



February 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Our recent parent survey indicated that parents would like to know more about how we cater for the wide range of children's needs at our school.

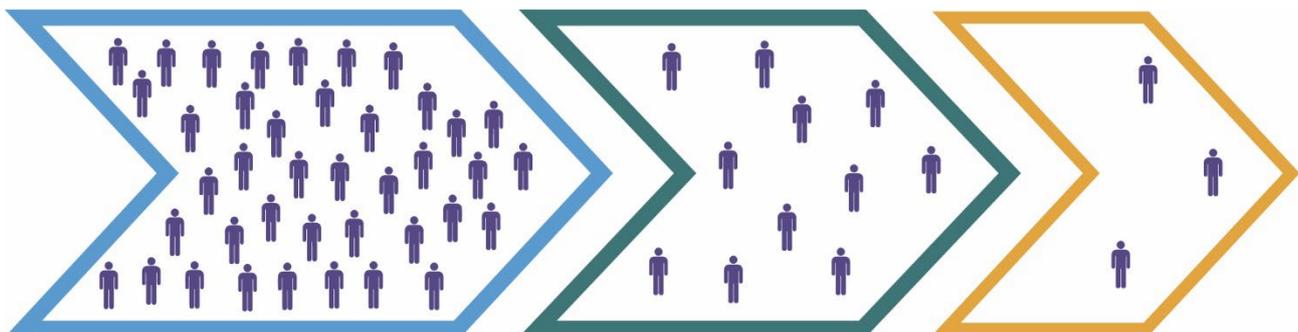
We are proud of the fact that we know all our children well and that we strive to ensure each and every one of our children meets their potential.

A graduated response to meeting need.

Schools use a 'graduated response to meeting need'.

This diagram shows how each child's needs are met in schools. I will explain in more detail below.

SEN: A graduated response to meeting a need



Universal provision

all schools, every classroom, every teacher and all children

- A broad and balanced curriculum
- differentiated for individual pupils
 - the first step in responding to pupils who have, or may have SEN

High quality teaching with good lesson planning

- suitable and ambitious targets for every child
- monitoring the quality of teaching and learning to ensure it's appropriate is in all schools

Funding and expertise is in all schools for all this provision.

Targeted provision

all schools, every classroom, every teacher and some children

- Universal provision, and:
- school based plan that identifies needs, sets outcomes and specifies support
 - professional advice may be required for some children
 - children are likely to have barriers to learning - schools are responsible for removing these barriers through assess, plan, so and review
 - support is 'additional to and different from the universal provision

Funding and expertise is in all schools for most of these children.

Specialist provision

all schools, some classrooms, every teacher and very few children

- Universal provision + targeted provision, and:
- more specialist intervention and advice
 - children may have long term complex and/or disabilities
 - the child may be supported through an EHCP
 - provision may be in a special school
 - some children may have complex health needs

This provision may need additional local authority funding (top up funding)



Growing

Happy

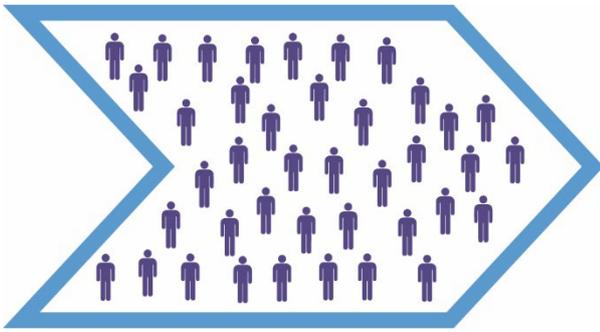
Caring

Hearts

and

Minds



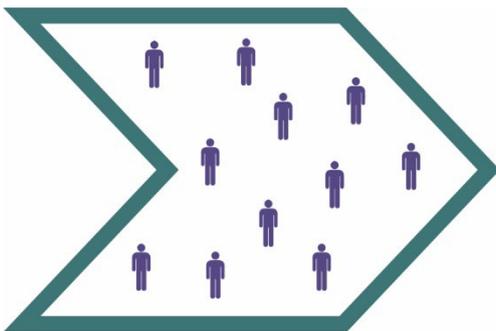


Universal provision

The majority of our children will have their needs met via 'Universal provision'.

This means that when we plan any lesson, we prepare a range of tasks and learning goals to suit each child's level of ability. We aim to challenge each child just the right amount so that they make progress at the rate that is right for them.

Children are regularly assessed via quizzes, tests, questioning and observation. The senior leadership team conducts a termly 'monitoring meeting' with each teacher to monitor each individual child's progress over the term.



Targeted provision

If a child is not making progress in the way that we would expect, the senior leadership team will support the teacher to set targets for that child and discuss strategies to achieve those targets.

The child may be included in one of our 'intervention' groups.

Our interventions cover a whole range of needs and subjects including boosting confidence, developing reading fluency, pre-teaching, supporting well-being or addressing misconceptions.

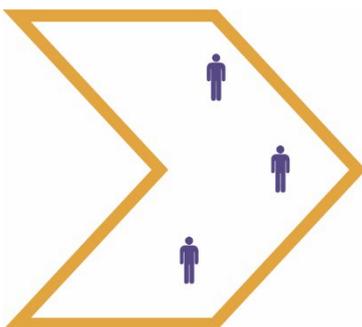
We use interventions that are pre-planned and almost always have a proven record of success through research.

The impact for the child is measured once the intervention is completed.

If this applies to your child, your teacher will speak to you about this at parents evening.

A small number of children may continue to make limited progress and this is when our SENDco will become involved.

For a very small number of children, where the Universal and Targeted provision is failing to meet their needs, specialist support will be required.



Specialist provision

For children who are making limited progress, despite interventions, our SENDco will help to identify barriers to learning. The SEND Department provides support for pupils across the four areas of need:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs

These areas of need are laid out in the SEN Code of Practice 2014. For more information on what is included in these four areas, see <https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/send-local-offer/>

Our SENDco may call on external agencies for help with understanding a child's needs. For example, Speech and Language therapists, Communication and Interaction Team, Social Emotional Mental Health Team, CAMHS or an Educational Psychologist.

We use the Devon Graduated Response document to look further into needs:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/send/devon-graduated-response/>

Any child with an identified special educational need is supported in a wide variety of ways:

- Quality first teaching, with appropriate differentiation in place
- Extra adult support in classrooms where appropriate
- Small group teaching where appropriate
- Personalised provision through time limited programmes
- Personalised provision through adapted resources and intervention

The curriculum/learning environment may also be adapted by:

- Groupings that target specific levels of progress
- Differentiated resources and teaching styles
- Implementation of strategies recommended by external agencies and professionals
- Appropriate choices of texts and topics to suit the learner
- Access arrangement for tests and or examinations
- Recently built school buildings are compliant with all disability standards. Please see our Accessibility Plan on the school website.

Most children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) will have their needs met by the SEN provision in their school, college or education setting.

EHCPs

A very small number of children have needs that cannot be met by the SEND provision in their school. For these children, further funding may be needed to meet their needs through the Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) process.

An EHCP is for young people aged 25 or under who are in education or training and need additional support to the SEN support provided by their school or education setting. It sets out a child or young person's education, health and care needs and the extra support required to meet them.

For children who need specialist provision, our SENDco will apply for an EHCP using reports from the teacher, family, SEND team and other relevant professionals.

The waiting time for approval of an EHCP is legally 20 weeks from the date of application but can currently be twice that. This is beyond the control of the school.

You may be aware via media reports, that, as a county, Devon County Council is currently struggling to meet the needs of children with SEN and that they have an overspend of £37 million. The funding crisis in Devon will impact the number of children who may be awarded an EHCP. It is important that teachers use the Devon Graduated Response as an initial way to meet children's needs within the classroom. Evidence of this will support an EHCP application if it is needed.

The funding crisis also means that external agencies have been drastically cut by Devon County Council. For example, Educational Psychologists are no longer allocated hours to schools unless they are undertaking an EHCP assessment; we hope this is temporary but currently will last at least until July 2023.

At Withycombe, we ensure that we do our utmost to get children who require specialist support the funding they require to access the curriculum and make progress. The process takes time, and before making an application for additional support, we secure as much evidence and advice as we can to give the application as much chance as possible of being successful.

I hope that the above information is useful and that it provides you with a clearer idea of the work we do in school. If you have concerns about your child's progress, please speak to your class teacher in the first instance.

If your child has an identified special educational need, our SENDco, Mrs Hollingsworth, is hugely experienced and will be able to answer your questions. You can contact Mrs Hollingsworth by calling the school or by email to chollingsworth@wrpschool.org

Our website has a page dedicated to SENDco: <https://www.wrpschool.org/our-senco>

Alternatively, the following link will provide you with contact details of organisations that may be able to help: <https://www.pinpointdevon.co.uk/>

Yours sincerely

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