

SENDCo Newsletter – Advent 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back! I hope you are all well and have had a fun-filled summer holiday. To reintroduce myself, my name is Mrs Lawrence and I am the SENDCo and Year 5 class teacher here at English Martyrs'.



I would like to take this opportunity at the start of a new academic year to share our approach to supporting pupils with SEND again with you. As with all schools, we work in line with the SEND Code of Practice and our Local Offer (please find links to these at the bottom for further information).

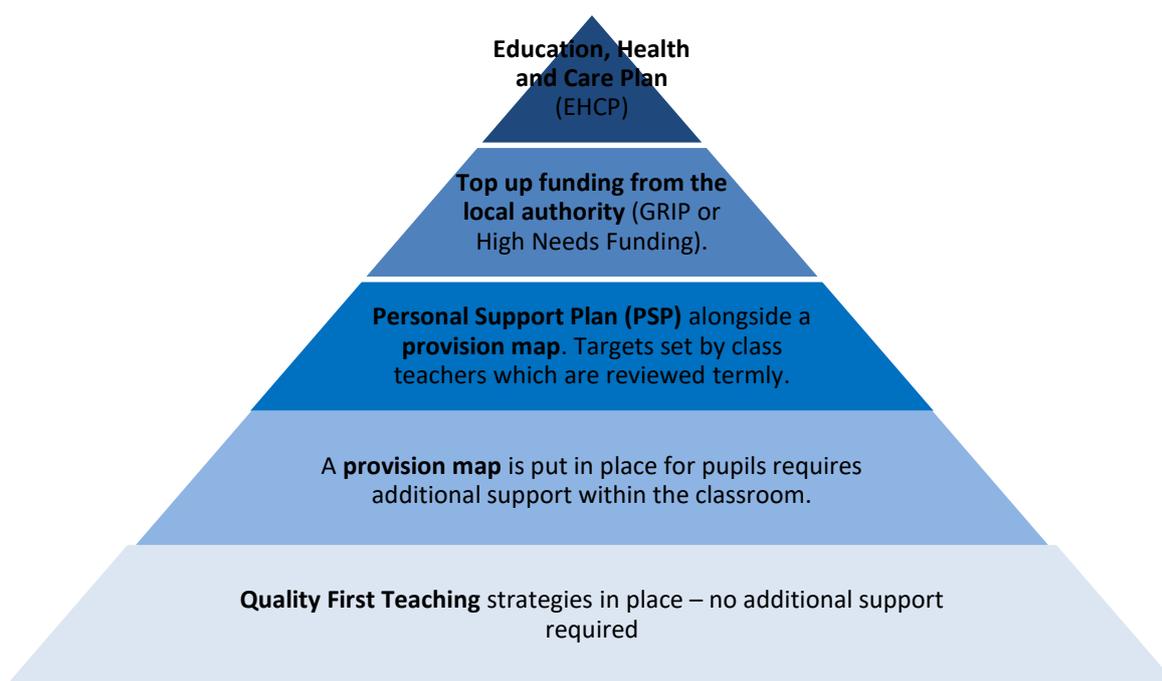
The new academic year

We understand that the start of a new academic year can be a daunting time for many children, particularly those with SEND. Many of our teachers have 'moved up a year' to allow for a smoother transition and continued learning following the disruption of school closures in the last two academic years. However, if your child has a new class teacher, please be assured that they have worked closely with previous staff members to allow for a smooth transition in to their new class. If we feel that any child requires additional or bespoke settling in activities to that already in place, we will discuss this with you and your child. This is usually in cases where there is a transition to a new phase (EYFS to KS1, KS1 to KS2, or Lower KS2 to Upper KS2). Please speak to your child's current class teacher if you have any questions.

What to do if you have any concerns about your child

If you have any concerns about your child's progress, in the first instance, **please speak to your child's class teacher and/or the SENDCo**. We will always listen and work with you to support your child in whatever way we can. If you would like a meeting, please ring the school office on **0115 9733209** or email enquiries@eng.srscmat.co.uk

Levels of SEND support at English Martyrs'



At English Martyrs', we are proud of the fact that staff know all children, particularly those with SEND, incredibly well. Levels of support for children with SEND will vary depending on the individual needs of each child and will form part of our graduated response.

For the majority of children in school, including some with SEND, quality first teaching strategies are sufficient for them to make good progress against the age-related expectations of the national curriculum.

However, many children need additional support in place in order for them to thrive. At a school level, we will map out what additional strategies a child needs in the classroom on a **provision map** (for example they may require the use of visual aids and timetables). If, despite quality first teaching and additional strategies, we are concerned about a child's progress, we will aim to implement a **Personal Support Plan (PSP)**. This is a working document that is co-produced by the child, their parents/carers and the class teacher, and has three termly targets for the child to work towards. You will be given copies of your child's PSP at the start of each term and progress against these individual targets is reviewed at the end of each term. (These meetings are in addition to our parents evenings in the Advent and Lent terms.)

If progress is still not being made and concerns are still apparent, it may be necessary for the school to consider applying for top-up funding from the local authority. This takes the form of GRIP funding in Derbyshire and High Needs Funding in Nottinghamshire. The highest level of support available is an Educational Health Care Plan (EHC Plan), which requires an assessment from a team of professionals. Further information about top up funding and EHC Plans can be found on the Local Offer website (link at the bottom of the newsletter).

In order to effectively carry out our graduated response, it may be necessary to share information about your child with other professionals. Whenever this happens this will always be communicated with you and only with your consent. If you are happy for this to happen, **please sign and return parental consent forms as soon as possible when given to you by a teacher.**

Where else can parents get help?

Below are links to further information and other means of support for parents and families of young people with SEND in Derbyshire.

Derbyshire Local Offer <https://localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk/>

The Local Offer provides information for children and young people with special educational needs (SEND) and their parents or carers in a single place. It shows families what they can expect from a range of local agencies including education, health and social care.

Derbyshire Parent Forum <https://derbyshireparentforums.co.uk/>

A registered charity which is run by parent/carer volunteers with children/young people with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. They organise parent participation, providing the opportunity to talk about all the services they receive in Derbyshire.

DIASS (Derbyshire Information, Advice and Support Service for SEND)

<https://www.derbyshireiass.co.uk/home.aspx>

DIASS provides independent information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), as well as their parents and carers. They are impartial, confidential, and works at arm's length from the local authority. Their advice is free and accessible to all parents of children with SEND.

Please continue to share any information with regards to updates for your children, for example medical appointments or letters received from professionals or agencies. This really helps us to support your children as best as we possibly can in school.

I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank you in advance for your support and for working with us over the next academic year.

Best wishes,

Mrs Lawrence

SENDCo and Year 5 class teacher