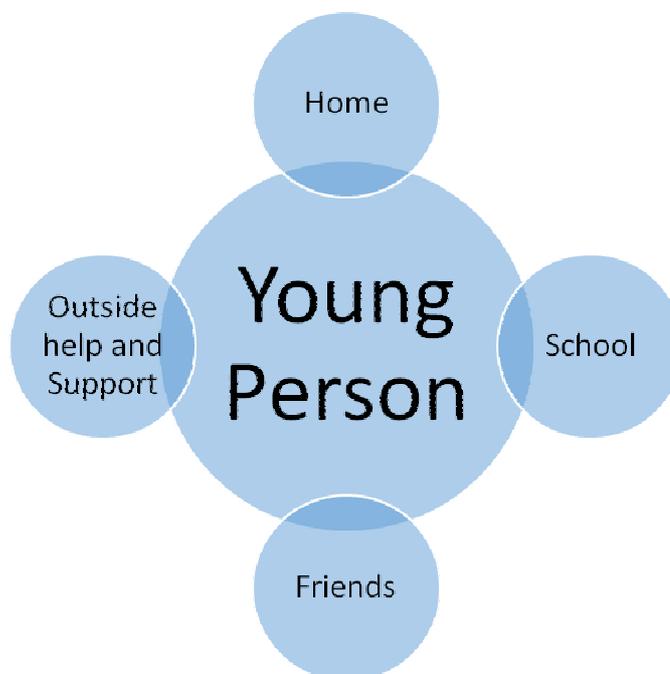


St Nicholas Church of England Primary School

SEN Report



The person in charge of special educational needs and disability (SEND) at St Nicholas School is called the SENCO. The SENCO at our school is Mrs Kerry Ewins-Strowger. She is available on Wednesdays. She, along with the class teacher, will help your child and you as the parent/carer. Somerset County Council have to provide support and help if your child needs this. Please use the following link, www.somersetchoices.org.uk to find this information which is called 'The Local Offer.' We all work with something called Somerset Core Standards and these tell you what you should expect from your school when you child has extra support and help. They can also be found on the Somerset Choices website

It can be worrying if you feel that your child has a special need and/or disability. To help with your concerns we have listed some frequent worries and questions below. ALL children should have access to learning and there should be no barriers to their learning. The SENCO makes sure that in the first instance all children receive what is called, 'Quality First Teaching.' This means that teachers do things to help all children learn regardless of whether they need extra help or not. If you click on the 'Provision map' link on the web site you will see all that class teachers offer your child in their classrooms- known as Wave 1- whole class. Then if your child needs small group help it

is called Wave 2. If your child needs more specialist help and one to one it is called Wave 3.

Frequently Asked Questions

Help, I think my child may have a special need, what do I do now?

- If you are concerned, firstly speak to your child's teacher and/or make an appointment to see the SENCO. Then we can decide if your child has not been making progress together. We can look at your child (observe) and then their teacher and the SENCO can do extra things to check if they are struggling. Then we can all meet to discuss what to do next.

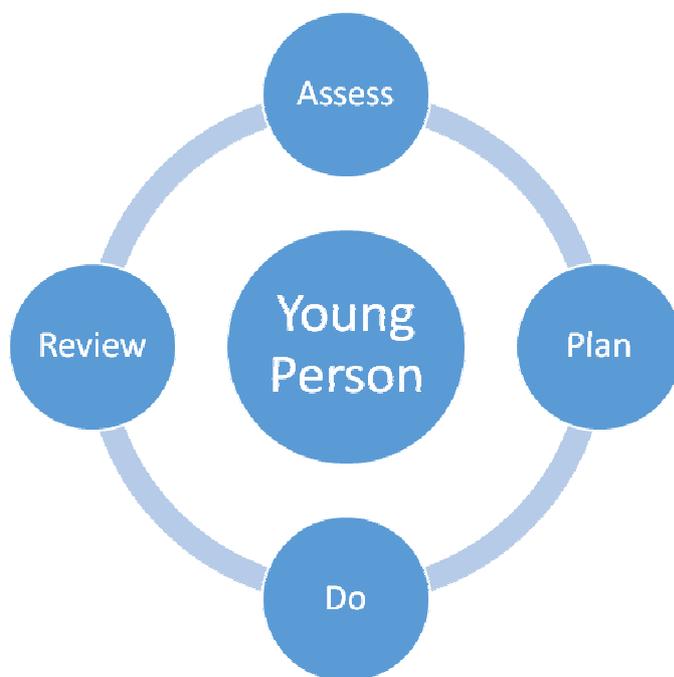
How does the school know if my child needs extra help?

- Teachers and staff regularly do assessments. We follow how the children are doing as soon as they arrive in reception. The teaching staff make sure that all of their pupils understand what they have to do in class, make lessons fun, interesting and teach in ways so that everyone can understand. For example they use:-
- signs and symbols so that pupils can SEE what they will be doing every day rather than just being told what they will be doing for that day.
- They use words that all children can understand.
- They use music special pens/pencils to help them write if they have difficulty holding a pen.

Sometimes pupils need extra help to learn in class and they may tell us that they do not understand. Sometimes their work SHOWS us that they do not understand. Sometimes pupils struggle to concentrate and settle into class. Sometimes they have trouble remembering things. Lots of children may struggle at some point when they are at school. When any of this continues for a LONG time and when their test results and classwork are not at the level it should be for their age, we then look more closely.

When this happens a teacher will contact the SENCO who will observe your child. At the same time we will contact YOU as the parent/carer. We then **ASSESS** how we can help. This means we will try out why your child is struggling. Then we **PLAN** how we can help them improve and what we need to do. For example, it might mean your child needs some help with reading. We then **DO** this. This might mean we give them one to one help for 3 times a week for half an hour during the whole term. Then we **REVIEW**, which means we see if what we have been doing has worked. We all meet to see how things have been going. If it hasn't worked then we look at why and how. So the process of ASSESS,

PLAN, DO and REVIEW begins again. This is called the GRADUATED RESPONSE.



The Graduated Response Cycle of Help.

At all times the SENCO makes sure that the cycle runs smoothly and she will keep you up to date. We will all meet and work together. Often there is a written plan of how we can all help and support your child. Sometimes a young person may need extra specialist support from people outside. We will ALWAYS ASK YOUR PERMISSION if we need to do this.

- It may be help from the Somerset Support Service. For example, for help with dyslexia and diagnosis. Or help from the Autism Outreach Team if your child has autism or you think they may have. We also work with the community medical teams- Occupational therapy, Speech and Language as well as support from an Educational Psychologist.

- Our parent/family support advisor is Mrs Mandy Peters. She can help support at home with lots of things- housing, parenting concerns, school attendance, behaviour issues or just support when you may need it as a family. All of us work together to help your child and this all adds to what we do already as a school.
- Somerset Parent Carer Forum is an outside group run by parents with children who have extra needs. They help and support families and give guidance on all areas of special needs. Their number is 01458-259384 and their email is help@somersetparentcarerforum.org.uk They run support groups all over Somerset including Wincanton and Yeovil.
- As a school we are part of a pilot project to run parent support groups here to help our families in January 2017. Please see the SENCO if you would like to be a part of this. It involves coffee mornings here at school and we meet together and go through difficulties or worries.

How will the school help my child if they are feeling anxious, unhappy, tearful or if something has happened at home that is making them find school hard. For example- parents splitting up or family illness and death?

- Our school encourages children to talk freely about their emotions and we all have days when we may feel sad or worried. If those feelings are stopping them from learning then again we can all meet and discuss how we can support and help your child.

My child has a disability, how will the school help with this?

- We make sure as far as possible that there is access to all areas. We make sure that all children are safe and that areas can be used safely according to their needs. All school trips will be risk assessed so that your child can join in and be safe. We will talk with all the people who help with your child for example- their nurses, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. Then we can make sure that we are doing everything possible to include them in school and that they can learn like everyone else.

What happens when my child has a new teacher/class or moves school?

- We work really hard with new schools and nurseries to make sure that when children have to make these big changes in their life they are ready. These changes are called transitions. We will all meet before the change happens- to what their worries may be. We make sure that they feel confident and happy about any changes by listening to them. We make sure we do something about their worries and reassure them. Then after the change has happened we meet to make sure that everything has gone smoothly and see how they feel. This also applies to when your child moves from one class to another. We meet with you and your child to see what concerns you may have. The new class teacher also makes sure that they are well aware of your child's worries and needs. Again we review after- to see how this has gone and that they are settled.

I feel very upset that the teacher does not seem to be doing what we all agreed in the meeting together- how can I complain?

- If you as the parent/carer are unhappy about how things are being done in any way then in the first instance please speak with the class teacher/SENCO. We pride ourselves on listening to you as the parent/carer. We will listen to your concerns and make sure that you feel happy and satisfied with what is being done. This is crucial as your child is the most important person and we need to make sure that all is well. If you are still unhappy, then you can contact the Head Teacher (Mrs Alison Shearer) and the SEN Governor (Mr Robin Howell) who will also be happy to listen to your concerns.

How will I be involved with the school and my child's education?

- If your child has a special educational need or disability we will constantly keep you up to date and tell you how things are going. The cycle of assess, plan, do and review keeps going for as long as your child needs help and support. You will be involved from the start until the end. If you have any queries or concerns you can contact the SENCO at any point.

This has been written in consultation with staff, governors and parents. To be reviewed January 2019.

