

## SEND Information report

<b>School Name:</b>
Ferndown Middle School

<b>Type of school:</b>	
Mainstream	Middle school: 8-13 years

<b>Accessibility:</b>	
Fully Wheelchair Accessible	Yes
Auditory/Visual enhancements	Yes
Other Adaptations:	Lift to 1st Floor and lower ground floor. Accessible toilets. Medical pod. The school has an Accessibility Plan that is agreed by school governors and the Castleman Academy Trust. The school works in partnership with the local authority to ensure that our school facilities are appropriate for all learners prior to their admission to school. We talk with parents to plan specific provision well in advance of their child starting at our school.

<b>The kinds of SEN that are provided for:</b>
Our school currently provides additional and/or different provision for a range of needs, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Communication and interaction, for example, autistic spectrum disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, speech and language difficulties</li><li>• Cognition and learning, for example, dyslexia, dyspraxia,</li><li>• Social, emotional and mental health difficulties, for example, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD),</li><li>• Sensory and/or physical needs, for example, visual impairments, hearing impairments, processing difficulties, epilepsy.</li></ul>

<b>What are the needs of the children currently at school with SEND?</b>						
Year	EHCP	K	Cognition and Learning	Communication and Interaction	SEMH	Sensory and/or physical needs
5	5	17	9	6	4	3
6	3	23	13	5	5	2

7	4	31	18	4	9	4
8	6	21	11	5	8	3

### **Identifying pupils with SEN and assessing their needs**

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment on entry, which will build on previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. Class teachers will make regular assessments of progress for all pupils and identify those whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers
- Widens the attainment gap.

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, social needs. Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEND. When deciding whether special educational provision is required, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

### **Consulting and involving pupils and parents**

We continually monitor our pupils with SEND by collecting data, talking to you and your child's teachers and teaching assistants. Where needed, targeted intervention will be put in place. You will be informed regarding the planned specific interventions we are using to help your child, either by letter or a telephone call. We will also send interim reports indicating how your child is progressing within the interventions each term. Pastoral plans are written and reviewed as agreed with home and school. All intervention programs run for a set time and the impact of an intervention will be measured; this is often by a reading and spelling test. For pastoral plans these will be reviewed against the goals that were set to be achieved and will be different for each individual.

Standardised spelling tests happen twice a year and reading tests termly. You will be informed if your child has made relevant progress for their ability and age and no longer require SEND provision. If it is thought sensible to continue or alter the SEND programme, then you will be contacted and further interventions will be added to the Individual Learning Plan.

We like to keep you fully involved in the assessment process and the progress of your child is carefully monitored by the school and any external agencies involved in your child's case. If our SENCO and external specialists consider that the information gathered about your child is insufficient, and that more detailed advice must be obtained from other outside professionals, then we ask you for your consent. If multi-agency intervention is required, then a Team Around the Child meeting or Team Around the Family meeting will take place. Where we consider it necessary to seek an Education Health Care Plan following these meetings, parents will be fully involved.

Remember at any stage you can contact us to discuss your child's progress.

### **Assessing and reviewing pupils' progress towards outcomes**

We will follow the graduated approach and the four-part cycle of **assess, plan, do, review**. The class or subject teacher will work with the SENCO to carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. This will draw on:

- The teacher's assessment and experience of the pupil
- Their previous progress and attainment and behaviour
- The individual's development in comparison to their peers and national data
- The views and experience of parents
- The pupil's own views
- Advice from external support services, if relevant.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly.

All teachers and support staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided, and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. We will regularly review the effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress.

### **Supporting pupils moving between phases and preparing for adulthood**

Ferndown Middle School is committed to ensuring that parents /guardians have confidence in the arrangements for children on entry to our school, in the year to year progression and at the point of exit and transition to the next school. Staff will discuss these arrangements with parents /guardians and agree the information that should be passed to the next phase of education. For children entering the school, the SENCo at Ferndown Middle School will contact the SENCo from the receiving school for an update on the child's needs and current strategies and provision that has been put in place. If appropriate, discussion will take place with the SEN Caseworker at County. Once the child has transferred to Ferndown Middle School then we are able to request the child's records.

The majority of children with Special Educational Needs will have been identified by teachers in the First School. We work closely with our First school colleagues to ensure that a child's needs are shared with relevant teachers on transfer. Opportunities during the year, for teachers and teaching assistants to visit, observe and get to know Year 4 children in their First School, occur prior to transfer. Additionally, extra visits for children with SEN in Year 4 to visit Ferndown Middle School are arranged in order for them to start to find their way around and feel positive about their new school.

For children transferring to another school, the SENCo will try to contact the SENCo to pass on relevant information. Their records will all be passed on to their new school once the child has arrived.

Preparing young people for the next stage in their life is of primary importance. At Ferndown Middle School we offer opportunities both in our curriculum and in our extra-curricular activities and trips to prepare all our children for this next stage.

Helping children to become increasingly independent is of utmost importance and we aim to provide opportunities for children to develop their independence skills throughout their time with us. Achieving a balance of support, guidance and pupils working independently is something we strive for with your child.

Continuity in education is important to us and we have close links with our feeder schools and with local Upper schools particularly Ferndown. We work hard to make sure that there is a planned progression of work throughout the 3 tiers of schooling.

We know that transition to the Upper School can be a concern for children and parents/ guardians if your child has Special Educational Needs; this is why we pay such close attention to it and go out of our way to arrange meetings and visits to make this transition smooth. During Year 8 all children will have arranged visits to the Upper School, but children with SEND will have additional visits based on their needs. Meetings to discuss children and plan successful transition are arranged with our Upper School colleagues early in Year 8 so that everyone is prepared and comfortable with the arrangements. The SENCo from our school will meet with the SENCo from the Upper School so that individual information can be shared, ways of working agreed and action plans put in place. Meetings often include parents and all Progress Reviews will have representatives from the Upper School attending. Progress and children's development is monitored closely during the year so that children, parents/ guardians and staff all feel happy with the transition plans.

Prior to transfer all documentation is transferred to the Upper School. This enables staff, soon to be working with the child, to have had time to read through the relevant documentation and make plans to accommodate them in their lessons.

*Please refer to the [Transition policy for further information.](#)*

#### **Our approach to teaching pupils with SEN**

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils in their class.

High quality teaching is our first step in responding to pupils who have SEN. This will be differentiated for individual pupils.

We will also provide the following interventions:

- Turnabout - For pupils who have been identified by our Specialist SEND Teacher as having poor auditory or visual memory.
- Rapid reading - A reading scheme for pupils at KS2 and KS3 with a reading age of below 9 years.
- Reading & Thinking/ Littlebridge - Both programs provide support for children who have difficulty with comprehension and learning new vocabulary.
- Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) - ELSAs help children and young people learn to understand their emotions and respect the feelings of those around them. They provide the time and space for pupils to think about their personal circumstances and how they manage them. Most ELSA programs will last for 6 to 12 weeks, helping the pupil to learn some specific new skills or coping strategies.
- Meet and Greet in the morning - Either individual support or small group support to meet pupils from their parents and help prepare them for the day ahead.
- Teaching Assistant Support – support for learning, emotional, physical and social development.
- Physiotherapy - Following the guidance from an NHS physiotherapist our Teaching Assistants carry out individual programs.
- Phonological Awareness Training - Designed to help children to read, spell and write phonically regular words.

### **Adaptations to the curriculum and learning environment**

We make the following adaptations to ensure all pupils' needs are met:

- Differentiating our curriculum to ensure all pupils are able to access it, for example, by grouping, 1:1 work, teaching style, content of the lesson, etc.
- Adapting our resources and staffing
- Using recommended aids, such as laptops, coloured overlays, visual timetables, larger font, etc.
- Differentiating our teaching, for example, giving longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, reading instructions aloud, etc.

*Please refer to the accessibility plan for more information.*

### **Additional support for learning**

We have our Specialist SEND Teacher, Mrs Karen Jackson (Part time: Monday, Tuesday and Thursday)

Mrs Jackson has the following qualifications:

AMBDA (Associate Member of British Dyslexia Association.

APC – Assessment Practising Certificate

Masters in SpLD

The above qualifications mean that Mrs Jackson is qualified to assess for and teach pupils with Specific Learning Difficulties e.g. Dyslexia.

We have 17 teaching assistants who are trained to deliver interventions and will support individuals or groups of children in class.

We work with the following agencies to provide support for pupils with SEN:

- Educational Psychologist
- Speech and Language Therapy Services
- Special Educational Needs Support Services (SENSS)
- Community Pediatrician
- Physiotherapist
- Occupational Therapist
- Children Adolescents Mental Health Support (CAMHS)
- Hearing and Vision Support Service
- Behaviour Support Services
- Outreach Team (TADSS)
- Dorset Locality Early Help Team

### **Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision**

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Reviewing pupils' individual progress towards their goals each term
- Reviewing the impact of interventions.
- Using pupil questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENCO and Specialist Teacher
- Holding progress reviews for pupils with statements of SEN or EHC plans.

#### **Enabling pupils with SEN to engage in activities available to those in the school who do not have SEN**

All of our extra-curricular activities and school visits are available to all our pupils, including our before-and after-school clubs.

All pupils are encouraged to go on our residential trips in Year 6 and again in Years 7 or 8.

All pupils are encouraged to take part in sports day/school plays/special workshops, etc.

No pupil is ever excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEN or disability.

#### **Support for improving emotional and social development**

As well as making good progress academically it is important to us that all our pupils are developing emotionally. Our tutors ensure that all pupils are happy at Ferndown Middle School and ensure close contact with you so that any problems can be nipped in the bud. We also run a Personal, Social, Health and Citizenship Education program (PSHCE) which we make relevant for all our pupils. This helps them cope with day to day issues and the important things in life that aren't necessarily covered in other lessons.

Some of our pupils may at times need some extra support and our Pastoral Team will work closely with you and your child at those times.

We have two trained Emotional Learning Support Assistants (ELSA). The ELSA's in our school are Mrs Smith (Wednesday, Thursday and Friday) and Mrs Williams (Full time).

In the summer term Mrs Smith leads transition groups in Year 8 helping the children to prepare for the next step in their education. This involves talking about how the schools that they will move to are similar but also discussing the differences. We also arrange visits up to the school, these can happen in small groups or individually depending on your child's needs. In addition, children are supported to enable them to move smoothly from one year to the next within our school. Social stories, visual stories and photos of key staff have all been used depending on what the child needs.

The school are able to make referrals to CAMHS, but this would always be completed with the parent after careful consideration.

The school also employs an independent counsellor to provide support to children. Permission is gained from the parent/ guardian before this is put in place.

Whatever problem your child may encounter; we will be sure to work closely with you in order to improve the situation.

### **Complaints about SEN provision**

Complaints about SEN provision in our school should be made to the SENCO in the first instance. They will then be referred to the school's complaints policy.

The parents of pupils with disabilities have the right to make disability discrimination claims to the first-tier SEND tribunal if they believe that our school has discriminated against their children.

They can make a claim about alleged discrimination regarding:

- Exclusions
- Provision of education and associated services
- Making reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services

### **Other Information**

#### **Contact**

Mrs Laura Hitchins SENCO  
Tel: 01202 876556  
Email: [Office@fernmid.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:Office@fernmid.dorset.sch.uk)

#### **Complaints**

Mrs Laura Hitchins  
Mrs Gill Allen, Head Teacher

#### **Dorset Council's SEND Local offer**

<https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/dorsets-local-offer.aspx>