



SENCo Newsletter Advent



Welcome Back!

Dear Parents/Carers,
I hope you are all well and have had a fun-filled summer holiday. To introduce myself, my name is Miss Firth and I am the new SENCo and Year 2 class teacher here at English Martyrs'. Please feel free to come and talk to me on the playground or contact me at any time via the office.



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. If your child has a new class teacher, please be assured that they have worked closely with previous staff members alongside class swap days, taking time to plan in additional transition activities for those who need this to allow for a smoother start to the year. 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 sometimes required in cases where there is a transition to a new phase (EYFS to KS1, KS1 to KS2, or Lower KS2 to Upper KS2). Class teachers will be in touch with parents of all children currently on our SEND Register to discuss the year ahead.

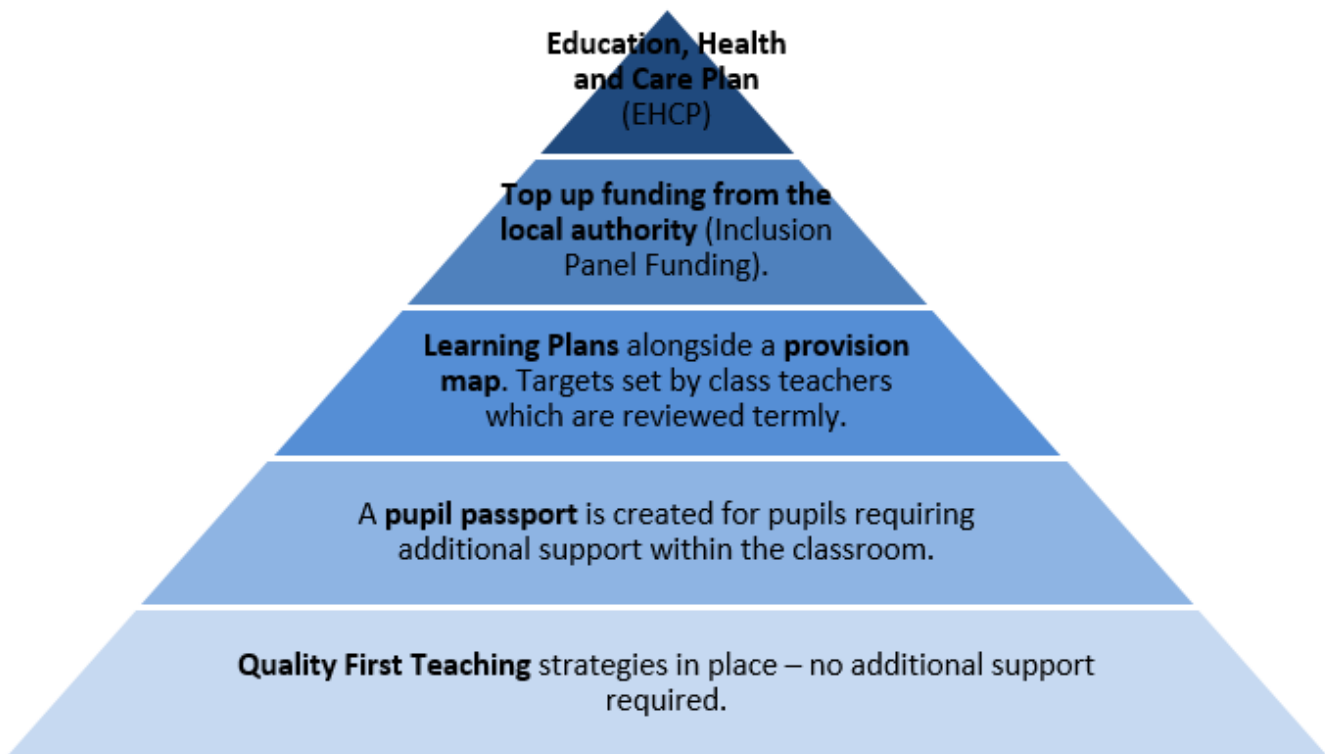
What to do if you have any concerns about your child:

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 SENCo. 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 01159733209 or email: enquiries@eng.srscmat.co.uk



Levels of SEND Support 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).



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 pupil passport (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 Learning Plan. 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 Learning Plans 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 Inclusion Panel Funding in Derbyshire. The highest level of support available is an Educational Health Care Plan (EHC Plan), which requires an initial assessment from a team of professionals. This can be applied for by parents/carers or school. Further information about top up funding and EHC Plans can be found on the Local Offer website (link at the bottom of the newsletter).



Changes to SEND Support at English Martyrs'

Our PSP's (personal support plan) will be changing to an online format through a platform called EduKey. We hope that this will continue to refine our SEND provision across the whole school.

The language used on EduKey is slightly different so children with a PSP will now have a **Learning Plan** and those with a pupil profile will have a **Pupil Passport**.

Pupils on a learning plan will continue to have three termly targets which will be shared and reviewed with parents as normal. Pupils that have a Pupil Passport will have their provision planned for by class teachers, parents and the pupils as normal.



Parent Forms - Please complete!!!

In order to identify barriers to learning as quickly as possible and 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 Form as soon as possible when given to you by a teacher.

If you do not consent to sharing information with professionals, please still complete the Parent Views Form. Parent Voice is extremely important to us at English Martyrs'; you are the experts on your children and we want to work as closely with you in order to get our provision right for your child/ren. We also appreciate any feedback (positive or otherwise!) you can give us in order to help us continually improve our provision for all. Therefore, I would be extremely grateful if you could complete and return the Parent Views Form 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.

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.

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.

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,
Miss Firth
SENCO and Year 2 Class Teacher

