



SEND Information Report 2023 - 2024

This report is designed to meet the legislative requirements for SEND information reports, which are set out in schedule 1 of the SEN and Disabilities (SEND) Regulations 2014 and section 6 of the Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice 0-25 years.

Introduction

Welcome to Ashlyns School SEND Information Report. The report forms part of the Hertfordshire Local Offer for learners with special educational needs and disabilities. At Ashlyns we are committed to working together with all members of our school community. We hope you find this SEND Report a useful source of information.

Elly Haezewindt

Inclusion coordinator (INCO)

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What is our provision for students with SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities)?

We acknowledge that a proportion of students may at some time in their school life require support to fulfill their potential, while others may need a little extra support for a short period to help them overcome more temporary needs. At Ashlyns School, as part of the [SEND Code of Practice \(Jan 2015\)](#), students who are identified as having a special educational need are considered within one or more of the following categories of need:

Cognition and Learning

- Specific learning difficulties (SpLD)
- Moderate learning difficulties (MLD)

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties (SEMH)

- Attention deficit disorder (ADD/ ADHD)
- Attachment Disorder / anxiety related barriers to learning

Communication and Interaction needs

- Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN)
- Autism (ASD)

Sensory and/or Physical needs:

- Visual impairment (VI)
- Hearing impairment (HI)
- Multi-sensory impairment (MSI) - sometimes referred to as 'Deafblind'
- Physical disability (PD)

How do we identify and assess students with SEND?

The attainment and achievements of all students are monitored by their teachers who are required to provide high quality teaching and learning opportunities adapted for individual students. Where a student is making inadequate progress or falls behind their peers, additional support will be provided under the guidance of the class teacher. Adequate progress could:

- be similar to that of peers
- match or better the student's previous rate of progress
- close the attainment gap between the student and their peers
- prevent the attainment gap growing wider

Where students continue to make inadequate progress despite support and high quality teaching, the class teacher will work with the Inclusion Coordinator (INCo) to assess whether or not a student has a significant learning difficulty and agree on appropriate support. In some cases it may be necessary to seek assessment by or advice from an external professional such as a specialist teacher or Educational Psychologist. This will always involve discussion and agreement with the student's parents/carers.

Identification of SEND may also be made in the following ways:

- Liaison with primary school/previous school
- Concerns raised by parent/carer
- Concerns raised by teacher
- Liaison with external agencies, e.g. physical health diagnosis from pediatrician

If a student is identified as having SEND and is not making adequate progress then their name can be added to the SEND list. The progress of each student on the SEND list is monitored regularly. A student may be taken off the SEND list if an evaluation shows sufficient progress has been made and SEND provision is no longer required. The SEND list is reviewed annually.

Who is our special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO) and how can they be contacted?

At Ashlyns we use the term Inclusion Coordinator or INCo, this incorporates the role of SENCO. If you think your child may have Special Educational Needs or Disabilities please contact:

Elly Haezewindt- Inclusion Coordinator (INCo)
ehaezewindt@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk / 01442 863605

Sarah Hughes– Acting Assistant Inclusion Coordinator (2i/c INCo)
shughes@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk / 01442 863605

Mrs Haezewindt and Mrs Hughes are supported by Miss Coregan, Inclusion Teachers, Miss Collar, SEND Administrator and Mrs Milne, SEND & VI Administrator. Mrs Haezewindt is the main contact for Ks3 and Mrs Hughes for KS4&5). However you can contact either at any time.

What is our approach to teaching students with SEND?

At Ashlyns School we aim to support all members of staff in providing positive whole school approaches towards the learning, progress and achievement of students with a special educational need or disability. We believe that: 'all teachers are teachers of Special Educational Needs and disabilities'

Every teacher is responsible and accountable for the progress and development of each student in their class including those students who access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff.

What is meant by 'High Quality Teaching'?

High Quality Teaching is that which is adapted to meet the needs of the majority of students. This would mean:

- That the teacher had the highest possible expectations for your child and all students in their class
- That all teaching is based on building on what your child already knows, can do and can understand
- Different ways of teaching are in place to enable your child to be fully involved in their learning
- Specific strategies (which may be suggested by the INCo or staff from external agencies) are in place to support your child's learning.

What are the responsibilities of the INCo?

The INCo is responsible for ensuring that:

- Teachers understand a student's needs
- Teachers have support in planning to meet a student's needs
- The quality of teaching for students with SEND and provision across the school is efficiently managed

What provision will the INCo put in place?

Some students will need something **additional to** and **different from** what is provided for the majority of students; this is special educational provision and we will use our best endeavours to ensure that provision is made for those who need it. The INCo is responsible for organising intervention for an individual or small group of students, which might include one of the following provisions:

Additional adult support in the classroom – Teaching Assistants (TAs) who support the teacher in helping the learning of whole classes; the INCo is also able to direct a limited amount of ‘hours’ of additional adult support in the classroom, in cases where there is evidence that students are significantly below the expectations for their age, meet Local High Needs Funding criteria or have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP).

Withdrawal sessions – when students come out of some lessons for pre-arranged sessions either with teachers, outside agencies or TAs to work on, for example, reading.

Our provision is arranged to meet our students’ needs, within the resources available. This approach reflects the fact that students with SEND require different levels of support in order to achieve expected attainment and progress.

The INCo consults with subject teachers, Heads of Department/Faculty, Heads of Year and with support staff to discuss the student’s needs and what support would be appropriate.

How do we adapt the curriculum and learning environment?

Subject teachers are responsible for planning lessons that are accessible and adapted for every student. Students are entitled to participate in all areas of the curriculum and it is the subject teacher’s role to adapt resources and activities, to ensure the student can access the learning.

Subject teachers are responsible for setting suitable learning challenges and facilitating effective special educational provision in response to students’ diverse needs in order to remove potential barriers to learning. This process should include working with the INCo to carry out a clear analysis of the student’s needs, drawing on the teacher’s assessment and experience of the student as well as previous progress and attainment.

Teaching Assistants are provided in targeted classes to support student access to the curriculum and to respond to students’ needs. Teaching assistants will liaise with the class teacher and INCo to support the students effectively.

In what other ways do we provide an inclusive curriculum and learning environment?

The INCo ensures that:

- teachers and teaching assistants have opportunities for relevant continued professional development relating to SEND
- teachers are provided with information, through regular communication and ‘Learning Support Strategies’ sheets on the needs of individual students
- we make reasonable adjustments within the school setting to meet the needs of students in

line with the Equality Act 2010

- we respond to outside agency advice and provide specialised resources where required if possible
- there is access to areas on the upper floor - we have three lifts and lift passes are given to students who require this access
- there is access to a toilet for the disabled - the site has five disabled toilets, located in each pupil toilet block.
- the school has access to various language interpreters when needed e.g. translation for parents evenings - please note that prior arrangement is necessary
- we respond to the views of students with SEND and the views of their parents/carers
- 'Study Support' is available to all students in which students can seek help from a member of the teaching assistant team - parents/carers can speak to their child's tutor for more information

For more information about the facilities we provide to help disabled students to access the school site see our ['Accessibility Plan'](#).

How do we enable students with SEND to engage in activities with other students who do not have SEND?

All students are entitled to be included in all parts of the school curriculum and we aim for all students to be included on school trips and extra curricular activities. We will provide the necessary support to ensure that this is possible.

A risk assessment is carried out prior to any off-site activity to ensure everyone's health and safety will not be compromised. This may include specialist advice from Advisory Teachers, where relevant. In the unlikely event that it is considered unsafe for a student to take part in an activity, the school endeavours to seek alternative activities which will cover the same curriculum areas where possible.

In some cases financial contributions are made by the school so that students are able to participate in activities where cost is a barrier.

How do we consult parents of students with SEND and involve them in their child's education?

We value the positive role and contribution of parents/carers. We make every effort to work in full cooperation with parents/carers, recognising and respecting their roles and responsibilities. Parents/carers are encouraged to work with the school and other professionals to ensure that their child's needs are identified and provision is planned and implemented as early as possible.

In order that they play an active part in their child's development, the school endeavours to provide parents/carers with the relevant information, via the website and through 'Insight', so they can reinforce learning in the home.

Parents/carers of a child with SEND support will have the opportunity to meet with the INCo at least once a year formally at parents evening and can request informal meetings through our SEND surgeries. Parents/carers are welcome to make an appointment to meet with either a subject teacher or form tutor to discuss how their child is progressing. Parents/carers can contact staff members through the school office by email or phone: **admin@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk, or 01442863605.**

Planned arrangements for communicating between school and home include:

- each year group has at least one parent consultation evening each year, when subject teachers are available to meet with parents/carers to discuss progress and learning
- each year group has a report schedule which includes two interim data sheets and one full written report. These are sent, via the parent portal of Arbor, home to parents/carers and provide a basis for discussion about progress in different subject areas

If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), then there are legal requirements for at least one formal meeting each year (Annual Review) organised by the INCo and attended by parents/carers, and outside agencies and input from teachers involved in the student's education.

How do we consult students with SEND and involve them in their education?

We hold the views of students in high regard and recognise the importance of gaining student views in promoting the best student outcomes. Students are able to share their views in a variety of ways appropriate to age and ability

- Talk to Form Tutor
- House Council
- Whole-school Council
- Student panels regularly form a part of the school's interview process for new members of staff
- Annual student questionnaire
- Student Learning Ambassadors
- Talk to a member of the Inclusion Team

Student views are welcome at any time but are specifically sought as part of their annual review, and at the end of a targeted intervention. We ask all students to contribute to their 'Learning Support Strategies' sheets.

How do we assess and review students' progress towards their outcomes?

Regular monitoring of the quality of provision for all students including those with SEND follows the school's assessment and monitoring calendar. In addition, the cycle of 'Assess, Plan, Do and

Review' ensures that students with SEND have their individual provision reviewed.



Where a student is identified as having SEND, we will take action to support effective learning by removing barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This **SEND support** will take the form of a four-part cycle through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the student's needs and of what supports the student in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as **the graduated approach – assess, plan, do, review.**

How do we support students moving between different phases of education and from one key stage and the next?

When students join Ashlyns School our goal is to ensure that our new students feel like they belong at Ashlyns before they officially arrive. Learning is most effective when students feel comfortable in the school environment.

From Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 (Years 7 to 9)

A careful transition programme is planned and delivered. The INCo, Head of Year 7 and Learning Mentor work closely with primary schools to organise activities, visits and an experience of secondary life for those students who are especially vulnerable at transition.

All students in Year 6 who have accepted a place at Ashlyns for Year 7 are invited to transition day. The day provides a taste of secondary school life, includes experience of lessons, information about how the school runs and provides an opportunity for students to meet their new classmates. SEND students are invited to an additional session, as determined by their needs.

Parents/carers are invited to a 'New Intake Evening' to meet key members of the pastoral team and to receive information about the organisation of the school.

The INCo and Head of Year 7 visit the main feeder primary schools to meet students, gather information from Year 6 teachers/support staff and to offer informal 'question and answer' sessions for students. For students coming from a Primary school not visited, an afternoon tea is held for parents and students to informally meet key staff and to ask questions.

Teachers at Ashlyns are provided with information about all new students' needs, strengths and background at the beginning of Year 7.

On the first day of the new school year in September, Year 7 students have an induction day. On this day, students learn more about routines and procedures.

Every student's school file is passed on to the Head of Year, (or, in the case of students with SEND, the INCo) at the start of Year 7.

Each year, a number of Year 7 students arrive at Ashlyns who are below national expectations for secondary school. For these students, additional literacy and/or numeracy is provided depending on the gap with peers.

Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11)

Students choose from a range of GCSEs at KS4, which help to prepare them for the next steps in their education, be that sixth form, college, apprenticeships or work. Students and parents/carers are offered advice and careers guidance at the appropriate time to help make these important decisions.

We understand that the transition from KS3 to GCSEs can seem like a big step for our students and one that may require a different set of skills. All Year 9 SEND students will be invited to a transition briefing in the summer term.

Students in Year 11 can request a one to one careers advice session with our independent Careers Adviser to help them plan possible routes for training or education.

Key Stage 5 (Years 12 and 13)

The school supports visits to open days and further education fairs for all students. Support with finding and applying for apprenticeships is also available.

Students are encouraged to consider attending University in the future and the school works with higher education establishments to provide experiences for students to inspire the ambition to pursue this route.

All information relating to a student's exam concessions and required differentiation is passed on to college or a training provider once places have been confirmed.

For students with SEND joining Ashlyns School mid-year or Sixth form

A student 'buddy' is chosen to support the new student for the first few days of being at Ashlyns. The buddy takes the new student to lessons, introduces them to other students, answers questions and informs staff how well the new student is settling into school.

Contact is always made with the previous school to ensure the transfer of information and the

child's school file.

Moving to another school

Contact is made with the new school to ensure the transfer of information and the child's school file.

Transition between year groups

From Year 8 onwards, where possible, the Head of Year moves with the children to provide continuity.

'Learning Support Strategies' are highlighted and made available to teachers at the start of each academic year to ensure information is passed on to new teachers.

How do we support students preparing for further education and adulthood?

Students who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) in Year 9 and 11 and all 'Children Looked After' are supported by Youth Connexions to create a plan to support Transition to Post 16 Education.

The Senior Leadership Team and the Heads of Year offer mentoring for students at points of transition through the Year 9 options process and into Sixth Form events.

SEND students who are also in receipt of the Pupil Premium are given the opportunity to complete the Morrisby test to identify strengths and career options.

How do we support SEND students to access examinations?

The Exams Officer, Mrs T Dolt, in liaison with the INCo, oversees all access arrangements for students who need additional support during examinations. She is assisted by Mrs V Smith, Assistant Exams Officer, and Mrs L Welshman, Exams & Access Administrator.

If a student has an identified learning need or disability which means they are disadvantaged in comparison to other students of similar ability, they may qualify for access arrangements for public examinations. There are a number of different types of access arrangement and these are determined by the Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ). The criteria that must be met for an access arrangement changes frequently and JCQ issues guidance booklets every year. You can access the guidance online via www.jcq.org.uk.

We will assess identified students at the end of Year 9 or start of Year 10 in order to ascertain whether students meet the criteria, and subsequently apply for access arrangements to be granted. An application is valid for 26 months and it is for this reason we apply no earlier than Year

9.

In order for us to apply we need to provide evidence of an ongoing need and show that the access arrangement we apply for is the student's normal way of working within the classroom.

No access arrangement is formalised until the end of Year 9/start of Year 10 and any arrangement made before that time is essentially part of the assessment process.

Please also be aware that having an Education Health and Care Plan or diagnosis of a Specific Learning Difficulty, does not automatically mean that a student will qualify for access arrangements, even if your child has regular in-class support; however, the Access Team will liaise with the Inclusion department to ensure they are assessed and that no student is disadvantaged.

If a Student Joins Ashlyns at sixth form and has previously received access arrangements they should inform the school so we can request their form and evidence from their previous school.

How do we support students with SEND to improve their emotional and social development?

The school uses a behaviour management system. See our Behaviour Policy for more information. Rewards and celebration of achievements are seen by Ashlyns School as the most positive way in which to encourage good behaviour, motivation and academic progress. Our School community recognises and celebrates the success of individuals and groups in a variety of ways and continues to review the rewards system in consultation with students, staff and parents/carers.

We have a number of interventions to support the mental health of all students and in particular for students with SEND. We have a small team of Learning Mentors and pastoral support in the sixth form, who can support students' social and emotional wellbeing. The areas of emotional difficulties may be:

- friendships and relationships
- anger management
- loss and change
- self-organisation

Students who struggle with social situations are provided with a choice of quiet spaces during lunchtimes and break times, such as the Inclusion room, where they are supported by TAs to manage unstructured social time.

The school employs counsellors, which students can access following a referral from staff to the learning mentors. There is often a waiting list for this type of support.

What are our principles for Behaviour?

Our school values underpin everything that our staff, students and governors aspire to achieve. They are based on moral, civic and performance virtues:

Integrity: we act with respect, honesty, courage and justice

Inclusivity: we play our part in the social contract with kindness, service, empathy and gratitude

Independence: we strive to meet our potential with resilience, determination, self reflection and self discipline

We expect everyone in our community to uphold these values and to recognise, celebrate and promote a culture of success.

We expect students to take responsibility for their own actions.

We expect students to consider the impact of their behaviour on others and to set a good example, both within the school and wider communities.

The rewards system will actively recognise those who make a positive contribution and uphold our core values and community expectations. Merits can be given by any member of the school staff and will be logged on PARS as well as regularly monitored by the tutor

Parents/carers are encouraged to view their child's behaviour record on 'Insight'. Reward and Consequence points are monitored by tutors and the Head of Year. Your child's Form Tutor is the first point of contact for any concerns about your child's pastoral and social well-being.

What if a student with SEND is unwell during the school day?

If the student is ill during the school day, the School matron and SLT will decide if the student is well enough to stay at school or not. If the student is too ill to stay at school, their parent/carer will be contacted and asked to make arrangements for collecting them as soon as possible.

In a medical emergency, the matron or first aider will attend urgently, and will call for an ambulance if the student requires hospitalisation. All staff are trained annually on administering Epi-Pens for anaphylactic shock. Students who have severe allergies or other significant health/medical needs are flagged-up to all staff throughout the school year.

What expertise and training do our staff have to support students with SEND?

SEND training is an on-going rolling programme of professional development for our staff, throughout the school year.

All teaching staff at the school engage in regular staff meetings on 'High Quality Teaching'.

The INCo and other SLT members provide regular CPD to support staff on specific aspects of meeting the needs of students with SEND.

The progress of all students, including those with SEND, is a core aspect of the appraisal process and identified professional development will support acquisition of appraisal objectives in developing the skills needed to meet individual student needs.

Teaching assistants are engaged in ongoing training.

External trainers are brought in periodically to address more specialist training needs such as dealing with specific medical conditions (e.g. epilepsy) or to train staff in the use of specific interventions.

Peer support and guidance is available for all staff in school and some of the best training development occurs through professional dialogue with colleagues looking at meeting the specific needs of a student.

All staff are informed each year on the needs of new key students joining the school – this can include additional training from specialist agencies or consultants, as well as from the INCo or other staff with relevant expertise.

The INCo and Assistant INCo have completed the National SENCo award

How will we secure specialist expertise?

The INCo and Assistant INCo liaise with many specialist services and outside experts, to ensure provision for our students is appropriate and meets their needs. The school works closely with external agencies that are relevant to individual students' needs, including:

- Health – GPs, school nurse, clinical psychologists and psychiatrists (CAMHS), paediatricians, speech & language therapists, occupational therapists
- Social services – locality teams, social workers, child protection teams, family intervention

programmes

- Educational Psychology Service
- Hertfordshire Advisory Service: Specialist Teacher Advisors – hearing impairment, physical disabilities, communication and language, SEND team and ESMA

How will we secure equipment and facilities to support students with SEND?

Resources are allocated to support children with identified needs. This support may take the form of adapted work in class, support from a Teaching Assistant (TA) in focused intervention in groups, or for individuals. Specialist equipment, books or other resources that may help the student are purchased as required. The Inclusion room provides a breakout area for targeted SEND pupils.

Funding for SEND is mainly delegated within our budget. It is expected that we provide support to our students with SEND from our SEND budget. Additional High Needs Funding on application to the Local Authority is available in exceptional circumstances. Pupils with Education Health and Care plans (EHCPs) level of top-up funding is determined by the needs outlined in the plan, through counties' [Banding system](#).

Specific individual requests are judged on a case-by-case basis and we make every effort to provide all students with the resources required to succeed within reason.

How do we involve other organisations in meeting the needs of students with SEND and supporting their families?

Sometimes we need to speak with other professionals such as Speech Therapists, Educational Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Social Services and Paediatricians because we cannot provide the level of support your child needs.

In such cases, we can help complete the referral paperwork and liaise with those professionals directly so that we can help achieve the best possible outcome for your child.

How do we evaluate the effectiveness of our SEND provision?

Through our regular data monitoring, observations of teaching and learning, feedback from students, parents and teachers, we measure the impact of the support provided for SEND students. If we see evidence that the student is making progress academically and that they are catching up to their peers we recognise this has a positive impact. Students may come off our SEND list when they have 'caught up' or made sufficient progress.

As part of our quality assurance in the school we monitor the provision for SEND students in the classroom. Members of the Inclusion Team, Senior Leadership Team and Heads of Departments, will watch aspects of lessons and provide feedback to teachers and TAs on their implementation of strategies. The INCo will also work to review the provision with the school's Link Governor for SEND who will provide an update to the Curriculum, Care and Teaching committee of the Governing Body.

How do we handle complaints from parents of children with SEND about provision made at the school?

In the first instance, complaints about the provision or organisation of SEND are dealt with through the procedures outlined in the school's [Complaints Policy](#).

If there continues to be disagreement with regard to SEND provision, complaints should be made to the Local Authority.

Who can young people and parents contact if they have concerns?

Elly Haezwindt INCo
ehaezwindt@ashlyns.herts.sch.uk / 01442 863605

Where can the LA's local offer be found?

Parents/carers are also encouraged to visit the Hertfordshire County Council Local Offer website. [Hertfordshire Local offer](#)

This website provides valuable information about support, services and activities available for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families.

Glossary

[SEND Reforms Glossary – a parent's guide to language and terms used in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Reforms](#)