

Bleak Hill Local Offer - Special Educational Needs



What is the Local Offer?

The local offer is information for parents/ carers of children who have additional needs, a specific Special Educational Need or a disability (SEND). The information outlines the support and provision that you, as parents/ carers, can expect your child to receive whilst at Bleak Hill Primary School.

All children in our school receive high quality first teaching. This means that children should receive a range of teaching that caters for different learning styles. Learning objectives are set for all children meeting their educational needs. Lessons and tasks are differentiated enabling the completion of appropriate work/ tasks.

What are Special Needs?

At Bleak Hill Primary School, all our children are unique. There are times when some children require extra support or encouragement. Some children may require a short term intervention; others may have a long term difficulty or need which may have been identified. At Bleak Hill we offer a high level of support to both children and parents/ carers with additional needs. Home/school links are crucial and aid success in meeting children's needs.

How will I know if my child needs extra support/ help?

At Bleak Hill, the progress and attainment of all pupils is closely monitored by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) through work scrutiny and looking at data. From this, the SLT may adjust provision to meet children's identified needs. You, as parents, are informed about your child's general progress and targets through Parents' Meetings and reports.

If a child continues to experience any difficulties after intervention OR has a high level of difficulty when they join us, they may be considered as having Special Educational Needs (SEND) and will be placed on the school's SEN Register. Parents will be informed of this.

Who is the best person to speak to about my child's difficulties with learning/ SEN?

AT Bleak Hill, we have an open door policy and encourage parents/ carers to discuss their concerns with the class teacher rather than waiting until Parents' Evening. Class teachers speak to Mrs Corkill, Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENDCo) regularly, highlighting their concerns or asking for advice about specific concerns. The needs and progress of the children are reviewed. Class teachers highlight concerns to the SENDCo. The SENDCo is more than happy to meet with parents and provide support.

The level of support your child receives will depend on their needs. The SENDCo offers meetings to all parents/ carers of children receiving additional support. At this meeting, we will discuss the support your child has been receiving and whether they will need continued support in the future. We have a number of Learning Assistants who provide additional support to both individual and small groups of children.

We also have Learning Assistants who support specific children with identified additional needs. The class teachers and SENDCo review children's progress regularly.

How will I know how the school will support my child?

If your child is on the Special Educational Needs (SEND) Register, they will be given a Support Plan. This is created with your child's needs in mind. They are reviewed by the class teacher, the SENDCo, adults working with your child and your child. We review these plans at least each term. During the review, progress against the targets is monitored and new targets are agreed. Parents have the opportunity to discuss the Support Plan with the class teacher and SENDCo where appropriate. If you want to discuss the targets at any time during the year, we would be delighted to meet with you at your convenience.

A number of our parents at Bleak Hill Primary use a Home/ School Diary to act as a means of communication. This can be an invaluable tool for both parents and teachers.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Throughout the school day at Bleak Hill, work will be adapted to meet the individual learning needs of your child. This may be through the amount of work expected, how much support your child receives as well as the use of visual aids to prompt completion of tasks. While in class, your child may be supported by the class teacher and /or Learning Assistants.

How will I know how my child is doing?

We regularly inform parents of children's progress and attainment. This is done through Parents' Evenings throughout the year and a report at the end of the academic year. If we, as a school, do have concerns regarding any child, we would request a meeting with parents/ carers highlighting our concerns and discussing them in more detail.

How will the school help me to support my child's learning?

Bleak Hill always encourages close links between home and school. This is particularly important with children with Special Educational Needs as we need to ensure they make the maximum progress possible. We feel that home and school links are vital in meeting the needs of your child. As a school, this is done in a number of ways including the use of a Home/ School Diary and /or regular meetings including parents, the class teacher and the SENDCo.

What support will be available for my child's overall well-being?

AT Bleak Hill, we feel that the support given for each child's well-being is crucial. School will support this in a number of effective ways. At a whole school level, the children follow a Whole School Charter, and each class has its own Class Charter. These are created by the children at the start of the academic year. The charters are on display in the hall and the classrooms and staff regularly remind the children of these rules.

When a child has a medical need, we create a Health Care Plan. These are created with the support of parents, the School Nurse and any other relevant professionals to ensure that your child's needs are met and that they remain safe in school. Additionally, these plans are created to make all staff aware of your child's needs. Staff take part in specific medical training and a number of staff are trained in First Aid.

What happens if my child has a high level of need?

As part of Bleak Hill's support for all children, Mrs Corkill (SENDCo) holds a multi-agency meeting at the beginning of each term. Here, a number of professionals and external agencies meet to offer advice and support to school.

These professionals include our Inclusion Officer for the Local Authority, Educational Psychologist, BIT (Behaviour Improvement Team), LASCS (Local Autism and Social Communication Service, LSS (Literacy Support Service).

Through holding these meetings, school can ensure that children are receiving the correct level of support. Advice and recommendations from specialist professionals is followed by the SENDCo and staff in class.

During the week, we hold Enrichment Sessions – these may include activities such as cooking, art & craft, gardening, visits in the locality, etc.

What specialist services and expertise are available at Bleak Hill Primary?

Bleak Hill work closely with a number of agencies and professionals including:

- St Helens IASS - Service supporting parents of young people with disability/ special needs
- Speech & Language Therapists
- Occupational Therapists
- Physiotherapists
- Social Care and Early Intervention
- BIT - Behaviour Improvement Team
- Educational Psychologist
- School Nurse
- LASCS
- Inclusion Officer (Local Authority)
- LSS – Literacy Support Service

These are the main services that we work with at Bleak Hill but we are sign-posted to others as necessary.

Are the staff that support children with SEND at Bleak Hill provided with appropriate training?

The Senior Leadership Team assesses staff training needs regularly. Staff access relevant training across a range of subjects, these include: First Aid, ASD, ADHD, Behaviour Management strategies, Children in Trauma as well as Read, Write, Inc Phonics Training. A number of Learning Assistants have completed the NVQ Level 3 Teaching Assistant Qualification.

How will my child be included in activities outside of the classroom, including trips?

Each year group goes on a number of educational trips linked to topics throughout the year. Risk Assessments are completed prior to each trip/ outing. Children with significant needs may require an Individual Risk Assessment involving parents ensuring that they are able to take part in the trip successfully. Some children who require extra support during lessons outside of the classroom are supported by the Learning Assistants with the guidance of the class teacher.