

NORTHGATE PRIMARY SCHOOL



Supporting Children with
Special Educational Needs
and/or Disabilities

What are 'Special Educational Needs'?

All children are individuals and they all have their own needs which we try to meet throughout their time at Northgate. If children's needs are such that they need some extra help to ensure that they make the best possible progress, we say that they have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. This means they need teaching that is additional to or different from the teaching offered to the other children in the class.

Are there different kinds of needs?

Yes. Children may have learning difficulties which means that they will make slower progress than other children of similar age. They may have difficulties such as dyslexia which make written work very difficult for them. They may have physical difficulties, such as a visual or hearing impairment, or an illness which makes learning hard for them. Some children have social, emotional or mental health difficulties which can make school life hard for them. Some children may have a particular syndrome, such as Asperger's Syndrome, which means they need specific help at school.

How can school help?

Northgate Primary School is committed to inclusion and equality of opportunity. This means that we welcome all children and that we aim to provide the best possible education for them, regardless of their needs. Every school has a Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (or Inclusion) Policy which sets out our procedures in more detail. You can ask to see this if you wish. We try to identify Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities as early as possible. This is to make sure that children receive the help they need before they have fallen too far behind their peers and to ensure that they have a positive attitude to themselves and to their education. Then we follow the national Code of Practice to make sure that children receive the best possible support.

What sort of help will my child be given?

Once your child's needs have been identified, he or she may have an Individual Learning Plan written for him or her, where specific targets are set. These will be worked on in class by the teacher and possibly other adults in school, and reviewed regularly. You will always see your child's ILP and be asked to sign it. Sometimes other agencies will be involved such as the Inclusion Support Team or the Educational

Psychology Service. They work with schools and parents to give advice and support for children with SEND. A very few children may need what is called an Education and Health Care Plan but recent changes to funding for schools are making this less and less likely. Most children's needs will be met by the school.

What is the Code of Practice?

It is a statutory document which sets out the required standards for supporting children with Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities. The Code of Practice has given stronger rights for parents to choose the sort of school they wish their child to attend and ensures that the child plays a part in the decision making process. You can ask for a copy if you wish.

Will my child always have Special Educational Needs?

Some children will but many only have particular needs for a short time. Sometimes extra help given early enables a child to catch up and he or she has no further need for it. The system is designed to be flexible.

What can I do to help my child?

The most important thing is to work closely with the school. Help is much more effective when school and family work together and share information. Make sure you attend meetings where your child's needs are being discussed and that you support your child at home wherever possible to help him or her meet his or her targets.

What can I do if I do not understand something or I am not satisfied?

You can always make an appointment to see your child's class teacher, the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator) or the Head Teacher. Always speak to the class teacher first as she or he knows your child's needs best. We always do our best to ensure that parents understand and are happy with the way children's needs are being met and we will always make time to see you. However, if you are still not satisfied, you can follow the procedures described in the school's Complaints Policy.

We do hope you have found this leaflet useful and that it has helped to allay any anxieties you may have had.



**Remember that you are always welcome
to come and talk to us.**