

Elham Church of England Primary School

Creating lifelong learners guided by God's teaching.



September 2026

Special Educational Needs (SEN) Update

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope your children have had a happy start to the year and are settling well into their classes.

We feel it is useful to provide an SEN update at the start of the school year. This gives you an opportunity to find out about our SEN provision, any changes within the wider Kent SEND system, and who to contact if you have any questions or concerns about your child's additional needs or support.

- **SENCO**

I am the school's SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) and I am out of class on Thursdays to fulfil this role.

My role is to oversee and evaluate our SEN provision and to ensure that children receive appropriate support for their individual needs. I work closely with class teachers, teaching assistants, families and external professionals to help children make progress and participate fully in school life.

If you would like to discuss SEN support for your child or have another SEN-related concern, please contact me by email and I will endeavour to respond as soon as possible.

- **Identifying needs and providing support**

If we feel that your child may need additional support in school, we will discuss their needs as part of our pupil progress meetings. Where appropriate, interventions or other forms of additional support may then be put in place.

The **SEND Mainstream Core Standards** provide a framework for the support that mainstream schools can put in place for children and young people with SEND. They include strategies, adjustments and approaches that can be used to support individual

children's needs. A copy of the Mainstream Core Standards is available on the SEN section of our website.

Our teaching assistants may deliver targeted interventions and keep records of children's progress. Class teachers monitor interventions within their classes, with the overall provision overseen by the SENCO. Progress is reviewed regularly and support is adapted where necessary.

It is important to remember that a child **does not need a diagnosis in order to receive support for their additional needs**. We consider each child's individual needs and put appropriate support in place where required.

- **Individual Support Plans**

As part of the developing SEND reforms, **Individual Support Plans (ISPs)** are being introduced as a consistent way of recording and reviewing the support provided for children and young people with SEND.

Where a child requires additional SEN Support, we will work with the child and their parents or carers to identify their strengths, needs and desired outcomes. An Individual Support Plan will set out the child's identified needs, the outcomes we are working towards and the strategies, adjustments and additional provision that will be put in place to support them.

Our existing personalised plans will move towards this Individual Support Plan approach. ISPs will be reviewed regularly with the child, parents or carers and relevant staff. This will allow us to consider what is working well, review progress and adapt the support as the child's needs develop.

The ISP will form part of our **Assess – Plan – Do – Review** approach to SEN Support.

If you are concerned that your child is struggling in any area of their learning, please speak to your child's class teacher or contact the SENCO.

- **Inclusive practice**

A key part of the current SEND approach in Kent is strengthening inclusive practice within mainstream schools. The aim is to ensure that children's needs are identified early and that appropriate support can be provided within the school environment wherever possible.

We are committed to providing high-quality teaching, reasonable adjustments and appropriate additional support so that children with SEND can access learning and participate fully in school life.

We continue to develop staff expertise and work collaboratively with other schools and specialist services to strengthen the support we can provide.

- **Kent SEND reforms and Communities of Schools**

Kent County Council is continuing to transform the way SEND support is organised across the county. The **Kent SEND Strategy 2025–2028** has a strong focus on inclusion, collaboration, family engagement and improving outcomes for children and young people with SEND.

As part of this work, schools are working together in groups known as **Communities of Schools**. Our school is part of the Folkestone and Hythe rural community, working alongside ten other schools.

The Communities of Schools approach is intended to support children and families by:

- **Schools supporting each other:** schools share ideas, expertise and approaches that help children learn and develop.
- **Less paperwork and more focus on children:** reducing unnecessary administration allows staff to spend more time teaching and supporting pupils.
- **Earlier and more appropriate support:** schools work together to identify needs and access the right support and resources more effectively.
- **Stronger local provision:** schools can work collectively with specialist services and develop their capacity to support children with SEND.
- **Stronger partnerships with families:** parents and carers are an important part of discussions about their child's needs and support, particularly during key transitions.

- **Working with parents and carers**

We value the views of parents and carers and recognise that you know your child best. We aim to work in partnership with families when identifying needs, putting support in place and reviewing progress.

If you have concerns about your child's learning or development, please speak to your child's class teacher or the SENCO. We welcome conversations with families and encourage you to raise concerns early so that we can work together to identify appropriate support.

Parents and carers will be involved in the development and review of their child's Individual Support Plan where one is in place. We value your contribution to identifying what works well for your child and what further support may be helpful.

- **Specialist support and referrals**

Where appropriate, we can make referrals to a range of specialist services, including:

- Speech and Language Therapy (SALT)
- Occupational Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- The School Nursing Team
- Children's Mental Health Services

Some specialist services have significant waiting lists, and it may be several months before you receive a response. We will keep families informed about the referral process where possible and will consider what support can be provided in school while you are waiting.

Please be aware that parental consent is required before a referral can be made for your child.

- **SEN Support and EHCPs**

Most children's additional needs can be met within the school setting through high-quality teaching, appropriate classroom strategies, reasonable adjustments and additional SEN Support.

Some children have more complex or significant needs and require a higher level of support. These children may be placed on the school's SEN register. **A child does not need a formal diagnosis to be placed on the SEN register or to receive SEN Support.**

Children receiving additional SEN Support may have an **Individual Support Plan (ISP)** which sets out their individual needs, desired outcomes and the support and strategies that will be put in place to help them access learning and make progress.

Where a child's needs are more complex and, despite appropriate support, their needs cannot reasonably be met through the provision normally available within school, an **Education, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment** may be considered.

Where an EHCP is issued, it sets out the child's special educational, health and care needs and the provision required to support them. Children with an EHCP may have personalised provision and, where appropriate, support from teaching assistants and/or external agencies.

An ISP is different from an EHCP. Most children with SEND will have their needs met through inclusive practice and SEN Support within their school. An EHCP is for children and young people with more complex needs where the provision required is beyond what can ordinarily be provided through mainstream SEN Support.

We also maintain a record of children who require additional monitoring or support but whose needs do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the SEN register. These children are closely monitored and appropriate interventions are put in place where needed.

- **Further information and support**

Our SEN section of the school website contains further information, including:

- Our SEN Information Report
- Our SEN Policy
- The SEND Mainstream Core Standards
- Our Accessibility Plan
- Information relating to the SEND Code of Practice
- Information about Individual Support Plans

The **Kent SEND Local Offer** also provides information about services, support groups, activities and other sources of help available to children and families across Kent.

Parents and carers can also access independent information, advice and support through **Information, Advice and Support Kent (IASK)**.

We will continue to keep our SEN information updated as Kent's SEND arrangements develop.

Please do not hesitate to contact me by email if you have any questions or concerns regarding SEN provision or support for your child.

We look forward to continuing to work in partnership with you to ensure that every child feels supported, included and able to achieve their potential.

Kind regards,

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