

# Dame Ellen Pinsent School

## SEND Information Dame Ellen Pinsent Local Offer



*Where children are happy;*

*developing independence and confidence, so that they can be their very best*

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# SEND Information and Local Offer

From September 2014, all schools are expected to publish information about their provision for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This includes the 'Local Offer', which helps parents/carers understand what services they and their families can expect from a range of local agencies.

## Frequently Asked Questions

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- 1) What kinds of Special Educational Needs does the school make provision for? What type of provision does the school make and how do they know it works?**

Types of need	Examples in our school	How we check it is working
Cognition and Learning	Smaller classes. Favourable adult to child ratios. Personalised targets for pupils.	Regular assessments of personal targets, linked to the EHCPS
Communication and Interaction These children would generally: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- have some functional communication</li> <li>- have some social interaction difficulties</li> <li>- be able to follow some structured and predictable classroom routines.</li> </ul>	Use of total communication approach e.g. Makaton, objects of reference photographs and symbols. Independent speech therapist 4 days per week. Use of PECS (picture exchange communication system) to aid communication. 2 Speech and Language Assistants Use of visual timetables in all classes. Some class staff, including some lunchtime supervisors have received training to either level 1 or 2 from the Autism Education Trust  NHS SALT works closely with school for 3 days per term.	Monitoring and support by Communication team. Review of targets by Speech and Language Therapists. Termly meetings between Speech and Language Therapist and Class Teachers. Learning walks looking at environment and individual strategies. Regular monitoring of pupil progress

## 2) How does the school identify and assess Special Educational Needs?

All pupils have SEND and have Education Health and Care Plans.

### **3) How do the school know how much progress is being made by pupils with Special Educational Needs?**

All pupils are base-lined on entry and their progress is monitored and analysed termly. All children have challenging targets that are set according to their individual starting points in school. On top of the academic targets children have personal targets that focuses in on their main barrier to learning, as identified in their EHCP. Targets are shared with parents and are reviewed at least termly and updated as necessary.

### **4) What extra-curricular activities can a pupil with Special Educational Needs access at School?**

We have a close Partnership with Aston Villa Football Club and our football team play in a league against other special schools. Also at lunchtimes there is a wide variety of clubs that the children can

access including art club, Go Noodle club and construction club. We are lucky enough to have a lovely outside area, which children can access at playtimes and lunchtimes to practice their physical skills and develop turn taking and social skills. During the Summer Term we hold a leavers disco. Our older children have the opportunity to go on a residential trip in the Summer term and we have two venues so that we can offer trips to children in both Woodlands and Orchards pathway.

**5) Does the school have a Special Educational Needs Coordinator, if so who are they and how can someone get in touch with them?**

Our SENDCo is Donna Cater and she can be contacted via the school office (0121 675 2487)

**6) What training do the staff in the school have in relation to pupils with Special Educational Needs?**

Most of our classroom staff have received Makaton training, Autism training, PECS and Team Teach training. All of our staff are experienced at working with pupils with SEND and we have staff that are trained in using TEACCH, CBT, Attention Autism and TAC PAC. During the year staff receive many different training opportunities, including updates on medical conditions, curriculum and assessment changes.

## **7) How does the school get more specialist help for pupils if they need it?**

We receive professional advice and support from our school nurse, our independent speech therapist and NHS speech therapist. As a school we buy into the Educational Psychology service and children who have hearing or visual impairment will receive support from the Sensory Support Team. We are a problem solving school and will seek advice from all agencies that we feel necessary and buy in support from Malachi Family Support, Independent Family Support

and a Therapeutic Mentor. We work closely with medical professionals including the Special School Nursing Team, Paediatrician and Forward Thinking Birmingham if they are working with any individuals at school.

### **8) How are parents of children and young people with Special Educational Needs involved in their own education?**

Parents are invited into school for Annual EHCP Review meetings and for Parents Evenings. They are also invited in for class assemblies and Parent workshops. The school website is regularly updated and parents can receive text messages telling them of up and coming events or appointments. School newsletters are sent home every half term. Communication between home and school is vital and whole class daily comments and photos are added to the class pages Class Dojo, personalised comments are sent via private messenger on Class Dojo at least weekly too. If parents cannot access Class Dojo then home school books will be offered.

## **9) How are pupils with Special Educational Needs involved in their own education?**

All children in school provide their views for their annual review and they are invited to attend their review meeting, if it is appropriate. We have a School Council and Rights Respecting Rangers who meet regularly to discuss school matters and to help make some decisions about school improvement and how to promote children rights within the school and home environment. They are voted for by their class peers. There is an annual questionnaire that finds out pupils' views about school and how safe they feel at school.

## **10) If a parent or a child with SEND has a complaint about the school, how does the governing body deal with the complaint?**

Parents are encouraged to contact the school in the first instance and speak to the Head Teacher. If required the complaint is then referred



to the Chair of Governors following the schools Complaints Procedure.

**11) How does the Governing body involve other people in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs including support for their families?**

The Governing body are committed to supporting children and their families both in school and in their home environment.

We run regular parent workshops to develop the relationships between home and school.

**12) Who are the support services that can help parents with pupils who have special educational needs?**

SENDIASS, formally Parent Partnership, support parents, offer advice and can help to organise school visits and they can be contacted on 0121 303 5004. SENAR are the department within the Local Authority

who manage the assessment process, they can be contacted on (0121 303 8461). If parents require further support or advice then we can suggest other agencies, such as Autism West Midlands, Children's Information and Advice Service, Midlands Mencap, SENSE or the Early Help Hubs.

### **13) How does the school support pupils with SEND through Transition?**

All pupils will be given the opportunity to come into school to meet their teacher and see their classroom before they start school. They will receive a transition booklet, which contains photos of the school and staff. Transition is planned on an individual basis and is suited to meet the needs of the individual child. Most of our children start school in the September and before they start parents will be invited into school to attend a transition evening, where they will find out more about school policies and procedures.

Planning transition to secondary school starts in the Spring Term of Year 5. Parents will be invited into school and will be given the opportunity to meet staff from the main secondary schools that our pupils attend. Once secondary school placements are confirmed we will work with the child's next school to provide the right transition package for each child.

#### **14) How can parents find the Birmingham Local Authorities Local Offer?**

Birmingham's Local offer can be found on the following website:

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk/>

(external link).