

Your support and encouragement is vital. If at any time you have queries or would like further explanation please contact the school to speak to or make an appointment with your child's teacher, a member of the Inclusion Team or the Principal.



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**PORTLAND
SPENCER ACADEMY**

*Special Educational
Needs and Disabilities
(SEND)*

A Guide for Parents

*"Working together for
Success"*

What is SEND?

We believe a child has SEND if they have:

- Learning difficulties which are significantly greater than the majority of children their age.
- Disabilities which prevent or hinder them from accessing school without additional adult support.
- Social emotional or mental health needs that impact on their learning and development.

What happens next?

If you or your child's teacher thinks that your child is having difficulties they will discuss this with you at parents meetings and you will also have the opportunity to discuss any concerns you may have with a member of the Inclusion Team. We believe that school and parents working together will ensure the best provision is given to your child.

The Next Step

Once a child has been identified as having SEND their name will be added to the SEND register which is overseen by the Inclusion Team. Your child will then receive an individual plan—Steps to Success, which identifies small steps to support your child in achieving a larger target and making progress.

Support - SEND support, HLN or EHCP

Once your child has been identified as having Special Educational Needs they will have one of 3 levels of support offered to them. SEND support where they will have specific interventions in small groups within school time. Higher Level Need (HLN) funding where additional 1:1 support will be given by a Teaching Assistant and from an outside agency - Speech and Language Therapy, Learning Support, Autism Support, Behaviour Support or Educational Psychology.

EHCP

If your child is still having significant difficulties, it may be necessary to request an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) assessment which may result in an EHCP being created. Having an EHCP means that more agencies may become involved in your child's education and could lead to a greater amount of support.

The Code of Practice

The Code of Practice is a Government guide for all schools about the practical help they can give to children with special educational needs. It recommends that schools should identify children's needs and take action to meet those needs as early as possible, working with parents. It also recommends that schools should meet the children's needs step by step, or in stages, matching the level of help to the needs of the child.