

SEND Update - 2023 / 2024 Academic Year

Supporting our children with additional needs remains a key priority for us as a school and our SEND Team continue to work closely with families to ensure best outcomes for all children. However, significant changes in referral systems and long waiting lists within NHS service providers, coupled with ongoing school budgetary issues, mean that we have had to review our school offer and adapt our provision accordingly. Please note, school is no longer able to provide a dedicated Classroom Teaching Assistant (TA) in each of our classrooms.

School Nurse

School no longer has a linked school nurse who comes into school. Unfortunately, this service is no longer available. If you have any concerns regarding your child's health, please contact the school Health Lead, Amanda Clifton.

Referral pathways for ADHD and Autism Assessment - Manchester and Trafford

School now operate a waiting list for referral completion due to the significant rise in requests we are receiving. Please note, two terms of school evidence is now required to submit a referral for Autism. If a child's GP is based in Trafford then 2 terms of evidence gathering is also required for ADHD referrals. Class Teachers will now require 2 weeks to complete relevant questionnaires, both private and NHS, which form part of the assessment process for both ADHD and Autism. If you have an initial concern regarding your child, please speak to your Class Teacher and / or the relevant Phase Assistant Headteacher (Jen Beech Y6/5/4, Richard Farrow Y3/2/1 and Vicky Morris EYFS) who will advise next steps. Please note, school are unable to follow up directly with CAMHS regarding submitted referrals. CAMHS will correspond directly with Parents and Carers regarding referrals.

Educational Psychology Assessment (EP) with Dr Teresa Regan

Dr Teresa Regan is a school commissioned EP. She is not employed by school as a full-time member of staff. As a result, school operate a waiting list for assessment and Teresa is only able to assess those pupils, identified by SLT (Senior Leadership Team), with the highest levels of need. As Teresa is commissioned by several schools, it can take several weeks for her reports to be provided to school. The EP manages her own diary and school will advise parents in advance of any observations, assessments and meetings with regard to their child. Please note, Teresa Regan does not provide therapeutic support or individual interventions.

Speech and Language Assessment (SALT) with Helen Adkins (SALT Therapist)

Helen Adkins is a school commissioned Speech Therapist. She is not employed by school as a full-time member of staff. Helen is commissioned by school for 2 mornings per month. As a result, school operate a waiting list for this assessment. As Helen is commissioned by several schools, it can take approx. 6 weeks for her reports to be provided to school. School will share the report with parents and teachers as soon as it becomes available. Please note, the NHS SALT service have reduced their school offer further this academic year. School are now only able to submit 3 NHS SALT referrals, per year, for the whole school (approx. 650 pupils). Please note, Helen Adkins does not provide individual speech and language interventions.

Speech sounds / articulation difficulties

Manchester NHS SALT service offer assessment and 1/1 direct therapy for speech sound difficulties. Referrals can be made via the GP, school or parents (self-refer). The contact details for Parents and Carers is 0161 470 6770 / email - cmm-tr.SLT.Admin@nhs.net / Early Years Team email - SLTearly.yearsadmin@mft.nhs.uk

Occupational Therapy referrals (Manchester and Trafford)

Schools are no longer able to submit referrals to Occupational Therapy (OT) Services in Manchester. This is a directive to schools from the NHS. Parents must request referrals, via their GP or another health professional, such as a paediatrician. Schools are able to make OT referrals for pupils who have a Trafford based GP. Schools are required to provide 2 terms of evidence gathering to support this referral. OT services will contact parents directly, and not via school, regarding their child. There are significant waiting lists operating in both Manchester and Trafford OT services. Parents can contact OT services directly for further information.

Pupils with an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan) - Manchester and Trafford

EHCPs are issued to a very small percentage of pupils nationally who are identified as having the greatest level of need, and where it is noted, by the relevant Local Authority panel, that the presenting needs are both persistent and significant and cannot be met by ordinarily available provision in school, therefore additional funding is required. This decision is made by a multi-disciplinary panel at the relevant Local Authority and not by school. An EHCP application can be made by either a school or by a Parent / Carer. The Local Authority will correspond directly with the Parent / Carer regarding submitted referrals.

Further information regarding EHCP applications can be found on Manchester and Trafford LA website under their SEND Local Offer.

Please note, as per the statutory process, an Annual Review is held each year for any pupils who have an EHCP in place. This review is co-ordinated by school and Parents / Carers are contacted directly regarding the completion of relevant paperwork, prior to the Annual Review meeting.

Learning Support Meetings

Learning Support meetings are available for Parents / Carers of pupils who are on the school SEND register. Learning Support Meetings can be booked via the school office. If you have an initial concern regarding your child, please contact the Class Teacher and / or relevant Phase Assistant Headteacher (Jen Beech Y6/5/4, Richard Farrow Y3/2/1 and Vicky Morris EYFS), who will advise next steps.

Parents are able to book into a maximum of one Learning Support Meeting per term. As a school, we have a high number of SEND pupils and we are committed to ensuring our pupils are our priority. It is therefore necessary to limit the number of Learning Support meetings throughout the school year to ensure fair access for all pupils and families.

Independent advice / services for Parents and Carers

Further information regarding the SENDIASS (SEND Information Advice and Support Service) service can be found on the Manchester and Trafford website, under SEND Local Offer.

- Manchester website – iasmanchester.org
- Trafford website – sendiass.trafford.gov.uk