

There are many key changes to Special Educational Needs that are due to come into force from September 2014. The changes are in line with the new Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs which also becomes statutory from September 2014. As a school we have been preparing for these changes for some time and so the transition for us will hopefully be smooth running. The information below will hopefully clarify what these changes will look like for our school. This will also put our school's local offer for children with Special Education Needs into context.

The new Code of Practice can be found using the following link:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/338195/Code_of_Practice_approved_by_Parliament_290714.pdf

Here are some of the changes to SEN that we want to make you aware of:

Legislation

September 2014 - Legislation will be implemented from the new Code of Practice (COP.) The main

principles underpinning the changes are around :

- collaboration between all services involved with the child / young person
- being completely child centred and outcomes driven
- enabling successful independent living
- the progress of SEN children being the responsibility of the class teacher and must be a part of their performance management as of Sept 2014
- the COP sets out what must go on the schools website

Children and Families Act 2014 - Key Principles

- The involvement of children, young people and families
- All duties apply to all schools, including academies
- Co-ordinated assessment for ages 0-25, through the Education Health Care Plan
- More responsibility upon the health services to consider SEN and work with local authorities to ensure co-ordinated provision
- To have a clear SEN Information Report, showing as a school, what we have to offer for children with additional needs and the ways in which children and their families can access resources and support.
- Click the link below for our School SEN Information Report for children with Special Educational Needs.

<http://www.akps.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/08/AK-SEN-Information-Report.pdf>

- Ensure statutory protection of 16-25 year olds to prepare them for adulthood
- Offer of a personal budget and the involvement of child / young person / family in the decisions made when using it

The 4 areas of SEN will be known as:

1. Communication and Interaction
2. Cognition and Learning
3. Sensory and Physical Needs
4. Social, Emotional and Mental Health (previously Behaviour, Social and Emotional Needs)

A few of the points above can be further explained as:

- There will be an emphasis on ensuring there isn't an over-identification of SEN within the lower achieving children i.e. low progress and low attainment doesn't necessarily mean SEN.
- All children on SEN profile will have a non-statutory 'My Plan' which will be a child centred dialogue about the child's needs (this could replace an Individual Education Plan).
- Children who have statutory SEN needs (i.e. the old statement) will have an **Education Health Care Plan (EHC plan)** which will require a joint approach across education, health and social care.
- These children will also have a Statutory 'My Plan'
- The 'one page profile' is being introduced for us to use with our SEN / high need children where we feel appropriate (statutory with EHC plans). It is already being described as an excellent tool for becoming child centred and gaining a real understanding of the needs of our children and young people.
- 'My Plans' will be updated according to the child's needs and this will replace the Annual Review process. There will be an increased focus upon 'child outcomes.' Schools will be required, as a key principle, to involve parents and young people in decision making about SEN.

Educational Health Care Plans (EHC Plan)

- Application for Statutory EHCP's will be done through a single assessment process where all agencies including the parents will meet to discuss whether Statutory SEN should be given.
- Young people with Statutory Assessment/EHCPs will now receive support from birth until 25, (it is currently 18). This enables a shift in focus to enabling 'independent living' for young people.
- Parents of children and young people with EHC plans can opt for a 'personal budget' to help buy in the support as agreed in their EHC plan. Budgets are agreed with the school. The budget is used for a range of services to support a child's needs.
- Local authorities will be required to produce a 'local offer' stating what their schools are expected to provide from their notional SEN budget. Schools will need to display the local offer on their website.
- Schools also need to set out their own 'local offer' and share this on the school website, along with the SEN policy by September 2014. The Equality Act 2010 must also be displayed.

- IEPs are not statutory, but plans or targets will be set for all SEN children. Discussion with parents (and children if possible) will highlight what the goals are for the child -
EVERYTHING IS TO BECOME CHILD CENTRED - written from the perspective of the child.
This is good news!

We have already started implementing some of the above and we are proud that our children with additional needs do well at our school. If you require more information about SEN or the changes then please telephone to arrange an appointment.

Or you can contact our Wiltshire service:

Wiltshire Parent Carer Council 01225 764 647 or email them at admin@wiltspcc.co.uk

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