



SEND Information Report

- **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. The majority of 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 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 these additional needs. Schools also receive information from parents, pre-school settings 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 in-sight 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;

- *Speech and language difficulties*
- *Language and communication difficulties which may include children on the Autism Spectrum*
- *Learning difficulties, for example 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 an 'APDR' will involve identifying your child's strengths and those areas where your child may need extra support. It will also involve setting some targets for your child and what the school and you can do to help your child achieve these targets. 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. After some time 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 value your involvement especially with setting targets for your child. You will be asked to help us complete an 'APDR' or 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 parents evenings where you can gain information as to how you can best support your child's learning. The SENDCO is able to 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 SEND.

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

There are two parents' evenings each year where parents can discuss their child's progress with their class teacher. In addition to these meetings there are termly review meetings for parents of children with a My Plan or Education Health Care Plan. Parents, SENDCO, class teacher and teaching assistants meet to discuss their child's progress in more detail. It may be necessary to invite other professionals to these meetings. The child's views might also be sought for these meetings. 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 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 or a part time timetable. 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 in order for your child to settle. Any necessary paperwork will be hand delivered to 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 some times 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, 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.

- **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 the SEND provision. This is Clare Wilson. The SENDCO and class teacher will communicate with you to ensure they are fully involved in discussions about support for your child.

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

The school is equipped with a lift, ramps for entry into the building and accessible toilets on each floor including changing facilities with a hoist. Class trips, learning beyond the classroom and residential stays are an integral part of learning at Oasis Fir Vale. Pupils with SEND are included wherever possible in these and the planning of these will always be solution focused rather than looking at barriers. We endeavour to choose visits that are accessible to all. Thorough risk assessments are always carried out as part of the planning of a learning environment to ensure the welfare and safety of the children.

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

At Oasis 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. With this in mind, 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 try and balance against this e.g. giving roles of responsibility, reward systems, verbal praise and encouragement, highlighting their strengths and talents including those outside of the school curriculum. We also offer PSHE lessons in classes and a wide range of pastoral support is provided by our Learning Mentor. We are part of the Healthy Minds project, which supports children's and staff mental health and well-being.

- **What can I do if I'm 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 to find out how Oasis Academy Fir Vale works hard to ensure the best provision for all children with SEND. You could also contact the relevant member of the Academy Council by making enquiries at the school office.

The Sheffield Local Offer gives 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?localoffercannel=0>



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

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

or for more information on the school website: <https://www.oasisacademyfirvale.org/>