A helpful guide to Special Educational Needs at Little Plumstead

Parents often worry about how to talk to their children about special educational needs. This booklet is written to help support parents explain why their child may get extra help in school and encourage them to empower their children to be equal partners in solving any problems they may be experiencing.

If you would like more information, or to organise a meeting with our SENDCo, Miss Harris, please contact via senco@acornpartnership.stbenets.org

Why is school sometimes so hard?

Everyone learns in a different way. All children are good at some things. All children will have some things that they find hard to learn. Sometimes this is just for one lesson.

But for some children lots of lessons seem hard.

Do not worry. This is true for one ***out of every five*** *children.*

So, you are never the only one in your class feeling learning can be hard.

Some children find learning is difficult for a short while. Some children have to work harder than their friends at learning. But some children often find the following attributes easier than other children…

Keeping on trying even when it's tough!

Working harder than others to achieve your goal!

Being kind to others who also find things tricky!

Does this sound like you?

What does the government say about helping children in school?

The government made a law to say teachers must help all children, not just the children who love learning and find school easy. This is so that all children get the same chance at making friends, feeling part of the school and learning what they need to get a job that they feel proud of in the future. All schools are given money from the government to help them stick to these rules.

These are the rules schools have to follow:

- Schools have to tell you and your parents or carers what they can do to help you
- Your teacher has to ask you for your ideas about how to help you
- Your teacher has to do the best they can to help you
- School must give you the same chance as your friends to join in clubs and extra activities in school
- School must stop others bullying you
- Adults must not be unfair or unkind if you need more help or have a disability

Who helps me?

If you think an adult or child is being unfair or unkind please tell your parent/carer, your teacher, Miss Richardson (Interim executive headteacher) Mrs Tovell (Head of School) or Miss Harris (SENCo)

Miss Richardson expects everyone to keep learning and get better, which means the teachers too! There are lessons for teachers and teaching assistants too which teaches them how to help all children in school.

You can help your teacher too! You know exactly what you find easy in school and what is not so easy. You know when the teachers do something good that makes you happy and the learning seem fun. Tell your teachers, get your parents to tell the teachers too. This is how you teach your teacher.

Your parents and carers will help you as much as they can at home, working with the teachers in school as a team to make sure you feel confident and happy.

Sometimes the teachers are not sure what the best way is to help some children in their class, they will go and ask for help from Miss Harris. Miss Harris helps them come up with a plan to help. She has a special name for her job, it is 'Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator' or SENDCo for short.

Sometimes Miss Harris needs to ask someone else about the best way to help you. Then she will ask for other people called ‘experts’ to come in and meet you and to talk to you about how you like to learn.

The ‘experts’ know a lot about how children learn and what makes them happy. The ‘experts’ have new ideas that they will write in a report and tell the teachers to use.

Please remember that all children are different and to ensure every child has the best possible start to their education, it is important that we work together as a team, just like footballers on the pitch!

If you think something is not working, tell us! Sharing what is making you sad is the only way we can work together to make things better.

Why do I have to go out of my classroom sometimes?

Some children need quiet learning time away from the rest of the class. This sometimes happens every day or sometimes once or twice a week. This could help you and a small group to learn new skills.

You might do:

Reading…

Writing…

Maths…

…making friends

Keeping calm

Or whatever you need to do next to help you with your learning…

Whoever teaches you will tell you what they hope you will learn before you start these lessons. Afterwards they tell you how much you have learnt and how you can use your new learning in the classroom.

The grown ups keep talking about an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP).

What is it?

A few children in school have an **E**ducation, **H**ealth and **C**are **P**lan. It is called an **EHCP** for short. It is a special document that tells all the adults in school, the special things that you need to help you learn. If adults do not stick to it they are in trouble! Have you got an Education Health and Care plan?

The EHCP explains the things you are good at as well as the things you find difficult. It includes what you think about school and learning as well as what your parents and other experts think. It says what everyone has to do, including you, in order to make school a fun place.

Every year, all the adults will meet and you can come too! The meeting is called an annual review and this is everyone's chance to talk about all the new things that you have learnt and to make any changes to the EHCP. You can say if you are happy or not happy with the help you are getting and what things can be done differently to help you achieve even more!

What does Little Plumstead Academy want for you?

- Everyone to be the best they can be (and that includes teachers)
- Help for everyone who is finding things difficult (and that includes teachers)
- You and your parents to be an important part of the planning for your future
- Help from people outside of our school if we need it.

And the reasons for this is we want all children:

- To be proud of themselves.
- To grow up to be confident adults.
- To be good friends and have good friends.
- Have an important part to play in their community.

That is why we have this motto: **Learn more, think more, be more**

We look forward to welcoming you to our school.