

## **The Leeds Local Offer: Background Information**

### **Where has the Leeds Local Offer come from?**

The Children and Families Bill has made significant changes to services for children and young people, including services for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND).

The Bill was widely consulted on and was passed in Spring 2014. It was implemented from September 2014. The new Act was accompanied by a new Code of Practice which gave guidance on how local authorities and their partners, including schools, should implement the new laws.

In brief the Bill achieved the following in terms of SEND:

- Provided a new approach to assessment and care planning, with existing statements of SEND replaced with joint multi-agency Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP)
- Gave more personalisation of services, allowing families with the new EHCP to have more input into decisions about which services they access and how they are paid for. EHCPs will include a 'personal budget' and families will be included in decision about how this is spent. This could include families receiving the budget themselves through a 'direct payment' and spending it on services of their choice.
- Provided better information about what services are available and how families can access them, published in a 'Local Offer' of information. This will empower families to know what they are entitled to access and make choices to meet their individual needs.

Each school is required to publish a Local Offer which describes how it will support children with SEND.

### Farsley Farfield Primary School: SEND Offer

<b>Ethos</b>	<p>At Farsley Farfield Primary School we have an inclusive ethos with high expectations for all our pupils – we expect every child in our school to reach their full potential.</p> <p>All pupils at Farsley Farfield Primary School are entitled to access first quality teaching and a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum whatever their individual needs.</p> <p>All staff are responsible for the early identification, assessment, monitoring, teaching and inclusion of pupils with SEND as an integral part of raising standards.</p>
<b>Leadership</b>	<p>The school is effective at leading on SEND.</p> <p>The SENDCO has had 15 years' experience of the role and coordinates the SEND provision across both sites at Farsley Farfield.</p> <p>The Learning Mentor also works closely with the SENDCO to help deliver effective provision for our pupils with SEND across school.</p> <p>We monitor, review and evaluate our SEND provision every term. Termly SEND meetings are held and summaries of these meetings are recorded. The SEND register is updated and Individual Plans are reviewed and amended. Annual Reviews are held, in line with statutory guidance, for children with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and Funding For Inclusion.</p> <p>Annual reports are shared with the Governing Body showing what provision looks like across school and how children with SEND are performing in school. The governing body includes expertise around SEND and is able to promote effective support and challenge in this area.</p>
<b>The SEND Team</b>	<p>SENDCO – Lucy Swindlehurst Learning Mentor – Sarah Sykes</p>
<b>Budget</b>	<p>We receive funding for children with SEND. Some of this supports children with a 1:1 worker. Other children might be supported in small groups for set times in the day or to deliver specific target work, for example to deliver a Speech Language Therapy programme. Additional resources may also be purchased.</p>
<b>Policies</b>	<p>The following policies are reviewed and are available on our website:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SEND</li> <li>Behaviour</li> <li>Anti Bullying</li> <li>Curriculum</li> <li>Child Protection</li> <li>Care and Control</li> <li>Disability Equality</li> <li>First Aid and Medication</li> </ul>
<b>Curriculum, teaching and learning</b>	<p>We have an appropriate curriculum that meets specific needs of our pupils. It is designed to engage and excite our pupils so that all pupils are able to access the lessons they receive. We have effective teaching across school and teachers are supported in class with additional teaching assistants – these</p>

	<p>might work with small groups or 1:1 depending on the content of the lesson and the needs of the class. IEPs, IBPs, Care Plans etc... are regularly reviewed and new targets are set – the SEND Team will provide support with these as required. We access appropriate resources (including the use of ICT) to support our pupils. We provide a wide range of interventions including pastoral support to aid the social, emotional and mental health of our pupils with SEND. We have a fantastic outdoor school grounds and access to a sensory room. We have good transition arrangements in place across all year groups from Reception to Y6, then starting high school. We value the importance of teaching our SEND children life skills ready to be able to lead a more independent lifestyle.</p>
<b>Assessment</b>	<p>Assessment is on-going and takes place within every lesson. More formal assessments take place every half term. Quality First Teaching is a minimum expectation in every lesson, with work differentiated to meet the needs of all children. However, some children need additional support and interventions are identified and monitored for these pupils.</p>
<b>Training</b>	<p>All staff are supported to gain basic awareness of inclusion issues. We arrange regular whole school training for example: Level 1 Autism Awareness, ADHD Awareness, Dyslexia Awareness, attachment issues and Speech Language Therapy training. Staff working directly with children and young people with SEND will have, or will be supported to develop, enhanced skills to meet particular types of need. Staff who wish to gain specialist level skills and knowledge are supported and encouraged to do so. For example, we have a number of staff trained to Level 2 in Autism (Autism Education Trust) and 2 Lead Practitioners in Autism.</p>
<b>Partnerships</b>	<p>We have regular engagement with teams in the local authority including the Educational Psychology Team and the SEN and Inclusion Team. We work in partnership with other agencies including Speech and Language Therapy Services, school nurses, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Specialist Training in Autism and Raising Standards (STARS), Deaf and Hearing Impaired Team (DAHIT), Visually Impaired Team (VIT) and Leeds SEND Information Advice Support Service (SENDIASS). We also access support in our local area and cluster. For example: family outreach workers, guidance and support (through our Children's Centre), TSLs (targeted services leaders), and AIPs (Area Inclusion Partnerships).</p>

## **Frequently Asked Questions:**

### **What do I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?**

*You would need to speak to your child's class teacher or the SENDCO. We would use the expertise and resources we have in school in the first instance. If we felt further support would be needed, a referral to the SEND and Inclusion Team could be made. We will work collaboratively with you throughout this process.*

### **How will school support my child?**

*School will support your child in a number of ways. We have highly skilled teachers, teaching assistants and a learning mentor who have received training in different areas of SEND.*

There are a number of people who could work with your child, depending on the child's needs. It could be a learning mentor to support with social, emotional and mental health needs. It could be a teaching assistant to deliver a speech and language programme or some additional support with your child's Maths and English.

The education programme would be planned by the class teacher and any other adults involved with the child. This would also be shared with the parents by the class teacher. The SENDCO is responsible for supporting the class teacher in this process and ensuring that the provision meets the needs of the pupils.

### **How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?**

The curriculum would be matched to your child's needs through, in the first instance, Quality First Teaching and appropriate differentiation. Certain resources might be allocated to support your child throughout the day e.g. a visual timetable. Additional interventions might be appropriate – this might be 1:1 or small group work.

### **How will I know how well my child is doing and how will you help me support my child's learning?**

As well as normal reporting arrangements, there are additional times to discuss your child's progress throughout the academic year. These are arranged through formal termly Inclusion and SEND Action Record meetings (ISARs). These are organised at the beginning of the school year by the SENDCO who writes to every parent of children with SEND inviting them to three meetings. In these meetings you will be able to discuss: the provision that has been put in place for your child; the progress your child is making; and set targets/agree next steps – this will include any additional work that you can do at home. The class teachers will make a record of the meeting and summarise these details to you. These records are then sent to the SENDCO.

You can, of course, contact anyone in school at any time in the school year if you are at all concerned or want an update on the progress of your child.

### **What support will there be for my child's overall well-being?**

We place your child's well-being at the centre of our school. The Learning Mentor works very closely with parents and staff in school. Our curriculum has a strong PSHE emphasis; we work on growth mindset and we have whole school weekly ethos statements where equality and diversity are celebrated.

Our school grounds are also designed to enhance your child's learning and well-being – we have a high quality outdoor play environment including an exciting outdoor play area for the foundation stage, fixed play equipment, sensory gardens and a farm with chickens which the children feed and collect eggs from.

We have an area called the Woodlands Room, which has been designed to support children's social, emotional and mental health needs by delivering relaxation sessions, life skills and targeted interventions. Within this area is a sensory room (The Rainbow Room) where children have the opportunity to experience equipment such as a bubble tube and sensory toys.

We have all the appropriate safeguarding policies and practices in place.

### **What specialist services and expertise are available or accessed by the school?**

In school, our staff can offer a huge variety of support through the different expertise and specialist training that we have had (please see the provision map to explain the interventions on offer at Farsley Farfield.) We access a number of specialist services (see Partnerships in the table above).

### **What training are the staff supporting children with SEND having/had?**

Training is on-going and revisited on a regular basis. Staff have been trained to support children with a range of different special needs for example Dyslexia, Autism, ADHD etc... Staff who support children with SEND are also trained in the interventions they deliver. If we feel we need further support with our training, we would make a referral to another service to provide this.

### **How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom?**

All children take part in activities and school trips. Planning and consultation with parents/carers would ensure all the appropriate support and resources are in place so that any child can access what the school has to offer.

### **How accessible is the school?**

Our school has disabled access and facilities, eg. Care suites and lifts. If additional facilities and equipment is needed, we would seek support and advice from the Local Authority.

### **How will the school help my child on transfer to the next phase of education?**

Transition arrangements and plans would be put in place in good time – this might be at an Annual Review or an ISAR meeting and the parents/carers and child would be fully involved in this. Where appropriate, high schools will be invited to review meetings in Year 6 and additional pre-visits arranged.

### **How are the school's resources/funding allocated and matched to children's needs?**

If your child meets the criteria for additional support through funding, the SENDCO would apply for this. Funding For Inclusion (FFI) is currently paid directly into the school budget and is used to support children with SEND. Funding is usually used to pay for staffing who will be working with your child to meet their additional needs.

*Parents of children with an EHCP may request a personal budget and have more autonomy on how funding is spent to support their child.*

### **How are parents involved in the school and how can I be involved?**

*It is very important that parents are actively involved in supporting their children. This would be through attending Termly ISARs and working on targets that are set at these meetings. We can help support parents increasing their knowledge and understanding of their child's SEND.*

*If you want to become involved in school in any way then please ask – you are always welcome!*

### **Who can I contact for further information?**

*Applying for a place: School Administrators*

*To discuss something about my child: class teacher, SENDCO, Head Teacher*

*Further information about support services: SENDCo*

*Further information about the School Local Offer: SENDCo*

*Further information about the LEA Local Offer: [www.leeds.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.leeds.gov.uk/localoffer)*