **c) What is our approach to teaching pupils with SEN?**

- the fundamental aim of our school and the very reason for our existence, is to enable each child to be the very best version of themselves
- to embrace and fulfil their unique potential
- unlocking potential and removing barriers to learning is the promise and commitment of our school
- we work in partnership with all of our families and external agencies where appropriate to make high aspirations a reality for every child, taking specific action to create effective learning environments, secure children's motivation and concentration, provide equality of opportunity, use appropriate assessments and set suitable targets for learning
- quality first teaching takes place in all class rooms with the setting of high expectations and the provision of opportunities for all to achieve; the impact of this is apparent in the results obtained in national tests at the close of each key stage
- information relating to results obtained in recent years is available on this website
- provision for children with SEND is a matter for the school as a whole. In addition, the SPRB (Governing Body), Head of School, SENCo and all staff members have important day-to -day responsibilities. All teachers are teachers of children with SEND
- a continuous cycle of planning, teaching and assessing is firmly embedded, which takes account of the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of our children; the majority of our children will learn and progress within these arrangements
- Children with SEND will receive support that is additional to or different from the provision made for other children.

All of our teachers take account of a child's SEN in planning and assessment; they provide appropriate support for communication, language and literacy needs; they plan where necessary to develop children's understanding through the use of all available senses and experience; they plan to enable children to take full part in learning, physical and practical activities; they help children to manage their behaviour in order to take part in learning effectively and safely; they help children to manage their emotions in order to take part in learning effectively.

At Larks Hill, we aim to identify children with particular needs as early as possible; assessment of need may include observation of children's social skills and learning experiences in all curriculum areas, teacher assessment and use of assessments, which will enable peer group comparisons to be made.

In completing assessments to consider the whole child, we acknowledge that gifted children often require additional resourcing to extend and fully develop their potential. Children who speak English as a second language may also require additional modified programmes and differentiation of the curriculum.

We acknowledge that not all children with disabilities necessarily have special educational needs. All our teachers take action however, to ensure that children with disabilities are able to participate as fully as possible in the curriculum and statutory assessment arrangements. Potential areas of difficulty are identified and assessed at the outset, without the need for disapplication. Teachers plan enough time for the satisfactory completion of LSA's; plan opportunities where required for the development of skills in practical aspects of the curriculum; identify aspects of programmes of study and attainment targets that may present specific difficulties for children with disabilities.

#### **d) How do we adapt the curriculum and learning environment?**

- the curriculum is scaffolded and differentiated to meet the needs of all our children. Differentiation may occur by grouping (e.g. small group, 1:1, ability, peer partners); content of the lesson; teaching style (taking into account that children may be visual, auditory or kinaesthetic learners); lesson format (e.g. thematic games, simulations, role-play, discovery learning); pace of the lesson; provision of alternative recording methods (e.g. scribing, use of ICT, mind mapping, photographs, etc.); outcomes expected from individual children; materials used; support level provided; provision of alternative location for completion of work
- school always acts upon advice received from external agencies (e.g. enlarging of print for VI children; most advantageous positioning of HI children within the classroom and use of aids as recommended; use of laptops for children with recording needs; use of coloured overlays and exercise books for children with Meares-Irlen syndrome; use of brain breaks

- we endeavour to ensure that all class rooms are dyslexia friendly including use of dyslexia-friendly dictionaries, word walls, prompt mats, highlighting pens and reading rulers, coloured interactive boards, individual resources, e.g. number lines, 100 squares, phonic prompts, alternative means of recording, modelled and shared writing opportunities
- we endeavour to ensure that all class rooms are ASD friendly including, where needed, use of visual timetables, personalised timetables and prompt/sequence cards, quiet work stations, areas of retreat and pictorially labelled resources
- we endeavour to ensure that all class rooms are speech and language friendly including use of visual feedback, ‘chunking’ of instructions, use of the 10 second rule to allow processing time, pre-teaching of key vocabulary. We commission the services of a SALT therapist (Mrs. Maria Mearis) to work directly with children in our school and provide training, support and advice to staff
- areas are available in both key stages to provide quiet work areas for 1:1 or small group work.

**e) What additional support for learning is available for children with SEN?**

- there are currently 208 children on roll. We have 7 HLTA/LSAs employed in school; most are trained to deliver a number of intervention programmes throughout the school
- some LSA's are deployed in classes to support children on a 1:1 or small group basis or to cover the class in order that the class teacher can provide 1:1 or small group support
- we follow the Code of Practice for SEN
- we teach a differentiated curriculum to ensure that the needs of all children are met
- we implement individual education plans ('Supporting Me to Learn') with s.m.a.r.t. targets
- individual laptops are used for children with recording needs
- for children with specific identified or diagnosed needs, we work very closely with external agencies to ensure that the best possible support is in place (e.g. educational psychologist, SEND Support Service, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, specialist teachers)
- meetings are often held in school involving specialists (as noted above) and/or parents to set targets, evaluate progress and ensure consistency of approach in addressing needs in school and at home
- we commission the services of a speech and language therapist – Mrs. Maria Mearis - who works directly with children in school and provides training, advice and support to staff with regard to individual children and general or specific speech and language issues

- specific resources or strategies are in place for many children recommended by external agencies, e.g. coloured overlays, sloping boards, sensory cushions, use of ‘brain breaks’, personalised schedules.

**f) What activities are available for children with SEN in addition to those available in accordance with the curriculum?**

- all extra-curricular activities (listed on this website) are available to all of our children
- breakfast club is available to all our children
- a residential trip available to all children in Y6
- structured play at break time.

**g) What support is available for improving the emotional and social development of children with SEN?**

- specialist advice from the Wakefield Inclusion Special Educational Needs & Disability Support Service Team (WISENDSS) for children with social communication/interaction difficulties and specialist advice from our Educational Psychologist – Dr Lucy Hatton
- specialist advice from colleagues at the Early Help Hub – Future in Mind
- Structured Play for children with social communication/interaction issues
- assessment tools and intervention programmes e.g. ELSA, dealing with feelings.

**What is the name of the SENCo and contact details for the SENCo?**

Our SENCo is Mrs Sarah Annable (Tel: 01977 722845) [sannable@larkhill.patrust.org.uk](mailto:sannable@larkhill.patrust.org.uk)

Our SEN Support is Aileen Smith (Tel: 01977 722845) [aileenpeake-smith@larkhill.patrust.org.uk](mailto:aileenpeake-smith@larkhill.patrust.org.uk)

**What is the level of expertise and training of staff in relation to children with SEN and how will specialist expertise be secured?**

- our SENCo has completed the National Award for SEN Coordination. She is allocated four hours per week to manage SEN in the school
- school employs 2 HLTA's and a team of 5 LSAs, most of whom are trained to deliver a range of interventions on a small group and 1:1 basis
- some staff members are trained First Aiders and all are emergency first aid trained

- staff are trained by the School Health Team with regard to asthma, epilepsy and diabetes
- the School Nursing Team also provides training to staff regarding specific low incidence medical conditions as needs arise
- the SENCo and relevant staff (i.e. staff directly involved with children with specific need relating to the course) have received SEN training, in addition to more general training
- as specific needs arise, the SENCo approaches specialists from a range of agencies (e.g. WISENDSS, Occupational Therapy, Educational Psychology, SaLT) to seek advice about raising awareness of the specific type of SEN. To enhance knowledge about a specific type of SEN (in order for the class teacher, or LSA working directly with a child with a particular type of SEN, to adapt teaching and learning to meet the need appropriately) more specific training may be sought directly through specialist agencies
- general support and advice from the SENCo - e.g. with regard to the implementation of specific programmes, creation and monitoring of Supporting Me to Learn Plans, tracking of children with SEN
- particular support is given to NQTs and other new members of staff. Should a pupil with a specific low incidence need be admitted to the school, then the SENCo will pursue relevant training, in the first instance, for the class teacher and support staff concerned
- our SENCo attends half-termly 'Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator Cluster Meetings' funded by the PAT organised to support them in their work in school, affording an opportunity to discuss special educational needs issues with colleagues in other schools, and disseminate information regarding current practice to colleagues in our school
- at the close of each school year, teachers hold meetings with the class's next teacher to discuss SEN information in preparation for the transition
- the SENCo meets with the Senior Leadership Team once per half-term to review and plan the training, guidance and advice that staff across the school need to ensure they meet the additional learning requirements of our children.

### **How is equipment and facilities to support children with SEN secured?**

- through discussion with specialist agencies involved
- through discussion with parents
- through discussion with our Head of School
- equipment and facilities to support children with SEN are non-negotiable at our school; whatever our children with SEN require, within reason they get, e.g. provision of coloured overlays for children with Meares-Irlen syndrome; provision of equipment, e.g. sensory

cushion and implementation of strategies, e.g. brain breaks for children with sensory issues - we regard our duty to make reasonable adjustments as an anticipatory duty – i.e. it applies not only to disabled children who already attend our school but also to disabled children who may attend in the future (this does not imply that we anticipate every possible auxiliary aid and service that may be required by current or future children attending our school, but that we anticipate those auxiliary aids and services which it would be reasonable to expect may be required). Auxiliary aids could include for example the provision of a piece of equipment; additional staff assistance for disabled children; readers for children (and adults in our school community) with visual impairments

- our school's Accessibility Plan (available on this website) outlines adaptations made to the building to meet particular needs and enhance learning.

## **What are the arrangements for consulting parents of children with SEN about and involving such parents in the education of their child?**

- throughout the year there are two Parental Consultation Evenings and there is an end of year annual report to parents
- parents are invited to review their child's Supporting Me to Learn Plan on a termly basis – these plans are evaluated with parents and recommendations for new targets discussed, alongside suggestions for supporting their child in the home setting
- our parents appreciate the 'open door' policy whereby the class teacher/SENCo is easily contactable via the school office/telephone/email. Parents may be invited into school to discuss their child's progress at any time and additional meetings are set up as required or as requested by parents to discuss particular aspects of a child's SEN; we particularly welcome information from parents about how their child learns best in order that it can be shared with those people who teach the child
- progress and outcomes are also discussed during consultation meetings with our Educational Psychologist; parents are given a report and discussion takes place regarding the outcomes of any EP assessments/observations
- progress and outcomes of assessments by other external agencies may also be discussed with parents at consultation meetings (e.g. with our speech and language therapist or with specialist support teachers)
- the progress of children holding an Education Health and Care Plan is discussed at their annual review (interim reviews may also be called as necessary)

- at Y5 annual reviews, transition to high school is considered with discussion involving parents. At Y6 annual reviews, the SENCo of the receiving high school is usually invited to attend
- parental forms are used at annual reviews and throughout the year to obtain parents' views about their child's SEN, support in place to address needs and any modifications to this support which parents feel may be appropriate.

## **What are the arrangements for consulting children with SEN about and involving them in their education?**

- targets set for children are reviewed with them
- children's self-evaluation is actively encouraged throughout the school and children are supported where necessary to think of areas for development and how best to develop in these areas in school and at home
- child forms are used at annual reviews and throughout the year to obtain children's views about their SEN, support in place to address needs, and any modifications to this support which children feel may be helpful for them.

## **What are the arrangements made by the Governing Body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of children with SEN concerning the provision made at school?**

It is in everyone's interests for complaints to be resolved as quickly and at as low a level as possible and our SEN complaint procedure is as follows:

- the complaint is dealt with by the class teacher
- the complainant needs to feel that they have been listened to and that all points raised have been addressed. If the matter remains unresolved,
- the complaint is dealt with by the SENCo or by a senior manager. If there is still no resolution,
- the Head of School should become actively involved
- if the matter is still not resolved, the complainant must put their complaint in writing to the Chair of the School Performance Review Board (SPRB)
- the SPRB will deal with the matter through their agreed complaint resolution procedures
- in the unlikely event that the matter is still not resolved, the parent can then take the complaint to the Trust or Local Authority, or request independent disagreement resolution and the school will make further information available about this process on request.

## **How does the Governing Body involve other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations in meeting the needs of our children with SEN and in supporting the families of such children?**

- school commissions the services of an independent speech and language therapist (Mrs. Maria Mearis) to work directly with children in our school and to provide advice and support to staff in addressing speech and language needs throughout the school
- external support services play an important part in helping school identify, assess and make provision for pupils with special educational needs. Our school receives regular visits from a member of the Educational Psychology Service. In addition, school may seek advice from specialist advisory teachers from The Advisory Service for children with sensory impairment or physical/medical difficulties or social communication difficulties or from specialist teachers to consider behaviours presented by children in school.
- the speech and language therapy and occupational therapy services (NHS) involved with individual children support school in the implementation of specific programmes and contribute to the monitoring of progress and reviews of children
- school maintains links with child health services, children's social care services and education welfare services to ensure that all relevant information is considered when making provision for our children with SEN
- our School Health Practitioner is available for advice and attends meetings in school on request following referrals to the service made by school
- school can refer to the Local Authority's Early Help Hub to secure help and support for children and families when low level issues emerge and before problems escalate.

## **What are the contact details of support services for the parents of children with SEN, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32?**

### **BARNARDOS**

*The role of the Independent Supporter is to provide parents and carers, children and young people with impartial information and advice in relation to assessments leading to Education, Health and Care Plans and conversion of statements to Education, Health and Care Plans.*

**Address: Room 249, Castleford Civic Centre, Ferrybridge Road, Castleford WF10 4JH**

**Email:** [Wakefieldindependentsupport@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Wakefieldindependentsupport@barnardos.org.uk)

**Phone:** 01924 304152

### **SENART**

*SEN Assessment and Review Team (SENART) leads on the statutory processes of implementing and monitoring Education Health and Care Plans.*

*This includes ensuring that assessments of Special Educational Needs are progressed in line with statutory time scales.*

*The service works with families, young people, schools and other agencies to ensure that advice is gathered and EHC plans are completed accurately and reviewed appropriately. This is done through providing advice and guidance on the statutory processes.*

*SENART facilitates the multi-agency EHC panel to consider and implements EHC Assessments and Plans and allocates levels of support and funding and for children and young people with EHCPs.*

*SENART also ensures effective commissioning of post-16 places for High Needs Learners and provision for out of district placements.*

**Address:** Normanton Town Hall, High Street, Normanton WF6 2DZ

**Email:** [SENART@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:SENART@wakefield.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 01924 30246

### **EARLY HELP HUBS**

*Wakefield Council is working with its partners, including the police, the NHS and Community and Voluntary Sector Organisations to provide more integrated, joined up, and community based services for families with children and young people pre-birth to 19yrs and 25yrs where there are Special Educational Needs or Disabilities. This is being done through the creation of 7 'Early Help Hubs' across the district, which offer a range of services for families and will intervene to help those who need support, at the earliest opportunity.*

Castleford Early Help Hub

@ Five Towns Resource Centre, Welbeck Street, Castleford, WF10 1DP  
01977 722223

[castleford@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:castleford@wakefield.gov.uk)

Wakefield Rural Early Help Hub

Formerly Havercroft Children's Centre  
Cow Lane, Havercroft, WF4 2BE  
01226 726478

[wakefieldrural2@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:wakefieldrural2@wakefield.gov.uk)

Wakefield North West Early Help Hub  
Unit 21, Greens Industrial Park, Caldervale Road, Wakefield, WF1 5PH  
01924 304911  
[wakefieldnorthwest@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:wakefieldnorthwest@wakefield.gov.uk)

Wakefield Central Early Help Hub  
City Limits  
Thornhill Street, Wakefield, WF1 1NL  
01924 303600  
[wakefieldcentral2@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:wakefieldcentral2@wakefield.gov.uk)

Pontefract & Knottingley Early Help Hub  
@ Pontefract Library & Municipal Offices  
Pontefract Library, Pontefract, WF8 1BD  
01977 722451

[ponteandknottingley@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:ponteandknottingley@wakefield.gov.uk)

Wakefield South East Early Help Hub  
(formerly Platform One)  
Wakefield Road, Hemsworth, WF9 4AB  
01977 723165

[southeast@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:southeast@wakefield.gov.uk)

Normanton & Featherstone Early Help Hub  
@ Chesney's Resource Centre  
Regent Street, Featherstone, WF7 5EW  
01977 7233270  
[normandfeatherstone@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:normandfeatherstone@wakefield.gov.uk)

## **What are the contact details of support services for supporting children with SEN in transferring between phases of education?**

### **PRE 5 SERVICE**

*The Pre-5: SEN Service is for children 0 – 5 (usually up to their entry to Upper Foundation), who have additional needs and disabilities.*

*If a child attends a Children's Centre or a registered private, voluntary or independent setting, they can be referred directly by the setting. If the setting is concerned about a child's needs, staff will*

*have spoken to parents about their child's needs and discussed what help they are giving the child. If they feel it would be helpful to make a referral they will talk to parents about this and ask them to sign their agreement.*

*The Pre-5 Service does not accept direct referrals from schools or other services.*

*Involvement in schools occurs if:*

*- the child moves from a registered setting with existing involvement*

*- the child has previously had Portage Service involvement*

*- the Service is named on a child's Education, Health and Care Plan*

*The work that the Pre-5 staff might do includes:*

*- observing the child as they play in the areas of provision in the setting or school*

*- working individually with the child*

*- working with staff to put strategies and interventions in place to help the child*

*- supporting the setting or school to plan e.g. considering the environment*

*- supporting the setting or school to develop individual programmes of support (e.g. Individual Education Plans, One-Page Profiles, My Support Plans) and to include parents and other services e.g.*

*health professionals in this process*

*- supporting settings to deliver small groups*

*- supporting the child's transition into the setting or moving on from the setting (transition)*

*- delivery of training for staff and parents around the individual needs of the child*

*When a referral from a setting has been received, a letter is sent to the child's parents inviting them to a meeting at the setting to discuss the child.*

*Advisory Teachers encourage settings to involve parents to the regular reviews of the child's progress and in the plans for the child's movement between groups in the setting and when they leave the setting.*

*Advisory Teachers takes the child's views into account by including the child's interests when planning activities and interventions.*

*The service keeps detailed records of all the work that is done with a child. The service takes account of Data Protection procedures and if parents are concerned about this they are asked to discuss this with the manager of the service.*

*Involvement with a child can continue until they transfer into Upper Foundation. The service then works with parents, the setting and other services to ensure a smooth move for the child (transition).*

*The Pre-5: SEND Service provides summary reports to parents, schools and settings and sends an evaluation form when the work with the child has ended.*

**Address:** First Floor Block C, Normanton Town Hall, High Street, Normanton WF6 2DZ

**Email:** [eps@wakefield.gov.uk](mailto:eps@wakefield.gov.uk)

**Phone:** 01924 307403

## **Where is the Local Authority's 'Local Offer' and school's 'Local Offer' published?**

- school's Local Offer can be found on this website
- the Local Authority's Local Offer can be found at this location:

<http://wakefield.mylocaloffer.org/Home>