



'Imagine, Believe, Achieve'

Dovedale Primary School SEN Information Report

Autumn 2025

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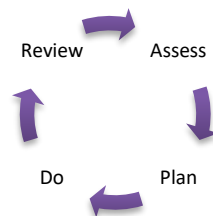
Local Offer Contribution:

<https://fisd.liverpool.gov.uk/kb5/liverpool/fisd/service.page?id=VGxXTEOhNbU&familychannel=0>

Our Approach as a School:

High quality first teaching and additional interventions are defined through our person-centred planning approach across the school contributing to our provision management arrangements. These processes help us to regularly review and record what we offer all children or young people in our care and what we offer additionally. These discussions also serve to embed our high expectations amongst staff about quality first teaching and the application of an adapted and personalised approach to teaching and learning. We make it a point to discuss aspirations with ALL our learners. This is a whole-school approach and this report will promote how we underpin this practice across our classrooms, pastoral care and support arrangements.

Underpinning ALL our provision in school is the **graduated approach** cycle of:



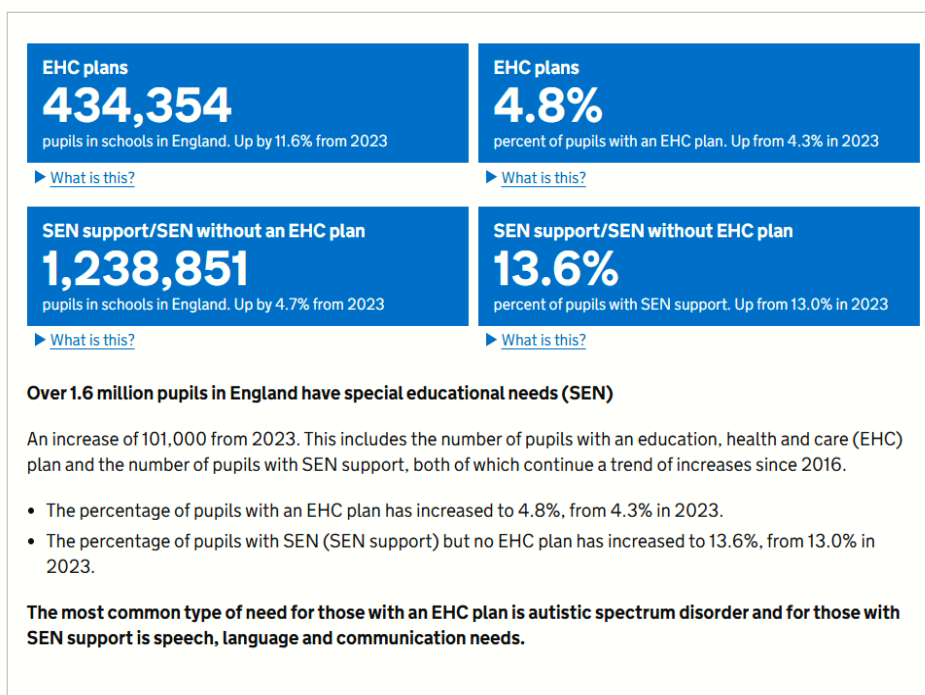
All teachers are responsible for every child in their care, including those with special educational needs.

See Local Offer Question 2

Having consulted with children, young people and their parents, all our additional provision (internal or external) is based on an agreed outcomes approach and these are discussed with the professionals that offer the support to your child/young person and hold both our internal/external providers and ourselves to account.

SEN Needs National Data:

Headline facts and figures - 2023/24



The headline data shows: A total of 18.4% of children in England have some kind of special educational need- up from 17.3% in 2023. That's a total of 1,673,205 of children with SEND, which is an increase of over 100,000 from 2023

	Number of pupils at SEN Support	Number of pupils with an EHC Plan	% of pupils at SEN Support	% of pupils with an EHC Plan	Total % of pupil population with SEN
National Data January 24	1,238, 851	434, 354	13.6% ↑	4.8% ↑	18.4% ↑
Dovedale data July 2025	188 ↑	22 ↑ 13 boys 59% 9 girls 41%	22.4% ↑ Above national average	2.6 ↑ Below national average	25% ↑ Above national average
Dovedale data July 2024	176 ↑	14 ↑ 5 girls 36% 9 boys 64%	20.5 ↑ Above national average	1.6 ↑ Below national average	22.1% ↑ Above national average
Liverpool Data January 23-January 24	7524 Pri 5566 High Total	1,434 Primary 3.26% Primary 4363 Total 5.45%	17.1% ↑ Above national average	3.26% Total 5.45% Above national average	20.36% ↑ Above national average

Children and young people's SEN are classified in the Code of Practice 2014 (last updated in Jan 2020) in the following broad areas of need;

1. Communication and interaction

Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile for every child with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives. They may have delayed, or disordered (not following typical error patterns) speech or receptive (understanding) expressive or social communication difficulties.

Children and young people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder are likely to have difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication, social interaction and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others. For examples of the provision on offer at Dovedale for children with Communication and Interaction needs see below;

Provision
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• WellComm Screening for all children in EYFS• WellComm Intervention groups for highlighted children across the school• Tasks adapted to the level of the individual child• Possibility of small group or one to one intervention• Adaptations to the environment where necessary• Access to additional specialist support and/or Pastoral team as required• Use of specialist equipment where necessary e.g. visual support, Barrier Games, visual timetables, privacy boards• Speech and Language programmes provided by an NHS Speech Therapist• Narrative Groups• Social skill groups e.g. Time to Talk, Socially Speaking,• Advice and support from SaLT/SENIS• Screening and assessment from a SaLT assistant -commissioned service 2 days per week• Lego Therapy, Think Bricks• Attention Autism/Bucket Therapy• Chatta programme introduced in year 1 as a whole class approach to support working memory, oracy and vocabulary development.

2. Cognition and learning

Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication, through to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment.

Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

Provision
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality first teaching e.g. understanding of all pupils and their needs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexible groupings • Use of technology and scaffolding • Complement high quality teaching with carefully selected small group interventions • Tasks adapted to the level of the individual child • Adaptations to the environment, where necessary • Individual targets where appropriate, recorded on SEN Support plan and reviewed termly • Access to additional specialist support when necessary, e.g. SENISS, EP, SLD Outreach • Use of specialist equipment where necessary e.g. access to laptops/software, sloping desktops, coloured exercise books and overlays • Time bound, focussed intervention groups e.g. Cracking Comprehension, First Class@ Number, First Class @Number 2 • RWInc Phonic Booster sessions • Closing the Gaps groups-delivered at point of need and directed by the AHT for KS2 • 1:1 Reading Partners, use of Precision Teaching • 1:1 or 1:2 specialist programmes for children with high needs e.g. Memory Fix, Active Literacy Kit(ALK) • Beanstalk Reading Partners for targeted Pupil Premium pupils • IDL(Independent Dyslexia learning) • FFT Lightning Squad Reading Programme • Use of ICT and technology to support recording, where appropriate • Paired Reading and Cued Spelling programme

3. Social, Emotional and Mental Health

Children and young people can face a variety of social and emotional challenges, which may present in different ways. These challenges might include withdrawal, isolation, or exhibiting challenging, disruptive, or concerning behaviours. Such behaviours can often indicate underlying mental health issues like anxiety, depression, self-harm, substance abuse, eating disorders, or medically unexplained physical symptoms. Additionally, some children and young people may be diagnosed with conditions such as attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), or attachment disorder.

We understand the critical role that positive mental health plays in supporting effective learning. To address these needs, our school is proud to have a dedicated Pastoral Team. This team includes a team leader, Mrs. Fox, along with two pastoral learning support assistants, Mrs. Keogh and Mrs. Murphy.

We are also honoured to have received the prestigious School of Sanctuary Award from Liverpool City Council, reflecting our commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive school environment.

All the children in the school also attend Forest School sessions once a week for half a term, once each year, which has an extremely positive impact on the children's mental health and well-being.

Provision

- Quality first teaching—maintain a positive and supportive environment for all pupils
- Opportunity for all children to take part in Forest School sessions over the year
- Small group or one to one support, where relevant
- Movement breaks and use of trampette/peanut ball, other specialist resources
- Individual targets/ ABC sheets completed with pupil, where relevant
- Individual support sessions with the Pastoral Support Team (PST)
- Confidence workshops with PST
- Social Skill groups; Time to Talk Groups EYFS, Y1-2, Friendship Formula Groups y3, Y4 Socially Speaking or Talkabout Friendship Intervention Y4-Y6
- Bereavement and parental separation support groups led by mentors
- Pause B and DOTS (Mindfulness sessions) led by Mrs Norfolk
- Lego Therapy groups, use of Zones of Regulation
- Referrals to Fresh CAMHs, YPAS for counselling
- Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP) intervention
- Access to CAMHs consultations
- Beautiful New Beginnings (BNB) 1:1 or small group work
- Trainee Art Therapist works on an individual basis
- New Sensory garden
- Signposting and parent support from specialist organisations e.g. YPAS, Addvanced Solutions, BNB

4. Sensory and/or physical needs

Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time. Many children and young people with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning. Children and young people with an MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties, which makes it even more difficult for them to access the curriculum or study programme than for those with a single sensory impairment.

Area of Need	Provision
Sensory and/or physical needs Including Hearing Impairment, Auditory Processing Difficulties Vision Impairment Sensory Processing Difficulties Dyspraxia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality first teaching, tasks adapted to the level of the individual • Sensory Circuits • Possibility of small group or one to one support • Adaptations to the environment where necessary • Individual targets where appropriate • Access to additional specialist support as required e.g. SENISS Sensory Team, Physiotherapists, Springwood Heath outreach • Use of specialist equipment where necessary e.g. access to laptops/software, sloping desktops, tangle toys, trampette, spinning cone, sensory kit, books and overlays, ear defenders • Time bound, focussed intervention groups e.g. Motor Skills United, Clever Fingers, OT programmes • 1:1 or 1:2 specialist programmes for children with high needs e.g. OT programme written by OT, Sensory Diet

Some children and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

See Local Offer Question 8

We have internal processes for monitoring quality of provision and assessment of need. These include data analysis, book scrutiny, regular monitoring cycle, linking with SLT and appropriate TLR post holders, observations of LSA s delivering interventions, classroom observations and interviews with children receiving support.

Co-producing with children, young people and their parents

Involving parents and learners in the dialogue is central to our approach and we do this through:

Action/Event	Who's involved	Frequency
SEN Support Plans (SSPs)	Pupil, class teacher, Inclusion Manager, parents, SENISS/EP where appropriate	Termly-copies shared at parent's evening for parents to add their views to the SSP
Reintegration/safety plan	Member of PST meets parent/carer and child	As appropriate
1:1 Meeting with Inclusion Manager and/or SENDCo	Parents, pupils Staff	Available at termly parent's evenings and at school Open Morning Meetings on request
Wellbeing Ambassadors	Pupil representatives from each class in Y4, Y5, Y6 AHI -Mrs Rogers	Meet every 4 weeks, WBA support children on the yard and help organise events for parents and carers Half Termly
School council Rocket Resilience Champions	AH Curriculum-Mr O'Toole PST train and oversee	Meet with PST half termly
Family Help Assessment (FHA) (formerly Early Help Assessment Tool- EHAT) meetings and review meetings	Pastoral Team, parent/s, SENDCo and any internal and external professions involved in supporting the family	An FHA can be raised at any time with permission from the family/ at request of the family, a FHA is reviewed approximately every 12 weeks
Education, Health and Care Plan Requests (EHCP)	AHI, class teacher, TA, parents, pupil, representatives from LEA (Angela Conway is our school Education Officer)	A statutory assessment of a child's SEN with a view to an EHCP can be requested by the school in partnership with the parent at any point. If the LEA agree to complete the assessment a co-production meeting is held with the SEN team to review the draft EHCP prior to final statutory documents being completed
Annual Reviews of EHCP	Child, parents, school, all outside professionals involved in supporting the child	Annually Held in the Autumn term for children in Y6
Assessments by external professionals	AHI, Educational Psychologist, SaLT, SENISS, teacher, Beautiful New Beginnings Therapist, LSA, parent, child	A referral for assessment and/or consultation from external provision can be raised at any point. Parents are usually invited for feedback sessions, and a report is completed and shared with the parent. Selected targets are added to the child's SSP.
Nurturing Parent Programme	PST, Selected parents, Some referrals from Children's centre and centre for Emotional Health	10-week parenting course, run by PST, held in the Children's Centre

Staff development and Qualifications

We are committed to developing the ongoing expertise of our staff.

Please see Local Offer question 6

This year, we have put in additional training into phonics, supporting children with reading difficulties and our Inclusion Manager and SENDCo attended the School Improvement SEND briefings in March and November. Other training has included:

- Safeguarding training for all staff
- Use of Equals Curriculum in mainstream Setting-Mrs Milton, Mrs Newby
- The Engagement Model- Palmerston Special School- Mrs Rogers, Mrs Milton, Mrs Newby
- Gestalt Language Processing- Additional adults
- Termly Consortia Meetings
- Cued spelling and paired reading- Miss Webster
- CAMHs training re anxiety/bereavement
- Personalised training re children with SLCN
- Bucket Therapy (Attention Autism)
- AHT Inclusion and SENCo attended Inclusion Forum Northwest re ADHD and Fine Motor Skill development
- Staff knowledge of Sensory processing difficulties was increased
- A variety of staff attended the Educational Psychology Service (EPS) Training-Emotion Based school avoidance, Use of Comic Strip Conversations, PDA, Think Bricks, Cued Spelling and Paired reading, EBSA
- SENISS delivered Joint Attention training

Staff deployment

Considerable thought, planning and preparation goes into utilising our support staff to ensure children achieve the best outcomes, this includes for them to gain independence and are prepared for adulthood from the earliest possible age.

Where necessary, and appropriate, children with High Needs are supported by 1:1 LSAs. We have provided the first £6000 and apply for 'top up funding' from the High Needs Panel. Children with a new EHCP are banded with the completion of their plan and an amount of money is allocated.

In July we had 23 children in receipt of top up funding. 22 of these children have an EHCP.

Each Reception class has a full time TA and every other year group from Y1-Y6 has had the support of 2 LSAs for the morning, directed by the Year Group leader, according to need. In addition, there is a small team of Teaching Assistants who deliver intervention, directed, and monitored by the Inclusion Manager.

The Inclusion Team is managed by the Assistant Head for Inclusion (Mrs Rogers). The team comprises of a full time SENCO (Mrs Milton), and 3.5 part-time Learning Support Assistants (TA3) We also have a Pastoral Support team and the two pastoral support assistants (managed by Mrs Fox, Pastoral Support Leader). This team is non-class based and provides intervention support for children with SEND, EAL and Pupil Premium children, aimed at diminishing the differences in attainment and providing support required to meet individual and group needs, through the Graduated Response.

There are 2 TA Level 2s shared between the 4 year 1 and Year 2 classes and 2 TA2 shared between each year group from Y3 to Y6. The Year Group leaders will be responsible for managing and directing these TAs according to the needs of the children in their year groups.

Finance

A full list of our external partners who we work with can be found in our contribution to the Local Offer. Extending our school approach, we commission using an outcomes-based approach. This enables us to hold our partners and ourselves to account.

Our notional SEN budget was deployed in the following ways

- Inclusion team-1 Assistant Head for Inclusion (.9), 1 full time SENCO, 2.5 Part time TA3s
- 1 part-time clerical assistant for Inclusion (5 x am)
- 16 1:1 LSAs supporting children with an EHCP on a 1:1 or 1:2 basis, as appropriate
- 3 part time additional LSA in the afternoons in KS2 delivering SaLT/RWI/small group support
- Commissioned External services-e.g. Private Educational Psychologist, SaLT assistant (2 days per week)
- Additional Teaching resources and specialist equipment e.g. Sensory circuit
- Subscriptions to WellComm, Dyslexia Screener, Widget software
- Training courses

See Local Offer Question 10

School External Partnerships and Transition Plans

Our academic assessment for children and young people with special educational needs is moderated through our cluster of schools and neighbouring partners.

This year, we worked with our feeder partners to welcome **18** children including 5 children with an EHCP and young people with special educational needs or disabilities into EYFS and 13 settings were visited by our SENDCo and Assistant Head for EYFS, and we supported **40 children's** transition to their next phase in education at a variety of High schools. The children were supported by Mrs Milton and Mrs Newby (KS1) and KS2 Mrs Milton-SENDCo and Mrs Murphy-Pastoral Support Team led workshops over 4 weeks for 24 children.

Our approach included:

Additional individual and group transition visits before city-wide transition day

Individual transition books for all appropriate pupils, including children transferring to the junior department

Additional taster afternoons to Calderstones, Childwall High and Archbishop Blanch High School.

Liaised with Calderstones high school to offer places for 18 Year 6 children to attend their summer school programme

Transition meetings were held for all children with EHCPs and their next school, including the pupil, parents, Mrs Rogers and the relevant high school SENCo

See Local Offer Question 9

Complaints

Our complaints procedure:

Initially a parent should speak to the class teacher, then the year group leader, AHT for Inclusion, Head Teacher and if still not satisfied can use the complaints policy which is on the school website.

*This year we have **had 0** complaints that we dealt with following our school policies and procedures.*

Developments in the academic year 2024-25

- Early Identification of SLCN- **all** Reception children were WellComm screened on entry to school. WellComm programme to be delivered by a team of staff that have been trained by a SaLt. Children that require intervention to be re-screened every 12 weeks.
- Sensory Circuits have been introduced using the Children's Centre and adventure playground area.
- WellComm Data- very positive impact, particularly in EYFS-reduced from 38% to 12% needing intervention moving into Y1 in 22-23 and further reduced to 7.5% in 23-24. In 2024-2025 only 1 child needs continuing WellComm intervention in Y1.

Year	EYFS needing intervention	Year 1 needing intervention
2022-2023	38%	12%
2023-2024	10%	7.5%
2024-2025	20% (5 children with EHCPs)	4%

- Coffee mornings training for parents led by Inclusion team- focus on areas requested by parents, use of Alder Hey ASD training team 25 parents attended a 2-week afternoon workshop on Supporting Children with Anxiety and Managing Behaviour
- Parents' ASD Coffee morning 26 parents attended and Wellbeing Ambassador coffee morning
- The continued development and implementation of Forest School delivered by Kate Norfolk, SLT, the Pastoral team and parent volunteers.
- Children on the SEN register were encouraged to apply for and were given positions of responsibility within school, e.g., Reading Ambassador, Wellbeing Ambassador, Eco Warrior.
- Greater development of strategies and partnership agency support to children with social, emotional, and mental health needs – this included furthering our working relationship with MHST, through targeted interventions and wider workshops for Y5 Children

- Wellbeing Ambassadors to run Smile for A While Lunchtime provision with a member of the Inclusion team. Wellbeing Ambassadors are also trained support with this club.
- 3 children in Y5 have shared their experiences of being Neurodiverse in assembly
- We took part in National Neurodiversity Celebration week and further raised the profile and awareness of learners with additional needs and celebrated their strengths
- Joint commissioning with Consortia schools of new service for therapeutic for children with SEMH difficulties from 'Beautiful New Beginnings' instead of Seedlings
- The PST all received training and delivered the Nurturing parent programme, 10 week programme
- All SLT, Inclusion team and wider school staff worked towards achieving the Inclusion Quality Mark accreditation- assessment taking place on the 25-26th September 2025.

Further development

We regularly evaluate the effectiveness of provision via termly pupil progress meetings, pupil voice, parent meetings, analysis of assessment data and monitoring schedule.

Our strategic plans for developing and enhancing SEND provision in our school include:

- SENCo to work with Curriculum teams to ensure every subject is accessible/adapted to children with SEND
- Provide workshops for parents on areas of need requested from parent feedback.
- Enhanced induction of new staff to the Inclusion Team
- To provide training for relevant staff in the Gestalt language processes and how to support language acquisition for children with this process
- Implement Effective use of The Engagement Model (TEM) for children that are working Pre- key stage
- Sensory Circuits to be in the main school corridor in both departments so available for wider group of children
- Joint Attention and Special Interest Box training for EYFS/ KS1 1:1 LSA's
- Invite outside speakers into assembly during Neurodiversity Celebration week March 2026
- The implementation of Listening and Attention groups, and further stages of Attention Autism
- Extension of the Wellbeing garden to include the area outside the Inclusion office, for use by children with complex needs

Details of External Partners:

We are part of the South Central Consortium within Liverpool LA. As part of this group, we access additional services. The group also serves as an opportunity to share information with other SENDCos, headteachers and outreach workers. We work closely with our commissioned E.P.

As part of the Local Offer we work closely with SENISS and receive consultation support.

We commission Beautiful New Beginnings through our Consortia Funding.

We work closely with the Liverpool ASD Training Team. They provide support and deliver parental workshops which we organise on an annual basis and attend termly coffee mornings.

Mrs Rogers works closely with an accesses training with the Neighbour Hub and Virtual School for CLA.

Relevant school policies underpinning this SEN Information Report include:

List policies that reference SEND (e.g. SEND Policy, Teaching and Learning Policy, Marking Policy, Equal Opportunities Policy)

SEND

Behaviour

Equal Opportunities

Marking Policy

Teaching and Learning Policy

Accessibility

Legislative Acts considered when compiling this report include:

- Children & Families Act 2014
- Equality Act 2010
- Mental Capacity Act 2005

Date presented to/approved by Governing Body: 3 November 2025