

Mersham Primary School

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy 2026-27



**SEND Co-ordinator: Mrs K Jackson
(BA (Hons) French; National Award for SEN Co-ordination)
Link Governor: Mrs Charlotte Francis**

Chair of Governors:	Mrs C Francis
Date Agreed:	September 2026
Headteacher:	Mrs Cheryl Chalkley
Review Date:	September 2027

Please read this policy in conjunction with the Disabilities Accessibility Plan, SEN Information Report, Child Protection Policy, and Equality Policies.

This policy was developed with parents with a pupil with SEND and members of the PTA, including consultation with representatives from the governing body and will be reviewed annually.

SECTION A: SCHOOL ARRANGEMENTS

Rationale

This document is a statement of the aims, principles and strategies to ensure the effective and efficient provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) at Mersham Primary School.

The purpose of this policy and information report is to clarify procedures, responsibilities and methods of evaluation in meeting pupil's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in the light of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25years (2015)

At Mersham Primary School we wholly welcome pupils with special educational needs as part of our community. We strive to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity to fully engage in the whole curriculum. Our practice is underpinned by the four concepts of building secure attachments; nurture, engagement, structure and challenge and the six principles of nurture (Eva Holmes and Eve Boyd, 1999). Children's learning is understood developmentally; the classroom offers a safe base; understanding the importance of nurture for the development of well-being; language as a vital means of communication; all behaviour is communication; understanding the importance of transition in children's lives.

We aim to provide an inclusive environment, flexible and responsive to all pupils' needs. Provision and interventions support both learning and well-being, particularly for vulnerable pupils and those with SEND.

Any pupil within their school career may develop an individual educational need that differs from the majority of their peers.

The definition of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) is:

A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty if he or she:

- (a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- (b) Has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions. *SEND Code of Practice: 0-25years (2015, p 15)*

The definition of Disability is:

Many children and young people who have SEND may also have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is “...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities”. This

definition provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise: 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial' *SEND Code of Practice: 0-25years (2015, p16)*

"High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who may have SEND. Special Educational Provision means: Provision that is provided by adapting the school's core offer for all pupils where something different or additional is required" *SEND Code of Practice: 0-25years (2015)*

Special Educational Provision means: "educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age." (*SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (2015)*)

This document provides a framework for the identification of and provision for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. It is written for the benefit of all members of the school community to ensure that the potential of every child is maximised, irrespective of ability, disability, race, gender and social origin and to enable equality of access to the curriculum in an environment where every child is valued and respected.

Aims

- To identify at the earliest opportunity all children who need special consideration to support their physical, sensory, social, emotional, communication or cognitive development, making effective provision to improve long term outcomes.
- To ensure that children with SEND are given appropriate provision to allow every child full access to a broad, balanced, coherent and relevant curriculum.
- To ensure that children with SEND are fully included, where possible, in all activities of the school in order to promote the highest levels of achievement.
- To operate a 'whole pupil, whole school' approach to the management and provision of support for pupils with SEND.
- To involve parents, pupils and external partners in developing a partnership of support, assessment and review, enabling all partners to have full confidence in the strategies adopted by the school.
- To provide a graduated approach to review and support pupils with SEND and provide additional intervention and support to assist individual pupils in meeting their specific needs.

Objectives

- To provide a broad, balanced and suitably adapted curriculum relevant to pupil needs, through all staff sharing responsibility for SEND.
- To demonstrate that meeting the children's learning needs and their well-being is part of high-quality mainstream education and Quality First Teaching in line with mainstream core standards.
- To plan for any pupil who may at some time in their education have special educational needs and/or disabilities.

- To promote self-worth and enthusiasm by encouraging independent learning at all age levels.
- To give every child the entitlement to a sense of achievement.
- To identify, monitor and support pupils who will need extra provision and/or teaching support as early as possible.
- To work in partnership with the child's parents and external partners to provide for the child's special educational needs and/or disabilities.
- To regularly review policy, provision and practical arrangements to achieve best value.
- To work within the guidance provided within the SEND Code of Practice: 0-25years (2015).

Roles and Responsibilities

All members of the school community work towards the schools aims and objectives by:

- Understanding that every teacher is a teacher of every child or young person, including those with SEND.
- Using the graduated approach for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.
- Sharing a commitment to inclusion and a partnership approach to provision.

The governing body in co-operation with the SENDCO and Headteacher, determines the school's strategic development of the policy and approach to the provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities and establishes the appropriate staff and funding arrangements, maintaining a monitoring oversight of the school's work. These school partners are responsible for reviewing the SEND policy, regularly reviewing how expertise and resources used to address SEND can be used to build the quality of whole-school provision as part of their approach to school improvement.

The governing body appoints a SENDCO who has completed or is undertaking, the National Professional Qualification for SENCOs (NPQ for SENCOs), holds Qualified Teacher Status and has relevant experience in co-ordinating SEND.

From 1 September 2024, the National Professional Qualification for SENDCOs (NPQ for SENDCOs) became the mandatory qualification for SENDCOs in mainstream schools, replacing the National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordination (NASENCO). A SENCO appointed from 1 September 2024 must complete the NPQ for SENCOs within three years of taking up the role. SENDCOs who had already obtained the NASENCO before 1 September 2024 do not need to complete the NPQ for SENDCOs.

SENDCOs who have already completed the NASENCO **will not be required** to complete the new NPQ qualification. If, at any point, there was a newly appointed SENDCo with no previous qualification, they would be required to complete the National Professional Qualification for SENDCOs (NPQ for SENDCOs)

The governing body has appointed a named SEND governor with specific oversight of the school's arrangements for SEND and disability who monitors the school's work on behalf of children with special educational needs and disabilities.

The Headteacher has strategic responsibility for keeping the governing body fully informed. In conjunction with the management team the Headteacher and SENDCO will be responsible for monitoring

and evaluating the success of this policy and information report and ensuring that necessary revisions are undertaken. The Headteacher will work closely with the SENDCO, as part of the Senior Leadership Team, with whom regular meetings are scheduled.

Co-ordinating and Managing Provision

The SEND Co-ordinator (SENDCo) is responsible for:

- The strategic development of the SEND policy and provision alongside the Headteacher and the governing body.
- The daily implementation of the school SEND policy.
- Co-ordinating specific provision made to support pupils with SEND , including those with EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plans)
- Providing professional guidance to colleagues, working closely with staff, parents and external school partners.
- Co--ordinating and being aware of the provision in the Local Offer and be able to work with professionals providing a support role to families to ensure that pupils with SEND receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching.
- Providing professional support and advice on the graduated approach to SEND support.
- Maintaining the school's SEND register and overseeing the records on all pupils with SEND.
- Disseminating to staff the outcomes of discussions and reports from external agencies.
- Advising on the deployment of the notional SEND budget and resources to meet pupil's needs effectively and applying for funding from Community of Schools where necessary.
- Contributing to the in-service training of staff, attending meetings and courses and disseminating relevant information to staff.
- Liaising with potential onward providers of education to ensure a smooth transition for pupils with SEND and their parents on admission to Mersham Primary School and into secondary education.
- Liaising with and being a key point of contact with parents and external agencies including Early Help and preventative services, the LA's Professional Resource Group (PRG) and Education Psychology Service (KEPS), Health & Social Services and independent and voluntary bodies.
- Liaising with the Headteacher and governing body to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.

All teaching and non-teaching staff are involved in the development of the school's SEND policy and must be fully aware of the school's procedure for identifying, assessing, monitoring and making provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. Teachers have responsibility for managing the work of TA's and assume responsibility for children with SEND in their classes and current teaching and learning protocols within school promote Quality First Teaching (QFT).

Specialisms and Special Facilities

The school does not have a specialist resource provision unit (SRP) for pupils with SEND. The school has developed valuable knowledge and skills and has an experienced team in meeting the needs of many children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, examples of which include pupils on the autism spectrum, with neurodevelopmental difficulties, pupils with Down Syndrome, Looked After Children (LAC), children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs and children with Speech, Language and Communication difficulties.

The school's Accessibility Plan outlines provision and arrangements to support disabled pupils in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. For pupils requiring special facilities wishing to attend Mersham Primary School, the school's Accessibility Plan aims to accommodate the provision of facilities for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities, including facilities that increase or assist access to the school by pupils who are disabled. An accessible toilet is available at the school.

Evaluating Success

The success of the school's SEND Policy and Provision is evaluated through:

- Monitoring of classroom practice through observations, Pupil Progress Reviews, Provision Mapping by the Headteacher, SENDCO, class teachers and subject co-ordinators
- Analysis of pupil tracking data and test results, including:
 - a. For individual pupils
 - b. For cohorts
 - c. For vulnerable groups
- Progress data for pupils on the SEND register and all vulnerable pupils.
- Progress data for monitoring all pupil well-being, including vulnerable pupils and pupils with SEND (Boxall Profile)
- Annual monitoring of procedures and practice by the SEND Governor
- School self-evaluation, using a variety of approaches
- School Based Review meetings
- The School Improvement Plan / SEND Review and Action Plan

SECTION B: IDENTIFICATION, ASSESSMENT AND PROVISION

The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made:

At Mersham Primary School we can make provision for every kind of frequently occurring special educational need without an Education, Health and Care Plan. For example: Dyslexia, Dyscalculia, Dyspraxia, speech, language and communication needs, physical and sensory needs, Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), neurodevelopmental conditions and difficulties, anxiety and mental health conditions and a vast range of other learning difficulties. There are other kinds of special educational need that do not occur as frequently and with which the school is less familiar, but we can access training and advice via the Professional Resource Group and Community of Schools model so that these needs can be met.

The school also currently meets the needs of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) with the following kinds of special educational need: Speech, language and communication needs, autism, cognitive and developmental needs, physical needs and social, emotional and mental health needs. The Local Authority, via a system of consultation, makes decisions on the admission of pupils with a statement of Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

The school strives to be a fully inclusive school. It acknowledges the range of issues to be taken account of in the process of development. All pupils are welcome, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, in accordance with the Local Authority (LA) Admissions Policy. If a parent wishes to have their child with an EHCP educated in the mainstream, the LA must provide a place unless this is incompatible with the efficient education of other children, and there are no reasonable steps that can be taken to prevent the incompatibility.

Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with special educational needs whether or not they have EHC Plans, including:

a) The school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs

At Mersham Primary the quality of teaching is judged to be of the expected standard (Ofsted Report 2026). High quality teaching, adapted for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEND at Mersham Primary School. We identify need at the earliest possible point to improve the long-term outcomes of the child.

We follow the SEND Mainstream Core Standards advice developed by Kent County Council to ensure that our teaching conforms to best practice;

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/inclusion/the-mainstream-core-standards>

In meeting the Mainstream Core Standards the school employs some additional teaching approaches, as advised by internal and external assessments e.g. precision teaching, small group teaching, use of ICT software learning packages, sports therapy, Nurture and environmental therapy etc. These are delivered by additional staff employed through the funding provided to the school from either the notional SEN budget, pupil premium funding or funding obtained from the Community of Schools forum.

b) How the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils

Mersham Primary School undertakes regular provision evaluation in the form of Provision Mapping and progress tracking which enables us to highlight those areas of need, identify gaps in attainment, skills and progress and overlaps in provision. The effectiveness of intervention is regularly reviewed and monitored to identify effective, high- quality provision that will improve long-term outcomes for the child. We undertake regular assessment and evaluation of the well-being of vulnerable pupils and pupils with SEND via the Boxall Profile which enables us to highlight areas of need, target intervention effectively based on pupil need as well as track the progress and impact of targeted intervention.

Assessment and monitoring is supported by the senior leadership team (SLT) making regular assessments of progress for all pupils. This seeks to identify pupils making less than expected progress for their age and individual circumstances.

The *SEND Code of Practice: 0-25years (2015, 6.17)* describes inadequate progress as:

- 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
- progress that is significantly slower in a pupil's wider development or social skills that enable them to make a successful transition to the next stage of education

A detailed assessment of need ensures that the full range of an individual's needs is identified, not simply the primary need. The SEND Code of Practice 2015 does not assume that there are hard and fast categories of SEND but recognises four broad areas:

- Communication & Interaction. (C&I)
- Cognition & Learning. (C&L)

- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)
- Sensory and Physical Needs (S&PD)

c) The school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs

Where a pupil is identified as having SEND, Mersham Primary School takes action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place.

Identification, assessment and monitoring of SEND follows a graduated approach as required by the SEND Code of Practice: 0-25years (2015). The four-part cycle refers to the process of:

- **Assess** – In identifying a child as needing SEND support the class or subject teacher, working with the SENDCO, should carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs.
- **Plan** - Where it is decided to provide a pupil with SEND support, consultation between parents, teacher and SENDCo will agree pupil adjustments and intervention, the expected impact and agree a time for review.
- **Do** – Intervention and adjustments that have been agreed are planned, undertaken and assessed for impact upon classroom teaching, where the SENDCo supports and advises the teacher.
- **Review** - The effectiveness, impact and quality of support and interventions are evaluated along with the views of the parents and the pupil, where appropriate.

Where a pupil continues to make less than expected progress, despite evidence-based support and interventions that are matched to the pupil's area of need, the school will consider involving specialists, including those secured by the school itself or from outside agencies.

In consultation with the parents, the school may involve specialists at any point to advise them on early identification of SEND and effective support and interventions. The graduated four-part cycle will then be undertaken in consultation with the specialists involved.

Where, despite the school having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the special educational needs of the child or young person and the child or young person has not made expected progress, the school or parents should consider requesting an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCA) to be carried out by the Local Authority (LA).

A small minority of pupils who have significant or lifelong difficulties may undergo a multi-agency assessment in order to establish their specific needs and the range of provision suitable to meet those needs. If it is agreed that the issuing of an Education, Health and Care Plan is necessary, then the pupil's SEND and provision will be summarised in the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) document. This will be reviewed annually with all stakeholders.

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on schools to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions. Individual healthcare plans will specify the type and level of support required to meet the medical needs of such pupils. Where children and young people also have SEND, their provision should be planned and delivered in a co-ordinated way with the healthcare plan.

d) How the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs

At Mersham Primary we follow the advice in the SEND Mainstream Core Standards on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with special educational needs. We also

incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments, both internal and external, and the strategies described in Education, Health and Care Plans.

As part of our requirement to keep the appropriateness of our curriculum and learning environment under review, the Governors have recently made the following improvements as part of the school's accessibility planning (See Accessibility Plan)

e) Additional support for learning that is available to pupils with special educational needs

Action to meet pupil's SEND aims to promote independent learning and falls within four broad strands:

- Assessment, planning and review.
- Grouping for teaching purposes.
- Additional human resources.
- Curriculum and teaching methods.

This may include development of practice through training and collaborative work with other schools, planning, review and liaison time, improved staff-to-child ratio and use of alternative resources.

Provision and resources that are available to schools via external services are published by the LA as a Local Offer. This provides information about provision that is available across education, health and social care for children and young people who have SEND, including those who do not have Education, Health and Care (EHC) plans. See the appendix attached to this policy for reference.

The local authority's local offer is published through the Kent SEND Information Hub.

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>

Parents without internet access should make an appointment with the SENDCO for support to gain the information they require.

f) How the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs:

Pupils with special educational needs will have access to a broad, balanced, coherent and relevant curriculum with the opportunity to join in all the activities of the school.

Differentiated teaching strategies in line with SEND Mainstream Core Standards are used depending upon the nature of the child's needs, wherever possible.

Mersham Primary School strives to be an inclusive school, engendering a sense of community and belonging through its:

- Inclusive ethos
- Broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils
- Systems for early identification of barriers to learning and participation
- High expectations and appropriate, relevant and achievable targets for all children

All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils are available to pupils with special educational needs either with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan. Where it is necessary, the school will use the

resources available to it to provide additional adult support to enable the safe participation of the pupil in the activity. At times, we may ask for an individual pupil's parental support to ensure that the level of risk is minimal and acceptable when off-site.

g) Support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with special educational needs:

We understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching, e.g. PSHE, and indirectly with every conversation adults have with pupils throughout the day.

For some pupils with the most need for help in this area, we may provide the following;

- referrals to our pastoral support officer
- referrals to our ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant)
- referrals to play therapy, draw and talk therapy
- referrals to a counsellor
- mentor time with class teachers or a member of the Senior Leadership Team
- external referral to appropriate mental health services
- a safe space/time-out space for pupils to use when upset or agitated etc.

Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social development, because of their Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and different resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support.

The name and contact details of the SEND Co-ordinator:

The SENDCo at Mersham Primary School is Mrs Katy Jackson, who is a qualified teacher (QTS) and has been accredited by the National Award for SEN Co-ordination and also holds a BA (Hons) Degree.

Mrs Jackson is available on the school telephone number 01233 720449, by appointment via the school secretary or by email: senco@mersham.kent.sch.uk during school hours. Mrs Jackson works 2 days per week. These days are flexible to accommodate the needs of the school and are not the same every week.

Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and how specialist expertise will be secured:

All senior leaders, teachers and teaching assistants have had relevant awareness training. Training needs will be monitored and training provided regularly to teaching and support staff. The headteacher and the SENDCO will continuously monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

The auditing of training needs is based on the pupil and school needs, taking into account the current statutory requirements for SENDCOs and relevant specialist teachers, as well as School Improvement Plans.

- SENDCOs, Teachers and TAs will attend SEND courses which are of interest and have a particular bearing on children they are supporting.
- Staff are given regular opportunities for INSET to develop their confidence and skills in working

with children with SEND. Governors will be informed of school based training and are invited to attend. Staff will be involved in developing practices which promote 'Whole School' approaches to SEND.

- Early Career Teachers (ECTs) will access specific training and induction programmes.

Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured:

The SEND budget is determined each year according to the local funding formula. Schools have an amount identified within their overall budget, called the notional SEN budget. As part of normal budget planning, the school determines its approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND. This funding is used to ensure that the quality of teaching is good in the school and that there are sufficient resources to deploy additional and different teaching and provision for pupils requiring SEND support. The amount of support required for each pupil to make good progress will be different in each case and detail of the interventions we can offer is included within the information report. In very few cases a very high level of resource is required. If a high level of resource is required and notional annual funding is exceeded then the school can request funding from the Community of Schools forum.

Our school now operates within the Community of Schools funding model for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This model allocates funding collaboratively across a network of schools, ensuring resources are distributed equitably and targeted to meet individual pupil needs. By pooling expertise and financial support, the model enhances the provision of timely interventions, specialist support, and inclusive learning opportunities, while promoting collaboration between schools to share best practice and improve outcomes for all pupils with SEND.

The SENDCo, in consultation with the Headteacher, is responsible for the use of these resources and the deployment of support staff.

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities of which the school does not have, we will purchase it using the notional SEND funding, or seek it by loan. For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of the KCC Communication and Assistive Technology (CAT) team.

The school has arrangements for securing access to external support services for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. This may include liaison with specialist schools and other specialist provision. There is regular liaison and exchange of information between the SENDCO and these services, when appropriate.

The arrangements for consulting parents of pupils with SEND and pupils with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education:

All parents of pupils with special educational needs are invited to discuss and review their progress 3 times a year. Ideally, these discussions should be at parent consultation meetings where possible so that all stakeholders are able to have input into progress discussions. In addition, pupils and their parents receive a written report each year. We are more than happy to arrange meetings outside these times when necessary.

If expected progress is not seen despite appropriate provision, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments that will help us to address these needs better. Parents will be actively supported to contribute to assessment, planning and review where necessary. When a pupil has been identified to have special educational needs because special educational provision is being

made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of person-centred planning. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in the childhood years with the young person taking more responsibility and acting with greater independence in later years.

A child may be placed on the SEND register if they require provision that is additional to and different from that which is offered to all pupils in order to make progress because they have SEND. If we feel that a child requires this level of support then we will contact parents to discuss. If a pupil no longer needs to be placed on the SEND register due to making the required amount of progress, we would look to remove them in discussion with the parent and move to the Additional Needs Register for monitoring.

In addition to this, pupils and parents of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review, which, wherever possible will also include other agencies involved with the pupil.

The arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school:

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints are used for complaints about provision made for special educational needs. Any complaints regarding policy or the provision made for children with special educational needs should be addressed in the first instance to the class teacher. If parents need further advice they are welcome to arrange a meeting with the SENDCo. If they feel their child's needs are still not being met they should make an appointment to see the Headteacher. If however, parents are still concerned they may contact the governor responsible for SEND and/or the Information, Advice and Support Kent (iASK) who may allocate an individual parent supporter or provide information about mediation and disagreement resolution services. If parents are still concerned, they can make the complaint formal in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy, including by contacting the Chair of the Governing Body where appropriate.

If the complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the governing body, the next steps will depend on the nature of the complaint and will follow the school's Complaints Policy and any relevant statutory procedures. Where the complaint concerns an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) or a decision made by the Local Authority, parents may have a right to mediation and/or appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), where applicable.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have an EHCP where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.

How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils:

The governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils

The governing body has engaged with the following bodies:-

- Membership of Professional Resource Group for access to specialist teaching and learning service (STLS), Kent Educational Psychology Services (KEPS), Kent PRU and Attendance Service (KPAS), Speech and Language Therapy (SaLT), SEND Inclusion Advisors (SENDIA).

- Links with Disabled Children's Service for support to families for some pupils with high needs
- A CARE Foundation Trust Agreement with a registered Educational Psychologist for a minimum of 3 days per year.
- Access to Local Authority's service level agreement with Speech and Language Therapy Services / Occupational Therapy Services / Physiotherapy Services for pupil with requirement for direct therapy or advice
- Ability to make ad hoc requests for advice from Communication and Assistive Technology (CAT) Team, etc
- Membership of professional networks for SENDCO eg SENCO forum, NASEN, KIT Meetings for CoS, CARE Foundation Trust forum.

The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32 (Information and Advice Support, Kent, IASK)

The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32.

Information and Advice Support Kent (iASK) provides free, impartial, confidential, advice, support and options around educational issues for parents and carers who have children and young people aged 0-25 years who have special educational needs or disabilities (0-19). They empower children, young people and their parents to play an active and informed role in their child's education and outcomes. They can be contacted on:

HELPLINE: 03000 41 3000

Office: 03000 412 412

E-mail: iask@kent.gov.uk

The school's arrangements for supporting pupils with special educational needs in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for adulthood and independent living

We work closely with the educational settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us in order to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible. We also contribute information to a pupils' onward destination by providing information to the next setting.

- We will ensure that all transfers between schools are planned, monitored and supported to ensure successful outcomes for children.
- For all children with an Education, Health and Care Plan transferring between Mersham Primary School and local secondary schools, a provisional recommendation is normally made in Term 2 when the child is in Year 5 via a Phase Transfer Annual Review so that parents can consider options early. The child's EHCP must then be reviewed and amended as part of the phase transfer process, with the final amended EHC Plan naming the secondary school issued by 15th February in the calendar year of transfer in the light of the recommendations of the Annual Review, the parents' views and preferences and the response to consultation by the LA with the school. All the arrangements for a child's placement will normally be completed in accordance with the statutory timetable before transfer.
- Where possible, the SENDCO of the receiving school will be invited to attend the final annual review of pupils with an EHCP for whom the particular school has been named.
- We will consult the LA and governing bodies of other schools, when it seems to be necessary or desirable in the interests of the co-ordinated special educational provision in the area as a

whole.

- For those children that have specialist emotional and social needs (e.g. Autistic pupils, Looked After Children (LAC) children), the Transition Coordinator of the receiving school will be contacted in order for the pupil to receive extra support and to arrange an appropriate induction programme.
- We will collaborate with all other support services and agencies involved with the child and with parents and where appropriate make joint planning arrangements.

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:-

- Children and Families Act 2014
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (January 2015)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 (as amended)
- Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators
- Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEND information report; Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer
- Equality Act 2010
- Schools Admissions Code 2021
- The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008
- The national funding formula for schools and funding arrangements, as applicable.
- Community of Schools Operational Guidance 2026 (updated)
- When people can't agree - special educational needs and disability (SEND) complaints: a guide for young people in education DfE August 2018