



SEND Information Report 2021 – 2022

- **I have been told my child has SEND, what does this mean?**

At the heart of every class in our academy is a continuous cycle of planning, teaching, and assessing which takes account of the wide range of abilities and interests of children. Most children will learn and make progress within these arrangements. Those children whose overall attainments or attainment in specific subjects or other areas of development, fall significantly outside the expected range, may have additional needs (SEND).

There is an emphasis placed on the experience and expertise of the class teacher and SENDCO (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Coordinator) in identifying children with additional needs through their observations. A range of assessment tools are used to help school identify children who may have additional needs. School also receives information from parents, pre-school settings or other schools and other professional agencies which help us identify children who may need additional support at school. Information from parents also provide school with a vital information into the child's strengths and difficulties.

- **What kind of special educational needs does the school cater for?**

Oasis Academy Fir Vale caters for a wide variety of SEND, which can include:

- Communication and interaction which may include children on the Autism Spectrum
- Cognition and learning, for example moderate or severe learning difficulties or specific difficulties e.g., dyslexia and dyscalculia.
- Social, Emotional & Mental Health, which may include attention difficulties
- Sensory and/or Physical disabilities, which may include visual impairment & hearing impairment.

- **What will happen once my child has been identified with SEND**

You will be invited to an initial meeting with the school SENDCO and/or your child's teacher, during this meeting an appropriate plan will then be discussed. The plan, known as a 'My Plan' will involve identifying your child's strengths and those areas where your child may need extra support. It will also involve setting some outcomes/targets for your child and what the school and you can do to help your child achieve these. This plan may also involve a teaching assistant or another adult working directly with your child. You will be told that your child will be added to the academy's special needs register, this will help to make sure that the right people in school know that your child needs some additional help. Each term you will be invited to another meeting to discuss how well you and your child's teacher feel your child has done in relation to the targets which were set. At this meeting, some new targets will be set; this is our plan, do, review cycle.

- **How will I be involved?**

The academy really values parent involvement especially with setting targets for your child. You will be asked to help us complete a 'My Plan' which will give school vital information about things your child is good at and things which you know might help



your child. You will also be invited to attend review meetings and parent's evenings where you can gain information as to how you can best support your child's learning. The SENDCO can signpost parents to other sources of information and support e.g., the Local Offer, Sheffield Parent Carer Forum, voluntary agencies. The SENDCO has information for parents on a range of different needs.

- **How will I know how well my child is doing?**

There are two parent consultations each year where parents can discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. In addition to these meetings there are termly reviews for parents of children with a 'My Plan' or Education Health Care Plan. Parents, SENDCO, class teacher and teaching assistants meet to discuss the child's progress in more detail. It may be necessary to invite other professionals to these meetings. The child's views will also be sought for these meetings where possible. Parents should not hesitate to contact the class teacher to discuss their child's progress or any concerns they may have. It may be that the class teacher will speak to the SENDCO to arrange a meeting. It is unlikely that they will be able to see you straight away, but an appointment will be made as soon as possible.

- **How will school support my child in starting school and moving on?**

If your child starts at Oasis Academy Fir Vale and already has an identified SEND a series of meetings and visits will usually take place to make sure everything is in place for when your child starts, we call these transition meetings. It might be that your child has a more gradual start to school over a period of time. When your child moves to another school or transfers to secondary school, again a series of meetings will take place so that staff have all the information they need for your child to settle. Any necessary paperwork will be shared securely with the new school.

- **Will my child be taught differently to other children?**

SEND support in our school is matched carefully to the needs of each child. High quality teaching in the classroom means that activities and tasks can be adjusted by the class teacher to ensure they are matched to the child's needs. This is known as differentiation. We also use a wide range of interventions and programmes devised to support children's learning. These are taught in a range of settings; usually within small groups, in the classroom or sometimes in learning areas outside the classroom. These are delivered by well-trained teaching assistants who are guided, supported, and monitored by the class teacher and SENDCO. There may be sometimes where your child might work with an adult visiting school, for example a speech therapist, if this is the case you should receive 'notes of visit' which will be passed to you by your child's teacher.

- **What specialist support does school have access too?**

School can access expertise and advice from other professionals; Educational Psychologist, Counsellor, Learning Mentor, Learning Support, Speech and Language Therapists, Autism Service, and voluntary agencies. If a child is receiving care from an NHS service such as Ryegate Children's Centre or CAMHS the SENDCO will liaise with other professionals involved to provide the best support for the child. It could really



help your child and school if you make sure you agree to agencies sharing information with us.

Training needs of staff to meet individual needs are carefully assessed and quality professional development is delivered by relevant specialists as required. Any necessary equipment or facilities needed to support children with special needs in school will be secured wherever possible.

- **How will I know the school are doing the best for my child?**

Schools by law follow the requirements in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2014) to make sure that a child with SEND gets the appropriate support they need. We have a designated teacher (SENDCO) who is responsible for co-ordinating this provision. The SENDCO and class teacher will communicate with parents to ensure full involvement in discussions about support. Clare Wilson is the SENDCO at Oasis Academy Fir Vale.

- **How accessible is Oasis Academy Fir Vale?**

The school is equipped with a lift, flat access to both entrance doors downstairs, and accessible toilets on each floor, one of which includes changing facilities and a hoist. Class trips, learning beyond the classroom and residential stays are an integral part of learning at Oasis Academy Fir Vale. Pupils with SEND are included wherever possible in these and the planning of them will always be solution focused. We endeavour to choose visits that are accessible to all. Thorough risk assessments are always carried out as part of the planning of learning environments to ensure the welfare and safety of the children.

If a child has specific needs, then a Care Plan and/or Accessibility Plan will be created using advice from medical professionals where necessary before admission.

- **What support will there be for my child's general well-being?**

At Oasis Academy Fir Vale our ethos has a strong emphasis on including everyone and that everyone is unique. We recognise that children learn best when they feel happy and secure. All staff work hard to raise children's self-esteem. We are particularly aware that children with SEND may be more vulnerable to low self-esteem and staff use a range of strategies to promote self-confidence e.g., giving roles of responsibility, reward systems, verbal praise, and encouragement, highlighting their strengths and talents including those outside of the school curriculum. All classes have regular Personal, Social and Health Education lessons and we also offer a wide range of pastoral support through interventions and bought in services, this includes 1:1 counselling and interventions from Think for the Future. We use the Zones of Regulation emotional regulation supports which supports children to identify and regulate their own emotions.

- **What can I do if I am not happy about the SEND provision for my child?**

In the first instance you should always speak to your child's class teacher. If you then feel that your concerns are unresolved you can contact the school SENDCO. A copy of our complaints policy is on our school website.



Sheffield SEN & Disability Information Advice and Support (SSENDIAS) provides impartial, confidential information, advice & support to parents/carers of children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

SSENDIAS contacts:

Telephone 0114 273 6009

E-mail ssendias@sheffield.gov.uk

Website [Sheffield SENDIAS](#)

The Sheffield Local Offer provides information of what support and services are available from the Local Authority for children and young people with SEN and disabilities and their families.

Follow the link to the Sheffield website:

<http://www.sheffielddirectory.org.uk/kb5/sheffield/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

The Sheffield Parent Carer Forum, a parent-led charity, which offers support and advice for families of children with SEN provides guides for parents:

<http://sheffieldparentcarerforum.org.uk/>

More information is available on our school website:

<https://www.oasisacademyfirvale.org/learning/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities>