



Inspiring Futures
Through Learning



Chestnuts Primary School
'Encourage, Enable, Empower'

SEND Information Report 2021-2022

At IFTL Trust Schools, we believe that all children can succeed and reach their full potential, in line with their individual needs and abilities. We value the importance of a nurturing environment where the children feel supported whilst also gaining independence on their developmental journey. At IFTL schools we look beyond the external presentation of behaviour to fully understand the specific needs of pupil and continually reflect on best practice and provision that would facilitate their progress.

What kinds of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities are provided for?

What are Special Educational Needs and Disabilities? (SEND)

“A pupil has SEN where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age.” (SEND Code of Practice, p94)

Chestnuts Primary School supports children with a wide range of additional needs across the four areas of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). The SEND Code of Practice (2014) states that there are four broad areas of need which include Communication and Interaction, Cognition and Learning, Social, Emotional and Mental Health and Sensory and Physical needs.

At Chestnuts there are currently one hundred and one children on our SEND register. Twenty-five of these have Education, Health and Care plans. There are forty-four children with Communication and Interaction needs (some of whom have a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder), twenty-one children with Cognition and Learning needs, twenty-three children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and ten children with Sensory and Physical needs. As a mainstream school with a hearing-impaired department, we have seven children with hearing impairments some of whom require a communicator to ensure they can fully access their education.

How does our school identify children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities?

At Chestnuts we have a clear process for identifying children with SEND. If the class teacher or a support member of staff notices that a child may be struggling with a specific learning goal or objective, they will try different approaches to address their needs and monitor progress. This is part of Quality First teaching. Class teachers will also complete a Pupil Concern Proforma outlining specific areas of need and what is already in place for that child. This is then shared with the SENCo for further exploration and monitoring.

Monitoring is a very important part in assessing whether a child is underachieving or has SEND. If a child has a persistent difficulty the SENCo will complete observations of them in class and the class teacher, supported by the SENCo will complete a range of assessments to assess specific areas of difficulty. The class teacher will then use these assessments to target areas the child has difficulty with. If after these strategies and interventions are implemented, and the child continues to not make sufficient progress the class teacher (with support from the SENCo) may decide that further intervention is required. This may involve seeking support and advice from external agencies. This may include Inclusion and Intervention workers (specialist teaching team), Educational Psychologists or the Speech and Language Team.

Transitions are also used to identify whether a pupil has additional needs. Whether a pupil starts with us in the Early Years Foundation Stage or joins another year group we will contact their previous setting and meet with parents to learn more about the child's previous experiences and needs.

How does our school assess their needs?

A range of assessments are used to establish an individual pupils' needs. The academic progress of SEND pupils is monitored in the same way as all pupils across the school, using our school assessment systems O track. All children from Year 1 upwards also sit Cornerstone Assessments in Maths, Reading and SPAG termly. These curriculum assessments show if a child is working towards, working at or working above age expectations. In addition to this teachers may also use more personalised assessments that support their individual area of need eg FACT, Lucid or Boxall Profile. This along with the background history, evidence of intervention and tracking of progress over time paints a picture of whether a child has SEND. If external agencies are involved, with parental consent they may also conduct assessments to examine an individual child's strengths and difficulties and set targets.

How will you support and communicate with me to help my child?

There are several ways that we will inform you throughout the school year regarding your child's progress and how you can support them outside of school. This opportunity is available for all pupils during parent's evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms. We also offer workshops, parent/carer drop-ins as well as transition sessions which will provide you with information and support about your child's current stage of learning.

For all children that are on the SEND register a 'Pupil Support Plan' (PSP) is sent home at the end of each term. This informs you of the current progress and provision that is in place for your child. Parent and pupil voice is also considered within the PSP with both parents and pupils having the opportunity to share and input their thoughts about the terms learning and progress on the plan. If your child has an Education, Health Care Plan an annual review meeting is held with the SENCo, class teacher and any other professionals who are involved on a yearly basis to review and update the plan.

What will the review process look like?

Teachers set personalised targets appropriate to an individual pupils area of need at the start of each term on their 'Pupil Support Plan' (PSP). These are then reviewed at the end of the term using any available evidence e.g. observations, class work or intervention sessions. Teachers will then clearly specify on the PSP whether the child has achieved the set target or not. Wherever possible teachers will conduct a 'Pupil contribution' where pupils are asked for their view to their plans, reflecting on their learning for the term.

These are then sent home and provide parents and carers with an opportunity to review the terms provision. At Chestnuts we endeavour to have a working relationship with parents where we are all in a partnership working together to support the needs of all pupils. As a result, parents are always able to arrange a time to discuss their child's progress with their class teacher.

If your child has an Education, Health Care Plan this will be reviewed annually whereby parents/carers, the class teacher and SENCo will meet and discuss the plan. The provision in place and targets are reviewed with both teachers and parents providing feedback on the child's progress and current attainment. Where appropriate, the child will also attend the meeting to share their views about their learning.

How will my child be prepared and supported during transition?

All transitions are carefully considered at Chestnuts. If a child is new to the school, families are provided with a welcome pack and a prior visit to see the environment and meet staff. Where needed some pupils will have additional transition sessions before starting full time. When starting with us in the Early Years Foundation Stage teachers will conduct a home visit where they will meet the pupil and their parents either at home or in their current setting. This provides us with a fantastic opportunity to get to know your child and answer any questions you may have.

When a child transitions into certain year groups or a different phase, teachers will hold a transition meeting at school to provide parents with information and the expectations of this phase.

During the transition to the Secondary phase, the SEND team will ensure that all children on the SEND register have the opportunity for multiple visits to their chosen setting and will meet with the staff at the receiving school to ensure that all relevant information is transferred effectively.

How will my child be taught within the school?

“High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching” (SEND Code of Practice, p99).

At Chestnuts we aim to ensure that all children regardless of need have access to good ‘Quality First Teaching’ across the curriculum. This is the effective inclusion of all pupils in high-quality everyday personalised teaching where the teacher has high expectations of all learners in the class. Quality First teaching approaches include clear lesson objectives which are explicitly shared, carefully introduced vocabulary, as well as making use of visual, kinaesthetic as well as auditory/verbal learning. Using Quality First teaching strategies from the beginning is the best way to support all learners and reduce the number of pupils who need extra support.

All children who are on the SEND register as well as accessing Quality First Teaching will have additional targeted support and provision. This may consist of adult support, interventions, resources, environmental adaptations, additional assessments and the involvement of external professionals where needed.

Children who have an Education, Health Care Plan or receive top up funding may receive a more personalised provision depending on the needs of individual pupil. This does not mean 1:1 adult support across the curriculum. At Chestnuts we promote the independence of all our learners and adult support is used carefully when it is appropriate.

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

At Chestnuts we passionately believe that all children have an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum. We work hard to establish an inclusive curriculum, with clear differentiation and multi-sensory resources that are able to meet the needs of all types of learners. Our curriculum is appropriately differentiated to consider all individual needs, we focus very much on the stage the child is at. Where needed, pupils with high level needs are able to access a bespoke, personalised provision which meets their individual needs and requirements.

Chestnuts aims to provide an environment accessible for all. Our website contains links to our schools 'Accessibility Plan' which details the measures in place within our external and physical environment, curriculum and provision for physical and medical needs that ensure that all pupils individual needs can be met.

<https://www.chestnutsprimaryschool.co.uk/about-us/policies-statutoryreports/>

It is our aim for all children to be included on school trips. Prior to any visit a thorough risk assessment is carried to identify any potential hazards and ensure everyone's health and safety is not compromised.

What training has been provided for staff at our school?

At Chestnuts we draw on support and training as and when it is required in response to the needs of our pupils. Training is regularly reviewed by the senior leadership team. All staff within the school receive access to regular training related to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Chestnuts also has access to Local Authority training as appropriate.

Whole School

All teachers, teaching assistants and communicators receive SEND training on an annual basis from the SENCo or external professionals. This covers additional needs within the four areas of learning as well as appropriate provision, strategies, planning and assessment for SEND. Recent SEND training as covered:-

- Understanding Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Speech and Language training
- Quality first teaching strategies

Using SEND assessment tools including FACT/FACT+ and Boxall

SEND specific training

All Communicators are trained to British Sign Language (BSL) level 2 and several additional staff members across the school have completed their BSL level 1. All staff who run Phonics sessions have had appropriate Read Write Inc. training. As a setting we have had Lego therapy training and these groups run across Key Stage One and Key Stage Two. Several members of staff including our Nurture leader have had the Nurture Network training. Currently, two members of the senior leadership team are training to become Attachment Lead teachers to in order for us to further support this need across school. One member of our support staff is undertaking the ELSA training and several support staff members working in Key Stage One and Early Years are completing the ELKLAN training to support pupils with Speech, Language and Communication needs.

The SENCo

- As required within the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (2014) the SENCo has undertaken and passed The National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordination (NASENCo). The SENCo also regularly attends Pupil Support Network group within the multi-academy and the Local Authority SEND locality meetings.

How can specialist expertise be accessed?

As a school we liaise with a range of external agencies to further support children's needs. Some of these include:-

- The Inclusion and Intervention team (specialist teachers)
- Speech and Language therapists
- Educational Psychologists
- GP's and School Nursing team
- Occupational Therapists
- Children and Adolescent Mental Health services (CAHMS)
- Children and Family Practice (CFP) and Children's Social Care

How can school support?

As a school we can support in submitting referrals to the Speech and Language therapy team where these are needed. We are able to contact the Inclusion and Intervention team for additional support and advice regarding pupil's needs. The School Nurse is available to meet with parents on a termly basis if required. Our Family Support Worker is regularly available to support and signpost families, and also makes referrals for families to receive additional support from external agencies.

What support is there for families?

Any concerns regarding a pupil's health or wellbeing can be shared with a GP or a member of the school nursing team. Milton Keynes local hospital also runs an Occupational Therapy drop-in clinic on a weekly basis.

Milton Keynes SEND IAS is a statutory service offering confidential and impartial information, advice and support for children and young people with additional needs and their parents. Information on how SEND IAS can support families is available on the Milton Keynes Local Offer.

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/special-educational-needs/mk-special-educational-needs-and-disability-information-advice-and-support-service>

How do we evaluate our practices within our school?

At Chestnuts we continually review our practices within school. We use the 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' cycle. To assess the impact of provision across our setting. All pupils on the SEND register will have an individual 'Pupil Support Plan'. Teachers will observe and assess pupils to identify and analyse their needs. A plan of support will then be put in place in order to meet individual needs with clear targets and provision specified. This support will then be implemented over a set time (do). At the end of the set period the effectiveness of the support and provision will be reviewed. Next steps will be planned carefully involving parents and the child themselves (where possible). The cycle will then begin again.



There are key times throughout the year where our practices are reviewed with other stakeholders. These include:-

- Reviews with external agencies on the progress of a child
- Assessment data and analysis by the Senior Leadership Team
- Annual meetings with the SEND Governor

Teachers complete regular assessments on all pupils and use this evidence to inform their teaching. Analysing pupils gaps and misconceptions allows teachers to adapt their planning and provision accordingly.

- In line with the new OFSTED Framework all subject leaders will be carrying out regular checks on their subject area by monitoring books, completing learning walks and meeting with teachers and pupils to monitor the practice within their area across the school. This includes the SENCo completing regular spotlight checks on the quality of individual Pupils Support Plans (PSP's) and SEND pupils provision within the classroom.

How does the school ensure an inclusive environment for all?

There are several ways in which Chestnuts ensures we are an inclusive environment for all. All children in our school have access to Quality First teaching: differentiated tasks for all individual needs, visuals in the classroom, concrete resources and consistently good teaching.

Each term we provide a variety of school run clubs (during the day and after school) which all children are able to sign up to. Providing that it is safe for them to do so all children are invited to attend a range of trips throughout the year.

Our school and classroom environments are suitable for all pupils with access to appropriate equipment and resources and accessible routes across the site. There are disabled toilets on the ground which can be accessed by all.

How does the school support my child's wellbeing?

All children's wellbeing is important to us at Chestnuts Primary School. We are inclusive and support pupils with a range of additional needs. Our behaviour policy celebrates pupil's achievements and steps are taken across the curriculum to promote and build self-esteem.

Our PSHE sessions focus on pupil identity, celebrating difference, promoting healthy lifestyles, fostering pupil's goals and dreams as well as exploring relationships with those around them. Regular 'Growth Mindset' sessions focus on teaching pupils the skills required to learn effectively. As pupils become more aware of these skills they develop resilience and begin to foster more positive beliefs about themselves and their abilities.

Teachers have the overall responsibility for their class pastoral, medical and social needs and as a result are parent's first point of contact. If further support is required the class teacher and parents can contact the SENCo for additional support and advice. We have a school learning mentor who supports pupil's wellbeing and a Family Support Worker who works closely with children and families.

What additional support is available for a child who is looked after by the Local Authority and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities?

Chestnuts Primary School has a Designated Teacher for looked after children who works closely with the virtual school team and Social workers and other professionals involved. The Designated Teacher attends reviews, organises PEP meetings and where appropriate liaises with other local authorities.

Who do I contact if I need further support or information about the provision for my child?

The first point of contact will always be your child's class teacher. You will be able to arrange an appropriate time with them to ask questions, share any concerns and discuss the provision that is in place. This usually resolves most concerns and queries. If not, an appointment can be made with the SENCo via the main school office. The SENCo, Senior Leadership Team and ultimately Head Teacher will always strive to resolve any concerns.

However, in the very unlikely event this fails, and a parent wishes to make a formal complaint, the governing body has published guidelines for parents detailing the necessary stages in the formal complaints procedure.

<https://www.chestnutsprimaryschool.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Complaints-Policy.pdf>

Contact Details:

Rachel Graham
Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)
Chestnuts Primary School
01908 373748

What is the local offer?

“Local authorities must publish a Local Offer, setting out in one place information about provision they expect to be available across education, health and social care for children and young people in their area who have SEN or are disabled, including those who do not have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan”. (SEND Code of Practice, p59).

Please see the following link to the Milton Keynes Local Offer.

<https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schools-and-lifelong-learning/send-localoffer/education>

If needed please contact the SEND department via the main school office for a paper booklet on the Milton Keynes Local Offer and all the services and support available.

Current changes under COVID-19

Currently, all pupils are required to return to full time education. At Chestnuts we understand that is this an uncertain and unsettling time for many, including pupils with additional needs and their families. As a Leadership team we have followed the current guidance set out by the DFE to ensure we are maximising control measures to minimise risk and therefore enable pupils to have a full educational experience.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> This is case for all pupils including those with Special Educational Needs.

Despite the day to day running of the school changing in line with government policy, a great deal of our provision and support for SEND pupils is remaining the same.

The following will still continue to take place: -

- All pupils on the SEND register will continue to have a Pupil Support Plan (PSPs) in place which will ensure that their individual needs are being met and this will be sent home at the end of each term.
- Education and Health Care Plans (EHCPs) will continue to be reviewed on an annual basis. There will be an option for parents to attend the meeting in school, with social distancing or via video call.
- All pupils will still continue to be assessed on a regular basis and where necessary teachers will use more personalised assessments to support pupils individual needs.
- The SENCo will continue to conduct robust monitoring procedures for all SEND pupils completing spotlight checks on PSP's and classroom provision for SEND pupils.

Current changes: -

- Pupils mental health and well-being are now a priority more than ever and all classes will be completing sessions on this on a regular basis.
- Our first method of communication will be via the telephone to minimise the number of adults on the school site. Despite this, teachers and the SENCo are still available for you to speak with. Please telephone the main office to make an appointment.
- Where necessary some external professionals will still come in to meet with pupils and staff. However, where possible external professionals will be providing support for teachers via the telephone or video call to ensure we are best meeting all pupils needs.

