



PLYMSTOCK SCHOOL'S OFFER FOR SEN

At Plymstock School, we are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum to ensure all of our students make the best possible progress whatever their needs or abilities.

➤ **What is SEN?**

SEN stands for Special Educational Needs.

➤ **Who has SEN?**

The 2014 Code of Practice says: A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

➤ **What would a learning difficulty or disability be?**

A child or young person has a learning difficulty if he or she: has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age.

A child or young person has a disability if he or she: has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream school.

The SEN Code of Practice (2014) sets out 4 broad areas of need:

- Communication and interaction (e.g. Autistic Spectrum Condition)
- Cognition and learning (e.g. Dyslexia)
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health difficulties
- Physical and/or Sensory

Please note: SLCN (Speech, Language and Communication Needs) as a secondary need can occur within any of these categories.

Students will be identified by their primary area of need. The purpose of identification is to work out what action the school needs to take, not to fit a student into a category. In practice, individual children or young people often have needs that cut across all these areas and their needs may change over time and this will be reflected in students' IEPs.

To ensure that staff are aware of which students have SEN, the information is available on the internal school network. Each of the students on the SEN lists has an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The

IEP is usually written by the SENDCo (SEN and Disabilities Coordinator) in consultation with students, parents/carers and teachers. It may also involve consultation and advice from external agencies.

Students on the SEN register will have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or SEND.

Categories of SEN need:

1. **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** – the needs of these students go beyond the differentiated approaches and learning arrangements normally provided as part of high quality personalised teaching and may include appropriate evidence based interventions.
2. **SEND** – the needs of these students go beyond the differentiated approaches and learning arrangements normally provided as part of high quality personalised teaching and may include appropriate evidence based interventions.

In addition to the SEN register we have a pre-SEND student watch list. Teachers are made aware of these students and their needs but they are not on the SEN register.

3. **Pre-SENDS** – the needs of these students are met from our universal provision (Quality First Teaching), however there is some requirement for differentiated approaches and personalised teaching. Such requirements are modest and recorded on our internal school network and available to staff through SIMs.

SEND support in school is based on a graduated approach – Assess, Plan, Do, Review. The IEP and targets agreed are reviewed three times a year.

The category of need is reviewed regularly and revised as necessary.

➤ **How does Plymstock School identify and assess students with SEN?**

Students with SEN are identified in a number of ways at Plymstock School:

- Information from primary schools – students on the SEN register at primary school will automatically start Plymstock on the SEN register. Your child's primary school will pass on details about your child's SEN.
- Concerns raised following Plymstock School baseline assessments. These assessments are carried out at the start of Year 7 and indicate where students may need additional academic support.

- Concerns raised by classroom teachers following progress checks and class assessments.
- Concerns raised by parents.
- Concerns raised by professionals from outside agencies.

Parents and professionals are welcome to raise their concerns with the SENDCo at any time.

➤ **Will my child remain on the SEN register throughout their school life?**

As students develop and progress through the school their need for SEN support may reduce. In this case students may be removed from the SEN register. If a student is removed from the SEN register, this will be done in consultation with the parent and student. These students will be placed on our Pre-SENDS register. Students on the Pre-SENDS register remain on teachers' 'watch list'. This will be reviewed by the SENDCo throughout a student's education.

➤ **How will Plymstock School assess the progress of my child with SEN?**

- Each term Plymstock will complete a progress review on your child. This review is similar to a report and shows if your child is making progress in all areas of the curriculum.
- Each term the SEN team will review your child's progress review and contact you to review your child's progress with regard to their SEN.
- Following this consultation the department will make changes to their IEP if necessary, to ensure the support they receive is tailored to their need.
- The SEN teams meet on a weekly basis to discuss the progress SEN students are making, to review any difficulties arising on a day-to-day basis and implement additional strategies if needed.

➤ **Who will be the person responsible for my child with SEN? How do I contact them or arrange to meet with them?**

The SENDCo, Mr Robert Pearsall, Deputy Head Teacher, has strategic oversight for the progress of students with SEND.

Mrs Rachel Bush, our Deputy SENDCo, has day-to-day responsibility for the Learning Support department and is the main contact for parents.

You can contact Mrs Bush by e-mail at: rbush@plymstockschool.org.uk

You can also contact Mrs Fenwick, Assistant SENDCo, at:
kfenwick@plymstockschool.org.uk

All students on the SEN register will have a team leader who will be the first point of contact in relation to your child's SEN.

Ellen Blakeman: elakeman@plymstockschool.org.uk

Lisa Matthews: lmattthews@plymstockschool.org.uk

Kate Rice: krice@plymstockschool.org.uk

Elaine Whitehead: ewhitehead@plymstockschool.org.uk

Karen Fenwick: kfenwick@plymstockschool.org.uk

You can contact the SEN team by email or by telephone through the school switchboard (Tel: 01752 402679) Extension 264.

Concerns about academic or pastoral matters should be referred to the Head of Year/Assistant Head of Year or subject teachers.

➤ **What training or specialist expertise do your staff have?**

The SEN team have broad experience across the 4 areas of need and each area has a Team Leader with expertise in that area of need. Regular training ensures the SEN team remain up to date with latest techniques and practices.

We currently have staff who have expertise working with students on the autistic spectrum, students with communication difficulties, students with hearing impairment (including cochlear implants), students with physical disabilities (including a specialist personal care hoist room) and social and emotional difficulties. Many of the team are very experienced in working with students who have literacy difficulties, and we run clubs after school specifically to help with this.

➤ **What can Plymstock School provide for my child with SEN? What further support can the school access?**

At Plymstock School we celebrate that every child is different. If your child has SEN they will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) to meet their needs. This will change and develop as your child grows, makes progress and develops into a young adult.

At Plymstock School **Quality First Teaching**, differentiated to meet the

needs of individual learners is our core strategy for supporting students with SEN. In addition, teaching assistants are timetabled to support students who have an education, health and care plan and other students with SEN. Additional classroom support is designed to help our students with SEN participate in all aspects of classroom activities and school life. We also offer additional literacy lessons and interventions to assist students struggling with social difficulties.

Away from the classroom we can also offer:

- Homework Club after school
- Reading Club
- Handwriting Club
- Spelling Club
- Before school 'meet and greet'
- Staffed rooms at break and lunch
- Enhanced home/school communication
- Literacy intervention / support
- Visual stress advice
- Enhanced transition from primary school
- Help with transitions from year to year
- Differentiated curriculum within each subject area
- Adapted equipment where and when needed
- First aiders trained in manual handling and personal care

We can also access:

- Educational psychologists
- Speech and language therapists
- Physiotherapist
- School nurse
- Plymouth Advisory Learning Support (PALs)
- Communication Interaction Team (CiT)
- Inclusion works
- Children's integrated Disability Service
- Plymouth advisory team for sensory support
- CAMHS
- Advisory hearing impaired teacher
- Child development centre
- Careers Advice
- Education Welfare Officer

➤ **How will you support me as a parent/carer to share my views/concerns and work with you?**

Parents'/carers' views and concerns are very important. You are entrusting us with your child, whom you know better than anyone. Good two-way communication with you will be crucial for your child to succeed. Your child may have a home-school link book because they are unable to take important information home themselves. They might not need that and instead you may have a list of e-mail addresses to contact your child's teachers. You may need to contact the SENDCo or teaching assistant team leader regularly, which would be welcome. We will support and listen to you. We want the same thing as you – for your child to be happy and to succeed at school.

➤ **If I am not happy with the provision at the school, how can I share my concerns or make a complaint?**

Please let the SENDCo know if you are unhappy. Together we will look at the problem and work together to resolve it. If you are still unhappy after this point, please contact the Headteacher, Mr Diment.

➤ **What support services or groups can I contact to provide additional advice and support for my family?**

Within Plymouth there are a huge number of support agencies that will be able to offer you support and advice. Parent Partnership – telephone (01752) 258933 – is the perfect place to start. Alternatively, please contact the Learning Support department or Hub (pastoral and academic support) at Plymstock School and we will do what we can to get the advice and support you need.

➤ **Where can I find information about the local authority Local Offer for children and young people with SEN and their families?**

Please follow this hyperlink (just 'double click' on the blue writing)

[Plymouth Online Directory](#)

It will open a page with Plymouth's local offer.