



ERASMUS DARWIN ACADEMY

Principal: Ms B. Astling

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9th October 2014

Dear Parent/Carer

In September 2014, there were significant changes to the law and regulations around Special Educational Needs. These changes may affect your child in the future.

The most important changes to make you aware of at this stage are the following:

- The removal of categories known previously as 'School Action' and 'School Action Plus' and the move to one phase called 'SEN Support.'
- The recommendation that parents should meet with schools throughout the academic year as required.
- The removal of Individual Education Plans to be replaced with Action Plans.
- The transition from 'Statements of Special Educational Needs' to 'Education, Health and Care Plans' (EHCP) over the next four years, by March 2018.
- The development of a 'Local Offer' by Staffordshire County Council.
- The development of an 'Academy SEN Offer.'

Many of these changes are part of phased national developments and will take place over a number of years. However, please note that, at Erasmus Darwin Academy, students identified on the 'Additional Needs Register' were moved to 'SEN Support' status from 1st September 2014. Students who are currently entitled to a 'Statement of Special Educational Needs' will still have the provision as legally prescribed by the Statement. Provision will only move to an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP) when this is recommended by the Local Authority.

As an Academy we have an obligation to publish our 'Academy SEN Offer' outlining our services and provisions available to students and this can be viewed via the Academy website: <http://www.eda.staffs.sch.uk/Learning-Support> The Local Authority also has to publish a 'Local Offer' containing all the services available to students with SEN and parents of students with SEN. There will be a range of services published including those in Education, Health and Care settings. You can find the 'Academy SEN Offer' on our website and published in hard copy in the main school reception. The 'Staffordshire Local Offer' is available on the Staffordshire E-Marketplace at the following link: <http://www.staffordshiremarketplace.co.uk/home.html>

I hope you agree that these changes will be a positive experience for students with SEN and yourselves as parents/carers. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Miss N Dean
Progress Leader

