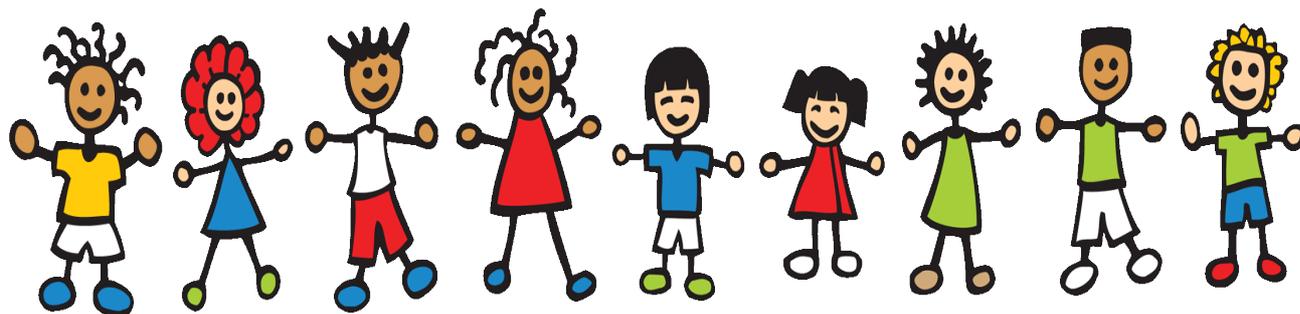




Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information For Parents/Carers



Q. What is the purpose of this booklet?

This booklet is designed to give you general information about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). Within it, there is a range of information that might help answer any questions you may have.

Please don't worry if you, or your child's teacher, think your child may have SEND. There are lots of people in school who can help and we will do all we can to make sure you and your child is happy here. There are a number of different strategies that can be tried to work out the best way forward for your child. Be assured that we all have your child's best interests at heart.

If you have any questions or queries about Special Educational Needs at any point during your child's time at St Stephen's, please do not hesitate to contact your child's class teacher or Karina O'Neill the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCO).

Q. So what are Special Educational Needs?

A child has special educational needs if he or she has learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for him or her to learn than most other children of about the same age.

Many children will have special educational needs of some kind during their education. Teachers will help most children overcome the barriers their difficulties present quickly and easily. A few children will need extra help for some or all of

their time in school.

Children make progress at different rates and have different ways in which they learn best. Teachers take account of this in the way they organise their lessons and teach. Children making slower progress or having particular difficulties in one area may be given extra help or different lessons to help them succeed. When children need interventions that are additional to or different from those provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum, they are said to have 'special educational needs'

Q. What do I do if I am concerned about my child's progress?

First of all, make sure you speak with your child's class teacher as soon as possible. Please don't think that your concerns are insignificant.

Make an appointment by calling in at the end of the day to speak directly to the class teacher, or by phoning the school office. Do give a brief outline of your concerns so that the teacher can best prepare for the meeting.

The teacher will be happy to meet with you to discuss your concerns so that you can work together to seek the best possible ways forward for your child.

If for any reason at this point, you feel you would rather talk to someone else about the situation, the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator, (SENDCo) Karina O'Neill, would be more than willing to meet with you to discuss your

concerns.

Q. If my child has special educational needs, what then?

Your child's teacher should take account of the guidance in the [SEND Code of Practice](#) and School SEND information report. If your child is not making progress as expected and are below the age related expectations (ARE) they will be placed on the SEND register as a child who is at the SEND Support level. An 'Individual Education Plan' (IEP) is written by your child's class teacher to record:

- what the targets for your child are
- what special help is being given
- how often your child will receive the help
- who will provide the help
- how and when your child's progress will be checked
- what help you can give your child at home

Q. So what does it mean for my child to be on the register for SEND Support

Your child's teacher will look for ways to support them in class, and will work with the SENDCo to find ways to support the child's learning that are additional to and different from those provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum.

This can include the use of different learning materials, 'catch-up' programmes, special equipment, or a different teaching strategy.

Q. So what happens if my child makes good progress?

Your child's IEP will be signed off and his/her name will be removed from the school's SEND register. His/her progress will continue to be monitored via the school's tracking systems.

Q. So what happens if my child is still not making good progress?

If there are concerns that the progress your child is making with SEND support is not adequate the SENDCO will ask your permission to seek further advice from external support services. They may want to ask for help from, for example, a specialist teacher, an educational psychologist, a speech and language therapist or other health professional.

The SENDCO along with the class teacher will usually develop a new Individual Education Plan (IEP - see below) based on this additional advice.

You will continue to be involved, and your child's progress will be regularly recorded and reviewed.

SEND Support Plans

The SENDCO and class teacher may decide that a SEND Support Plan would be useful. This is an in depth plan looking at the child's strengths and weaknesses in each area of need along with targets and support for each area. This will be reviewed at least 3 times a year with the parent fully involved as well as the child.

Q. What if my child continues to fall behind in spite of interventions and Support Plans.

If your child still does not seem to be making enough

progress, or needs a lot more extra help, we can request Lambeth to carry out an Education Health Care needs assessment. The school, an outside agency, or you (as parents) can make a request. Your child should have 3 reviewed cycles of a Support Plan in place before a request is put in.

Lambeth have 6 weeks to inform you as to whether they will agree to carry out an assessment

The assessment looks at reports about your child which will be provided by a number of people. These will include you, teachers, an educational psychologist, health and others who work with or support your child. This assessment will clearly identify your child's needs and what special help they should receive.

At the end of the assessment process, Lambeth will decide whether or not to issue an Education Health Care Plan or EHC plan. The whole process should take no longer than 20 weeks.

If Lambeth decides not to issue an EHC plan, it will explain why and tell you how your child's needs will be met inside or outside school. If you disagree, you can appeal.

If you would like further information about Education Health Care Plans please arrange a meeting with the SENDCo.

Q. Who could be involved with my child's SEN provision at St Stephen's?

The SENDCo at St Stephen's Primary School is Mrs Karina O'Neill. In collaboration with the Head Teacher and the School's Governing Body, she plays a key role in determining the strategic development of SEND provision in order to raise

the achievement of children with SEND.

Mrs O'Neill has the day-to-day responsibility for the operation of the SEND information report and the coordination of the provision made for individual children with SEND. Staff at St Stephen's liaise with her to develop effective ways of overcoming barriers to learning.

Mrs O'Neill is responsible for liaising with external agencies including Lambeth's support and educational psychology services, health and social services and voluntary bodies and sees that their advice is incorporated into the child's IEP. She acts as the link between these groups and parents and carers.

Mrs O'Neill, along with the rest of the Senior Leadership Team, decide on interventions that will happen each term, who will run these, which children will be involved and if any specific training is needed in order to run them. Several of these are listed below.

- Literacy Booster groups (these could be writing or reading)
- Dyslexia Support
- Maths Booster groups
- Precision teaching for maths (a 5 minute daily intervention aimed at improving recall of basic maths facts)
- Working Memory interventions to improve retention and processing skills
- Emotional support from the learning Mentor or School/Parent Counselor, Angela Giuliani
- Speech and Language groups
- Occupational therapy (to develop fine or gross motor

skills)

Q. Who are the external agencies?

Many other professionals work with our school to provide additional support or specialised learning for our pupils. With your consent school can make a referral to the external agencies for advice.

It is important to note that the wait times for these can vary.

When an agency makes a visit, they will meet with the SENDCo and class teacher to discuss your child's needs and they will usually want to talk with you (the parents). They may also observe your child in class and carry out diagnostic assessments. Strategies are agreed and parents/carers and school are given support on how to put them in place to support your child.

Q. Who are the main agencies that we work with at St Stephen's?

Educational Psychologists from the Ed Psych Practice

Educational Psychologists from Lambeth

Speech and Language Therapists from therapy

Network

Speech and Language Therapists Lambeth (Mary Sheridan Centre)

Occupational Therapy Service (Mary Sheridan Centre)

School Nurse / Doctor (Mary Sheridan Centre/Mawbey Health Centre)

Hearing Impairment

We also have individual specialists come in to support some children. These include:

Springboard Literacy

Angela Giuliani - a parent/child counselor and learning support

In addition, we take every opportunity to find appropriate training or run 'in-house' programmes to develop expertise in our staff in strategies and interventions to support a range of identified needs.

Q. How does St Stephen's support and develop children's understanding of disability and difference?

At St Stephen's, we aim to help all of our children to develop holistically, nurturing a secure sense of self and respect for self and others. We do this through our PSHE curriculum and our Christian Values curriculum.

Q. What else can I do?

St Stephen's fully recognises the important role that parents play in their children's school success. Only by school and home working together can pupils be mutually supported in order to achieve their full potential.

It is important for you to keep-up-to date with your child's progress. Find out from your child's teacher as much as you

can about the difficulties your child is having. If you have not heard from the school for a while, contact the teacher to make sure you are aware of what is being done to help your child.

- The closer you work with your child's teachers and school, the more successful any provision will be
- You have a very important part to play in the education of your child
- Your knowledge, views and experiences are vital in helping your child develop

Q. Is there anywhere I can get resources to help my child at home?

A Learning Resource Library operates at the school, currently every Tuesday morning from 8:45am-9:05am either in the playground or the school hall. It is free to join and you can borrow up to 3 educational games a week to play with your child at home.

Q. Where can I find out more?

Your first point of reference would be to look at Lambeth's Local Offer to see what services and resources they have in the local area to support you and your family:
www.younglambeth.org

Here are some other websites you might find useful:

ADHD	http://adhd.org.uk/
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	http://www.addiss.co.uk/
Anxiety	http://www.childanxiety.net/
ASD (Autism)	http://www.autism.org.uk/
Bereavement	http://www.stchristophers.org.uk/
Down's Syndrome	http://www.downs-syndrome.org.uk/
Dyscalculia	http://www.dyscalculia.me.uk/
Dyslexia	http://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/ www.dyslexiaaction.org.uk
Dyspraxia	http://www.dyspraxiafoundation.org.uk/
Education, Health and Care Plan advice	www.familylives.org.org.uk/IS02031313150
Emotional Wellbeing	http://www.youngminds.org.uk/
Epilepsy	http://www.epilepsysociety.org.uk/
Hearing Impairment	http://www.ndcs.org.uk/ http://bda.org.uk/
Physical Impairment	http://www.councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk/
Speech and Language	http://www.afasicengland.org.uk/ http://www.talkingpoint.org.uk/parent.aspx http://www.ican.org.uk/
Visual Impairment	http://www.rnib.org.uk/Pages/Home.aspx