

Support for your child at Thorn Grove Primary School.



Our job is to help your child achieve the very best they can at school. You know your child best and you may feel that they need some additional help or support for some or all of their time at school.

This booklet is to inform you of the types of support available for your child. It will help you understand who can help and how this support can be accessed.

The government has made some changes to how some children and their families are supported. These changes are in the **Children and Families Act 2014**.



These changes mean that children and their families will:

- get the support they need earlier, to help them learn and be healthy
- be more involved in making decisions about their lives and the support they need
- be able to find information more easily than before
- get help to prepare for their future, including getting a job, choosing where to live and getting involved in their community.

These changes will help children with **special educational needs and disabilities** to:

- learn
- stay healthy
- get involved in their local community
- make friends
- get a job.

Some people will be able to get this support until the age of 25.

The government wants you and your child to have more chance to say what support you get in your life.

If you would like to know what provision is in place for your child or if you have concerns that your child may have additional needs please speak to their class teacher who can put a plan in place to support your child.

You are also very welcome to make an appointment with our **SENDCo**. Appointments can be made through the school office.



Further information can be found on the school's website regarding policies and school events.

An **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)** is a document that says what support a child who has special educational needs should have.

It looks at the education support, the health support and the social care support a child or young person needs.

Not all children or young people will need an education, health and care plan. They are only for children and young people who have a significant educational need and require a lot more support than their school can usually give them.

If your child has an EHCP, it will say:

- what things they need **support with in their life**
- what **education support** they will get to help them to learn
- what **health support** they will get in their life
- what **social care support** they might need in their life
- what things they **want to do in the future**

This kind of document used to be called a '**Statement**'.

Your child might already have a statement. If they do, it might get transferred to an education, health and care plan in the future.

Before your child can get an **EHC plan**, they must have an **education, health and care needs assessment** to see what things they need support with. Lots of different people will contribute to the assessment, such as you, your child, a teacher, a doctor, a speech and language therapist, an educational psychologist etc.

Approximately one in five children will have a **special educational need (SEN)** at some time during their school career.

Children with SEN have **learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities** which make it harder for them to learn than most children of the same age. They will need extra support or different help e.g. modified tasks, extra time or breaks in formal assessments.



Schools and other agencies can help most children overcome their difficulties quickly and easily. But a few children will need **extra help** for some or all of their time in school. This means they may have difficulty with:

- some or all of the work in school
- reading, writing or mathematics
- understanding information
- expressing themselves
- understanding others
- organising themselves
- sensory perception or physical mobility
- managing their behaviour
- making friends or relating to adults

At Thorn Grove, there is a highly experienced team of staff who may be involved in supporting your child. These include:

Your child's teacher, who will always make sure that tasks set are appropriate and accessible for your child. They are available to you at the start and end of each day.

Teaching Assistants, who support all pupils in class. We have several additional TAs who help support groups and individual children with their learning.

SENDCo - Special Educational Needs and Disability Co-ordinator who co-ordinates the provision of SEN in school.

A **School Governor** who liaises with the SENCo in leading SEND in school.

Sometimes school may commission **Specialist Support** from outside agencies to work with identified children with a particular focus eg Speech and language therapists or Occupational therapists.

To ensure our staff have the skills and knowledge to support children with SEND—there is a programme of on-going training in school.

Progress and attainment of all pupils is re-viewed every term by the Headteacher and the SENCo, at which time provision may be adjusted to meet identified needs.

We will do our best to find out if your child has **special educational needs** and give them the support they need to help them learn.

If your child has **special educational needs**, we will look at how we can support them. We will look at:

- what support your child needs
- what they can do to give your child the support they need.

For most **children with special educational needs**, the support that we provide through Quality First teaching is usually enough to support them to learn. This means that a range of teaching and learning styles are used and that appropriate learning objectives are set for all children with a curriculum matched to their needs. All our classes are supported by Teaching Assistants and pupils are also offered additional one to one tuition, small group work or catch up programmes where needed.

This kind of support is called **special educational needs support**.



You can have your say about what support your child gets. You might be asked to go to a meeting with your child's teacher to talk about this. This could be done through a Parents' Evening or an SEN review meeting.