



Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Autumn SEND Newsletter 2025

Welcome to our very first termly SEND newsletter! A newsletter addressing all things related to SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities). In this issue you will find out about what is SEND, how to seek support and useful links.



Hello to the Our Lady's community! My name is Mrs Thomas, and I am delighted to have started in the Summer term as the new school SENCo. Working with children who have additional needs is a passion of mine and something in which I have become highly skilled and experienced in throughout my career. I am privileged to currently lead on SEND in a range of schools for the Trust. I am very much looking forward to working with you all and the school team. My colleague Miss Hitchen works alongside me in the school, to support with Inclusion and we value the engagement of our parents and carers so please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or would like to book a meeting. Our contact email addresses are:

CThomas@olicatschools.org and VHitchens@ol.well.olicatschools.org

What is SEND?

Special educational needs, often referred to as 'SEN' or 'SEND' (Special educational needs and disabilities), is a term used to describe learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for a child to learn compared to children of the same age.

All children may experience challenges with their learning at some point and for most children, these difficulties overcome with support from teachers and home. However, children with SEND are likely to need different help to be able to learn and develop.

A child or young person has SEND if :

- * They have greater difficulty in learning than the majority of other children and young people the same age.
- * They have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

A child or young person has a disability if:

They have a physical and mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

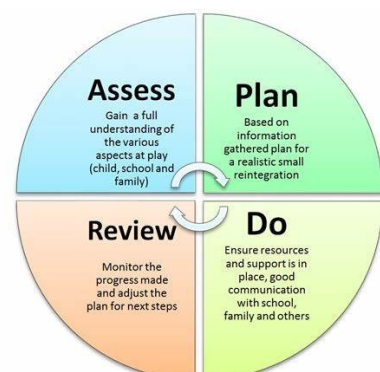


Early identification at Our Lady's

At Our Lady's, the children are at the heart of everything we do.

We aim to identify the needs of all pupils as early as possible. This is part of our graduated approach, in which we Assess, Plan, Do, Review. This on-going cycle ensures effective provision is put in place and also removes barriers to learning. We have a range of provisions and interventions taking place in our school to meet the needs of all children. You can read more about this, on the attached diagram.

Further information can also be found on the SEND section of our website.



What types of difficulties are SEND?

Children may have difficulties in one or more of these areas:

- ◆ Cognition and Learning - A child may find all learning difficult or have difficulties with specific activities such as reading or spelling. A child may have trouble understanding instructions and carrying out tasks. A child may have memory difficulties.
- ◆ Communication and Interaction – A child may have difficulty in talking to others or understanding what others are saying to them. A child may have difficulty with interactions with others, such as not being able to take turns. A child who has speech and language needs will be classed as having communication and interaction needs.
- ◆ Physical and Sensory – A child may have hearing or vision loss. A child may have difficulty with sensory processing, being under or over-sensitive. A child may have a medical condition which affects them physically.
- ◆ Social, Emotional and Mental Health - A child may display behaviours such as having very low self-esteem or being very anxious. A child may display challenging, disruptive or distressing behaviours. A child may have underlying conditions which affect their mental health.

If you have any concerns about your child or their progress; please contact either the class teacher or myself where we can meet and discuss this further.



Useful Key links and documents :

Support for Parents of Children with SEND: IASS Northamptonshire is a service offering impartial Information, advice and support to parents of children and young people with SEN and disabilities. Their website is <https://iassnorthants.co.uk/> or you can contact them on 0300 1261039, email sendiass@westnorthants.gov.uk

As a school, we work closely with the Northamptonshire SEND team. The website contains a link to the **North Northamptonshire SEND website and local offer:** [Local Offer, SEND and EHC plans | North Northamptonshire Council](#)

SEND Support Service: The SEND Support Service offers advice and support to children, young people, families, carers and a range of educational establishments for children with special educational needs and/or autism, aged 0 to 19 years. [Specialist SEND support services | North Northamptonshire Council](#)

SEND Code of Practice: Guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25, from 1st September 2014. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Equal Opportunities

At Our Lady's, we place an importance of ensuring inclusivity both through the curriculum, throughout the daily life of the school and also outside of the classroom.

We explore how pupils with SEND are offered the same opportunities as other pupils and how our wider curriculum offers a range of learning opportunities for all.

You will find out more about our offer of bespoke interventions and provisions in the next issue.



Wave 3
Additional highly personalised interventions

Wave 2
Additional interventions to enable children to work at age-related expectations or above

Wave 1
Inclusive quality first teaching for all