

The information contained in this document should answer many frequently asked questions regarding provision for your child at our school. Please do not hesitate to contact us should you require anything further.

How does the school know if children need extra help? What should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

We assess all our pupils on entry to the school, and then regularly throughout the academic year. Through close professional links with specialists - such as Community Paediatricians, Speech and Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists and the Sensory Impairment Team, we are able to identify additional needs at the earliest possible opportunity, and will then work together to plan the best possible provision for your child. We have an open-door policy, and would be happy to discuss your child's needs and progress with you at any time. We aim to keep you fully informed at every stage.

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

We pride ourselves on being 'A School of Opportunity', and strive to ensure that every pupil is enabled to achieve their potential, regardless of SEN or disability. Class teachers provide a carefully differentiated curriculum, and support staff provide targeted interventions to address individual needs. We work closely with parents, carers and professionals to identify and address all barriers to learning and participation.

How will I know how my child is doing, and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

You will be invited to parents' evenings in the Autumn and Spring Terms, and you will receive a formal written report at the end of the Summer Term. In addition, you are always welcome to speak to your child's class teacher, the Inclusion Coordinator, or Head Teacher at any time with any questions or concerns that you may have. All our staff place the highest value on developing open and honest working relationships with parents and carers.

There are many ways that you can support your child at home, with regular reading being one of the most important. Your child may bring home additional resources to support their learning, and staff will discuss these with you in advance. Homework is set every week, which will reflect and consolidate the work your child has been doing in school. This may include spellings or times tables to learn at home. Regular curriculum information evenings - covering how children learn in reading, writing or maths, and other aspects of school life - are held throughout the year.

Classes also hold regular 'Learning Together' sessions, which offer the opportunity for parents and carers to join their children in lessons, and class and family assemblies take place every week throughout the year. Dates for all these events can be found on the weekly 'Pupil Parent Bulletin', which is sent out via email, and is also published on our school Facebook page.

For day to day communication, every child has a Planner, which can be used to send messages into and out of school, and to record reading at home.

What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

The school employs a Family Support Worker, who will work with you to facilitate access to additional services that may be useful. We are a Centre of Excellence for Inclusion, and part of an Attachment Friendly Schools programme.

Within school, we have Peer Mentors, a group of pupils who are specially trained and then supported by staff to help other children at lunchtimes. On three lunchtimes a week, 'Oasis' provides a room of quieter games and activities as an alternative to the playground.

Our school Therapy dog, Mabel, is always pleased to spend time with any child who would benefit from her company - she's a great listener.

Staff have a great deal of experience in building children's confidence, and engaging them in their education. We want all our children to love learning and to make the most of every opportunity that school life can offer. To achieve this, it is important that children don't miss any time at school, and we work closely with families and the Education Welfare Officer to monitor and maximise attendance.

What specialist services, experience, training and support are available at, or accessed by, the school?

We have a qualified and experienced Inclusion Coordinator, who oversees SEN and Disability provision throughout the school. Our staff regularly undertake training to develop their skills in working with pupils with a range of additional needs, including: Specific Learning Difficulties, Speech and Language Interventions, Autism Awareness, Epilepsy, Diabetes and Cognitive Behavioural Therapy. A private Speech and Language Therapist visits the school every week, to assess and support pupils, and to provide individual care plans which are then implemented by our staff.

Our Primary Resourced Provision provides placements for children with Statements and EHCPs from throughout the Local Authority, primarily those with Complex Learning Difficulties. High adult to child ratios and a focus on the core skills of reading, writing and mathematics, with a high level of nurture, help to meet the needs of pupils with diverse SEN and disabilities, from Year 1 to Year 6.

We also work closely with a range of external services, including Educational Psychology, Community Paediatrics, Speech and Language, The Autism Team, Sensory Impairment Team and Occupational Therapy.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

No child will ever miss out on a trip or visit as a result of SEN or Disability. We will work with you to ensure that your child is appropriately supported and can participate safely in any activity.

My child has additional physical needs. Is the school accessible?

The school is completely physically accessible. There are disabled toilet and changing facilities on both floors, and a lift provides access to the first floor. Soundfield systems are installed throughout the building for the hearing impaired. We continue to update access arrangements to meet the needs of our current and future school community.

How will the school prepare and support my child when they transfer to a new setting?

Where a child has a Statement of Educational need or an EHCP, we will arrange a meeting with Parents / Carers and the local authority SEN team during Year 5, to discuss and agree the most suitable provision for Year 7 and beyond. This ensures that pupil, parent and carer views are at the heart of the transfer process. We have excellent links with our partner High Schools, and work with them to provide effective, personalised transition programmes. These include High School Staff visiting us, and pupils making visits to their new schools over several months before the end of their Year 6.

How are decisions made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

We provide completely individual programmes of support for any pupil with additional needs. This may include a combination of 1:1 support, small group work, additional curriculum or social skills interventions, or working with outside agencies.

Any programmes of support will be fully discussed with you, so that you understand exactly what is happening to help your child to achieve their best in school. We review and evaluate our provision regularly to ensure that it remains up to date. If your child has a Statement, EHCP or receives Top Up funding, we will hold a formal annual review, to which you and all professionals working with your child will be invited, and to which you can contribute your views.

How are parents involved in the school?

All parents and carers are warmly invited to take an active part in their child's life within our school. You can contact Class Teachers, the INCo or the Head Teacher at any time to discuss any aspect of your child's education. You may wish to join our Parent Taskforce, Parents in Partnership Team or the Friends of the School Association - all offer an opportunity to connect with the school and to make a contribution, which we value greatly.

Who can I contact for more information?

Head Teacher: Mrs Alison Lawson head@barnton.cheshire.sch.uk

Deputy Head: Mrs Cerri Morris deputy@barnton.cheshire.sch.uk

Inclusion Coordinator: Mrs Bex Wieckowski rwieckowski@barnton.cheshire.sch.uk

Main Telephone: 01606 74784