



OLD OAK PRIMARY SCHOOL

SUPPORTING CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY - FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Here are some frequently asked questions regarding the provision for pupils with Special Education Needs and/or Disability (SEN/D) in the mainstream primary school.

1. Who are the best people to talk to at Old Oak school about my child's difficulties with learning, special educational needs or disability?

- In the first instance, it is always best to talk to your child's class teacher about your concerns.
- It is likely that the class teacher will have discussed your concerns with Miss Jude the school Special Educational Needs Coordinator. You may wish to arrange a meeting with the Miss Jude.
- If you continue to have concerns arrange to discuss these with another member of the Senior Leadership team: Ms Podersoo, Miss McCartney, Mr Prothero or Mr. Brown.

2. How will the school let me know if they have any concerns about my child's learning, special educational needs or disability?

- Your child's class teacher may initially speak to you at the beginning or the end of a normal school day and arrange a further time to discuss the concerns.
- The class/form teacher may also talk to you about any issues at a parent/teacher consultation meeting.
- The SENCo may contact you and arrange a meeting to discuss your child's difficulties with learning and any possible support strategies the school might be considering.

3. How will the school consider my views and those of my child with regard to her/his difficulties with learning, special educational needs or disabilities?

- At Old Oak, we believe it is very important for parents/carers to be involved in all areas of their child's learning and we actively encourage discussions. We believe, where appropriate, that it is essential to understand your child's views on any difficulties they may experience with their learning.
- You will be able to share your views and discuss your child's progress at regular meetings with the class teacher and others.
- If your child has an identified special educational need you will be invited to a termly meeting with the class teacher and SENCo to discuss current progress, support strategies being used and expected outcomes.
- If your child has a *Statement* of special educational need or an *Education, Health and Care plan* (EHCP) you and your child will be able to share your views at the Annual Review.

4. How does Old Oak School ensure the teaching staff is appropriately trained to support my child's special educational needs and/or disability?

- At Old Oak, we believe that your child's learning needs will first be met through the high quality teaching delivered by her/his class teacher.
- We regularly review the school training schedule and professional development for all teaching and support staff to ensure there is the appropriate expertise to support children with special educational needs.
- The school is able to access training programmes from different organisations including the Triborough Training and Outreach team, Speech & Language Therapy training, Outreach from Queensmill and Jack Tizard schools
- In response to particular needs, individual training can also be arranged when necessary.

5. How will the curriculum and the school environment be matched to my child's needs?

- At Old Oak we believe that your child's learning needs will first be met through the high quality teaching delivered by her/his class teacher.
- We carefully plan our curriculum to match the age, ability and needs of all children.
- The class teacher will adapt lesson planning and teaching to match your child's special educational needs and/or disability.
- It may be appropriate to adopt different strategies or resources and adapt outcomes to meet your child's learning needs.
- Additional specialist advice is sought when appropriate and, when necessary, accessibility aids and technology may be used to support your child's learning.
- Old Oak regularly reviews its Accessibility Plan to ensure that all children have the fullest access to the curriculum and the school site as possible.

6. What types of support may be suitable and available for my child?

- This really depends upon the nature of your child's needs and difficulties with learning. But our education provisions will match the needs of the four broad areas of need as defined in the SEN Code of Practice 2014:

Communication and interaction
Cognition and Learning
Social, emotional and mental health
Sensory and/or physical needs

- At Old Oak school we have a 3 tiered approach to supporting a child's learning.
 - **Universal** – this is the quality first teaching your child will receive from her/his class teacher and may include some very minor adaptations to match learning needs.
 - **Targeted** - it may be appropriate to consider making additional short term special educational provision to remove or reduce any obstacles to your child's learning. This takes the form of a graduated four part approach of a) **assessing** your child's needs, b) **planning** the most effective and appropriate intervention, c) **providing** this intervention and d) **reviewing** the impact on your child's progress towards individual learning outcomes.
- Specific targeted one to one or small group interventions may be run outside the classroom. These will be limited to a number a weeks to minimise disruption to the regular curriculum. You will be kept informed of your child's progress towards learning outcomes.
 - **Specialist** – it may be necessary to seek specialist advice and regular long term support from a specialist professional outside the school in order to plan for the best possible learning outcomes for your child. This may include educational psychology, speech and language therapy, occupational therapy, sensory advisory teachers and the child development service. The school may need to prioritise referrals to these

services. However, for a very small number of pupils access to these specialists may be through a Statement of SEN or an EHC Plan.

The current interventions provided at Old Oak are designed to support:

- Reading, writing and maths skills
- Phonics development
- Speech & Language development - Language for thinking
- Social & emotional skills

7. How will you support my child to reach his/her learning outcomes?

- The class teacher and other staff working with your child ensure that your child receives appropriate teaching and support in order to reach these goals. The learning plan, strategies and progress will be reviewed termly.
- External agencies and specialists may also review your child's progress and adapt their planning accordingly.

8. What is an EHC Plan and who can request for one for my child?

The purpose of an EHC Plan is to make special education provision to meet the special educational needs of a child or young person, to secure improved outcomes for him/her across education, health and social care and, as he/her gets older, prepare for adulthood. An EHC Plan will contain:

- the views and aspirations of you and your child,
- a full description of his/her special educational needs and any health and social care needs,
- establish outcomes for your child's progress,
- specify the provision required and how education, health and social care will work together to meet your child's needs and support the achievement of the agreed outcomes

You, your child (where appropriate and aged 16 and over) and/or the school, usually the SENCo or Headteacher, can request that the local authority conduct an assessment of your child's needs. This may lead to an EHC Plan.

9. How will you help me to support my child's learning?

- There may be suggested strategies or activities for you to do at home to support your child's learning.
- We sometimes run parent/carer workshops in school to help you understand the strategies used in school. In addition, we may be able to offer you individual training in specific support strategies relevant to your child.
- The SENCo may also support you with strategies, resources and ideas for supporting your child's learning at home.
- You may have an opportunity to meet with other professionals involved in supporting your child.

10. How is support allocated to children and how do they move between the different levels of support in school?

- Old Oak receives funding from the Education Funding Agency and/or the local authority. These funds include money to support the learning of children with SEN and/or disabilities.
- The Headteacher, in consultation with the School Governing Body, decides the budget for SEN provision on the basis of the needs of the children in the school.
- The Headteacher and the SENCo discuss the effectiveness of the school's current interventions and provisions and prioritise an action plan, which may include additional or alternative interventions, staff training and equipment needs.
- This process is reviewed regularly to ensure the best possible intervention is provided to those children who require additional support to learn.

11. How will the school know that the support has made a difference to my child's learning and how can I and my child be included in this review process?

- Your child's progress will be assessed both in terms of his/her regular learning within the class and with regard to specific intervention programmes.
- The impact of the support given is carefully measured to ensure that the learning outcomes have been achieved and if not, what adaptations are necessary. It may be decided that a further period of support would be beneficial for your child.
- You and your child will be kept informed and encouraged to be actively involved at all stages of this support.

12. What support will there be for my child's happiness and well being at Old Oak?

- At Old Oak we believe that the happiness and well being of all our pupils is paramount. All members of staff take this aspect of school life very seriously.
- You can be confident that in particular your child's class teacher, the teaching assistants, Head of Pastoral Care, Learning Mentor and the SENCo are available to provide support to match your child's needs.
- You should also feel free to contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns.

13. How is my child included in all the same activities as his/her peers at school?

- Old Oak is an inclusive school and committed to providing equal opportunities for all children.
- School clubs, educational visits and residential trips are available to all children.
- When necessary, the school will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that children with SEN and/or disabilities are included in all activities.
- You should also feel free to contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns.

13. How will Old Oak support my child in transition stages?

- We liaise closely with the school or nursery your child is transferring from. We are able to discuss with the relevant teachers any individual needs and how best to support your child in school.
- While at Old Oak, we take care to ensure that during transition points (between classes each year and at the end of Key Stages) all staff are aware of individual pupil needs, learning progress and best support strategies.
- Old Oak makes arrangements to ensure there is a smooth transition when your child transfers to his/her secondary school of choice. Please contact us for further details.
- If your child has an EHC Plan, we will participate and/or facilitate its review in sufficient time prior to him/her moving between key phases of education. You will be kept informed of these arrangements and asked to attend the reviews.

14. Who can I contact if I have a complaint about the SEN provision made for my child?

- Initially speak with your child's teacher and/or the SENCo. Hopefully they will be able to address your concerns.
- You can then contact the Head teacher, who may direct you to the school's [Complaints Policy and Procedure](#) which can be found under Policies on this website.

15. If I have any other questions about my child at Old Oak, who can I ask?

At Old Oak school we are very happy to speak to you about any aspects of your child's education. It is best to speak to one of the following in this order:

- The class/form teacher – this should always be your first point of contact
OR
- The SENCO - Miss Jude
EYFS Co-ordinator - Ms Podersoo,
KS1 Co-ordinator - Ms McCartney
KS2 Co-ordinator - Mr Prothero,
- The Headteacher – Mr. Brown

All Hammersmith and Fulham maintained schools have a similar approach to meeting the needs of pupils with Special Educational Needs and are supported by the Local Authority to ensure that all pupils, regardless of their specific needs, make the best possible progress in school. Old Oak is supported to be as inclusive as possible, with the needs of pupils with a Special Educational Need/s being met in a mainstream setting wherever possible, where families want this to happen.