

SEND Information Report

Lord Derby Academy

Knowsley's local offer makes it easier for families to find out about the support that is available for children and young people with SEND. All schools and academies in Knowsley are expected to identify and support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities to make the best possible progress. Schools are supported to be as inclusive as possible and wherever possible, the needs of pupils with a Special Educational Need / Disability are met in a mainstream setting, where families want this to happen.

Schools have a duty to publish SEND Information on their website which is updated every year. The questions on this template were developed with parents. Some schools have chosen to complete this template to provide their SEND Information.

Questions

1. What kinds of special educational needs does the school provide for?
2. How does the school know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?
3. How will both you and I know how my child is doing?
4. How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?
5. How will school staff support my child?
6. How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?
7. How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including physical activities and school trips?
8. What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?
9. What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?
10. What training have the staff supporting children/young people with SEND had?
11. How accessible is the school environment?
12. How are parents and children themselves involved in the school?
13. Who can I contact for further information?
14. How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school, transfer to a new school or the next stage of education and life?
15. What other support is available?
16. What should I do if I have concerns regarding the provision made?

1. What kinds of special educational needs does the school provide for?

Lord Derby Academy provides for children with SEND in line with the Equality Act 2010. This would be if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or have a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

The four areas of need outlined in the 2015 SEND Code of Practice are:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Mental and Emotional Health
- Sensory and/or Physical

Children with medical conditions will have Individual Health Care plans which specify the type and level of support required to meet their medical needs.

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

When deciding whether to make special educational provision, the teacher and SENDCo would consider all of the information gathered from within the school about the pupil's progress, alongside national data and expectations of progress. This should include high quality and accurate formative assessment, using effective tools and early assessment materials. For higher levels of need, school would have arrangements in place to draw on more specialised assessments from external agencies and professionals.

This information gathering should include an early discussion with the pupil and their parents/carers. These early discussions with parents should be structured in such a way that they develop a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty, the parents' concerns, the agreed outcomes sought for the child and the next steps.

If parents have any concerns regarding their child they are encouraged to discuss this with the school's SENDCo and can request assessments and investigations as they think appropriate.

3. How will both you and I know how my child is doing?

For those pupils with SEND, in addition to normal reporting arrangements there are opportunities for parents to discuss progress with teachers, TAs and the SENDCo. Planning meetings can be arranged at regular intervals or when required by either school or parents. For all pupils with Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans Annual Reviews are arranged as part of statutory procedure.

Parents are encouraged to liaise with staff to share information via a home/school planner or by direct contact with school. Teachers offer advice on how to support pupils at home and help with homework.

4. How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

At Lord Derby Academy pupils are taught in groups according to ability for English, Maths and Science. Staff are selected to work with SEND pupils based on their experience and expertise teaching those with additional needs. Work is differentiated appropriately for each child. For other subjects, they are taught as part of mixed ability form groups. This provides a wide academic mix for creative subjects and opportunities for all pupils to shine.

5. How will school staff support my child?

The full local offer of services available in Knowsley can be found at <https://www.knowsley.gov.uk/residents/education-and-schools/send-special-education-needs-and-disabilities> or by contacting 0151 443 5145.

High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEND.

In identifying a child as needing SEND support, the class or subject teacher, working with the SENDCo, should carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs.

Where it is decided to provide a pupil with SEND support, the parents will be formally notified, although parents should have already been involved in forming the assessment of needs as outlined above. The teacher and the SENDCo should agree in consultation with the parent and the pupil the adjustments, interventions and support to be put in place, as well as the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, along with a clear date for review.

At Lord Derby Academy there is a nominated governor for SEND who reports to the whole governing body on any issues/ successes/ concerns from the department.

6. How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

In deciding whether to make special educational provision, the teacher and SENDCo consider all of the information gathered from within the school about the pupil's progress, alongside national data and expectations of progress. This includes high quality and accurate formative assessment, using effective tools and early assessment materials. For higher levels of need, school has arrangements in place to draw on more specialised assessments from external agencies and professionals. This information gathering includes an early discussion with the pupil and their parents. These early discussions with parents are structured in such a way that they develop a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty, the parents' concerns, the agreed outcomes sought for the child and the next steps.

Where a pupil is identified as having SEND, school takes action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This SEND support should 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 pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. Should there be a concern regarding the provision made at the school the usual complaints procedure should be followed.

7. How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including physical activities and school trips?

Lord Derby Academy is a fully accessible school so all pupils are able to participate in all activities with appropriate differentiation and arrangements are made for inclusion on trips in consultation with the pupils and their parents. The school monitor closely access to enrichment and ensure that the Pupil Parliament reflects the amount of pupils with SEND at the school.

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

All pupils are able to access the Pastoral Support Team in school who liaise closely with the SEND Department to offer extra support if necessary. The SEND team offer pupils the facility to spend time in the department during lunch if they prefer a quiet area. There is the opportunity for social interaction with peers with support from Teaching Assistants (TAs). Pupils are encouraged to share any concerns/anxieties with members of the team and there is close liaison with both parents and teachers.

For those with medical/physical needs school follows the statutory guidance for supporting pupils with these needs. There is also a team of specialist TAs who work closely with those pupils whose needs are long term.

School will support the emotional, mental and social development of pupils with SEND which will include extra pastoral support arrangements for listening to the views of pupils and their parents.

If a child has a medical condition school will liaise with all professionals working with the child and will follow their advice and strategies to support the child in school.

School has a designated member of staff to support attendance issues alongside the appropriate agencies from the local authority.

The full local offer of services available in Knowsley can be found at www.knowsley.gov.uk or by contacting 0151 443 5145.

9. What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

Within school there are also a team of staff who have additional or specific responsibilities for pupils with

SEND:

Deputy Headteacher – responsible for SEND

The Learning Support team including:

1 SENDCo

1 Inclusion Manager

1 Inclusion Support Officer

1 HLTA

26 Teaching Assistants

1 SEN Administrator

Educational Psychologist (1 day a week)

Lord Derby Academy will also involve a specialist where a pupil continues to make little or no progress over a sustained period or where they continue to work at levels substantially below those expected of pupils of a similar age despite evidence-based SEND support delivered by appropriately trained staff.

School works closely with the local authority and other providers to agree the range of local services and clear arrangements for making appropriate requests. This might include schools commissioning specialist services directly such as: educational psychologists, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), therapists - speech and language therapists, occupational therapists and physiotherapists.

10. What training have the staff supporting children with SEND had?

All staff supporting the pupils with SEND receive appropriate training and this is updated regularly and as required. Specialist TAs working with those with physical and medical difficulties attend specialist courses and liaise with all appropriate outside agencies – Physiotherapist, GP etc.

11. How accessible is the school environment?

Lord Derby Academy is fully accessible for wheelchair users and there are identified disabled parking spaces. Adjustments are made according to the needs of the pupils and there is an Accessibility Plan in place. The site has lifts installed and wherever needed there are rise and fall tables.

All our changing rooms are accessible and we have disabled toilet facilities throughout the school. Specialist equipment required for individual pupils would be either loaned or purchased following advice from the appropriate specialist service.

12. How are parents and children themselves involved in the school?

Where it is decided to provide a pupil with SEND support, the parents are notified. Parents will be given clear information about the impact of the support and interventions provided enabling them to be involved in planning next steps. There are regular progress reports sent home and parents can communicate directly with the SEND department via home/school notes in the planner or telephone calls.

For those pupils with an EHC plan Annual Reviews will be held and pupils and their parents will be invited to contribute to the proceedings. All pupils are encouraged to contribute their views in school via regular questionnaires and via the Pupil Voice. Those pupils with EHC plans participate in the Annual Review process by attending the meeting and sharing their views in the form of a questionnaire document.

13. Who can I contact for further information?

If a parent/carer wishes to discuss concerns about their child the first point of contact would be their Form Tutor or Head of Year. Following this if the issues are thought to be about SEND the school SENDCo would be informed.

The full local offer of services available in Knowsley can be found at www.Knowsley.gov.uk or by contacting 0151 443 5145.

14. How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school, transfer to a new school or the next stage of education and life?

School operates a system of advance planning for incoming pupils by liaising closely with the primary schools. There is a transition team led by Mrs Ellis Deputy Headteacher. Pupils who have SEND are invited into school for extra transition sessions to familiarise them with their new surroundings, enabling them to meet the teachers and TAs. We select pupils who we feel would benefit, to join our transition group for Year 7. This is a smaller group that allows for a slower transition into secondary school life.

As pupils reach the end of Year 9 they are advised and supported throughout the important process of deciding options for Key Stage 4. The Connexions advisor meets with the pupil and supports them in choosing the most appropriate subjects for them to study. The pupils are given the opportunity to attend some trial lessons with support staff and along with close parental liaison the most appropriate subjects are chosen for Key Stage 4.

In Key stage 4 we prepare our students to move onto their next stage of education and life. We work closely with Connexions, teaching assistants and form tutors to support our pupils with application forms and interviews for colleges and sixth forms. They are given quality advice and guidance regarding options for Post-16. If required pupils are accompanied on college visits and representatives from colleges and schools come into school to meet the pupils and discuss their needs with the SEND team.

15. What other support is available?

Find out more about the local offer of support which is available for disabled children and young people and those who have SEND on www.knowsley.gov.uk or by contacting 0151 443 5145.

16. What should I do if I have concerns regarding the provision made?

Any complaint about SEND provision should be addressed in the first instance to the SENDCO who will be responsible for recording the complaint and the action taken. The complaint may be directed to the Headteacher. The complaint may be further directed to a SEND Governor. Should action need to be taken, the Knowsley LA complaints procedure will be followed.

Parents/carers may be advised of their right to refer matters to the Disagreements Resolution Service.