

The Local Offer

DEVONSHIRE INFANT AND JUNIOR SCHOOLS - Local Offer

This document is designed to set out clearly how this school meets children and young people's special educational needs. If you are reading this as a young person the provision expected to be in place for parents/carers, should be in place in this school for you.

Devonshire Infant and Junior Academies provide an excellent, inclusive education for all.

We are committed to tailoring a curriculum to meet the needs of all pupils.

'Pupils make rapid progress...Behaviour for learning is outstanding...Teaching is outstanding...Personal development is particularly strong. ..Disabled pupils and those with special educational needs are extremely well supported and they make excellent progress. Those with complex needs make outstanding progress.' (Infant Ofsted May 2013)

'Disabled pupils and those with special educational needs achieve well and benefit from a high quality of care...Behaviour is outstanding...excellent opportunities for spiritual, moral, social and cultural development...pupils are provided with a range of particularly well selected, expertly delivered programmes of support and development.' (Junior Ofsted November 2013)

Universal Offer

This is what the school offers to all children including those who may have difficulties in learning or difficulties with behaviour or physical/medical needs.

As a parent/carers or young person you can expect that:

- We inform you about our policies and approaches to learning, including how they work with children who have learning difficulties.
- We will welcome you and your child and take the time to discuss your child's needs before they start school.
- Our teachers and support staff have had professional development and training so that they know about how children learn including those children who have difficulty in learning.
- We should be able to tell you about the programmes which they are able to offer, in addition to what is available day to day in the classroom if children need a boost to their skills. This will include literacy, numeracy and behaviour programmes to support children's learning. Some schools set this out in a provision map.
- Our teachers are able to accurately assess the level at which he/she is learning from Foundation Stage and P level (P levels help to measure progress for children who are working below level 1) to National Curriculum at primary and to GCSE at secondary school.
- Our teachers are able to differentiate (plan tasks for children at different stages of learning in the same class) so that your child is given work to do at a level where they will be able to complete the task independently, or with a little support.
- Our teachers will use a range of resources and strategies and teaching methods to take account of any barriers to learning.
- Our school will keep you informed about how your child is progressing at least twice yearly and through a written annual report detailing progress and will be happy to discuss your child's progress, at other times, if you make an appointment. As a child or young person you should always know how well you are doing and what you need to work on to improve further.
- Our school will put in place a range of short term, small group or individual programmes (interventions) that may help your child to 'catch up' if they fall behind in reading, writing or maths or if they have difficulty managing their behaviour. The school will keep you informed if your child needs one of these interventions and work in partnership with you to give it the best chance of being successful.
- These interventions are sometimes at a level called Wave 2. The school will explain which intervention is being used, tell you how long it will last and what progress they are expecting that your child will make. They will meet with you at the end of the intervention period to discuss progress.

- School may ask you if they can consult with a speech and language therapist, advisory teacher or educational psychologist to give staff and yourself as the parent, advice on strategies which may help your child's learning and/or behaviour.
- School will inform you if your child needs a more intensive or individualised level of intervention in order to make progress in their learning. The school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator SENCo may talk to you about this. (All schools have to have a SENCo with experience and/or additional qualification in special educational needs and this person will meet with you and advise staff in the school, about how best to help your child to make progress.)
- The school will also be able to signpost you to support, advice and any extra curricular activities that may be available.

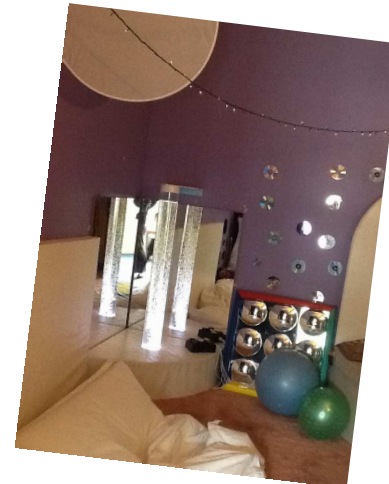
Additional SEN Support Offer

The Department for Education provides every school with funding that is different for each school, but is to support children with SEN. The amount of funding means that most children's need for support and interventions can be met without the need for a Statement. What you could expect to see in school is set out below.

- The Government expects that all children should make at least 2 National Curriculum levels or 2 P levels from Key Stage 1-2 or 3 National Curriculum levels from Key Stage 2 to 4. School should discuss with you how their intervention programmes are helping to achieve these longer term goals and, if progress is slower, why this might be.
- If your child is not making progress in their learning or they have difficulty in managing their behaviour despite the school using all the strategies outlined at the Universal Offer then he/she may need a higher level of support/intervention to help them make progress. School will invite you to a meeting to gather your views and explain what new strategies and support could be put in place.
- Our school will continue to offer all the support and teaching strategies available at the Universal Offer level. Our school will be able to tell you what programmes they have to support reading, writing, maths and emotional/behavioural difficulties that they assess will support your child.
- If your child has a particular learning or behavioural difficulty such as hearing impairment or visual impairment, a diagnosis of attention deficit disorder, autism, speech and language , moderate learning or specific learning difficulty; teachers and support staff in the school will seek additional professional development/training to ensure that they can best meet your child's needs.

- Our school may/will ask for advice from an outside agency such as speech and language therapist, advisory teacher, HI/VI teacher or an educational psychologist to assess your child and recommend strategies and programmes to improve progress. As a parent you can request that school seek outside agency advice at any time. Agencies will respond as quickly as possible to school or parental requests. Click on the link to see information about [access to the Inclusion Support Team](#)
- Our school will put in place programmes which will mean your child works 1:1, or in a small group, with a teacher or a member of the support team on the aspects of learning or behaviour with which they are having difficulty. These programmes may last as long as 20 weeks; you should be told how long the intervention will last and what progress is expected.
- Your child may have some support in class for some lessons, if the school thinks this will help him/her to make progress. Your child will not always need, or benefit from 1:1 support in class, because they need to learn to work independently. School will discuss with you whether this type of support would be helpful, in which lessons, and for how long the support will be in place.
- You will be invited to a meeting which informs you about the programme or programmes to be used, why they have been chosen and what progress they are expecting your child to make. You should be invited to a review meeting to discuss progress.
- If your child has made progress then school will discuss with you:
 - whether there needs be a further period of intervention;
 - if your child needs to use the strategies they have learned in the classroom for a period before putting a further programme in place;
 - or, that such good progress has been made that support is no longer needed.
- If your child has not made progress the school should consult with outside agencies to seek further advice on strategies and programmes.
- If the outside agency make an assessment, you will be invited into school to discuss how the programme and support will change; how you can help and when there will be a meeting to review the new programme.
- These measures should ensure that your child makes progress at the best possible rate but school will continue to review the programmes used and meet with you as a parents and should offer you a meeting at least once a term.

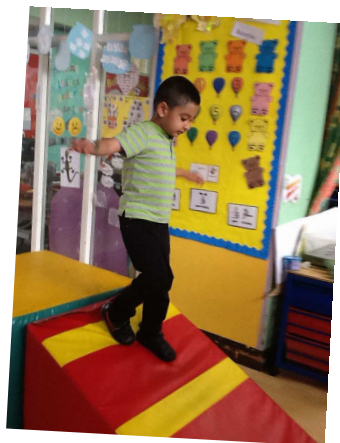
- If you are not happy about your child's progress ask for further meetings with staff in school and outside agencies to ensure that you have confidence in the provision.
 - If you wish to complain about the school's response to meeting your child's needs you must first raise your issue with the head teacher. If you are still unhappy raise your concerns with the Chair of Governors at the school. If you are still not satisfied then register a complaint with the Local Authority at Sandwell Council House. The Parent Partnership Service is also there to help and your school will have the contact details.
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- Both Schools have a sensory room for children to access.



- Each phase has a communication and nurture group, which focuses on communication and social skills, independence and self-help skills.



- The Orchard Tracker system is used to set targets and track progress of the children with significant learning needs working within the P-levels.
- Both schools have an increasing number of staff trained in Makaton.



- Both schools have access to Forest School.





Devonshire Infant and Junior Academies' Focus Provision for Children with Autism

From September 2015 Devonshire Infant and Junior academies are establishing a Focus Provision for children with autism.

As part of the provision children will be allocated a key worker and have access to personalised timetables and differentiated provision. Children and families will have access to a range of professional support, including educational psychologists, speech and language therapists and the complex communication and autism team.

Children will be part of a mainstream class and will engage in class activities based on individual needs. There are also quiet focus provision areas in each academy with individual work stations and sensory rooms.



As part of their personalised provision children will have opportunities to engage in a range of small groups activities such as life skills, social skills, communication and sensory sessions according to need.

Staff at school will be involved in ongoing training relating to areas of need and will be able to offer both outreach and inreach support to local schools.

The admissions process for the Focus Provision is via request at Annual review or Education and Health Care Plan at which point the Local Authority will consider the most appropriate placement for the child. The school is not responsible for allocating places within the Focus Provision.

If you would like to make an appointment to look round the Focus Provision please contact the school.



Education and Health Care Plan

- Children who have severe levels of physical, learning, communication or emotional/ behavioural difficulty, that are lifelong and complex, may need an Education and Health Care Plan. If the LA agrees to begin the process; an Education and Health Care Plan takes 20 weeks to complete. Your child will continue to be supported from the school's SEN resource while the Education and Health Care Plan is completed.
- For some children this may be initiated following the assessment made between 2 and 2 1/2 years of age by the health visitor. There may be other children whose needs are not initially apparent who have degenerative conditions or who have a later diagnosis who will still require a Statement due to the complexity of their need.
- The Education and Health Care Plan will specify for the school what sort of provision your child will need in order to access the curriculum and make progress. It is likely to be highly individualised.
- Staff in the school will access additional professional development in order to ensure that they have the skills to teach your child.
- Your child will also have access to all the provision detailed on the school's provision map, in the Universal Offer and Single School Based Category of SEN which are appropriate to their learning needs
- Many children who need an Education and Health Care Plan will be educated in a mainstream school but your child may benefit from a special school placement or focus provision placement. The options will be discussed with you as the Education and Health Care Plan is developed.
- The school will keep you informed about the progress your child is making through assessment and termly review and the Annual Review of the Education and Health Care Plan.
- If your child is not making expected progress then the school should request additional advice from outside agency staff or special school outreach staff who have additional expertise in respect of your child's difficulty.

The School Improvement Plan includes targets to improve outcomes for children with SEN