



... the sky's OUR limit!

Ridgeway Primary School
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy
A Parent Guide

The purpose of this policy is to ensure that pupils who may experience difficulties which affect their education, are appropriately supported in raising both their aspirations and their educational achievements across the whole school curriculum.

The school offer for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities can be viewed in full on the school website

www.ridgeway.staffs.sch.uk

What is a 'Special Educational Need or Disability?'

The law states that a child has special educational needs if she or he had a learning difficulty and needs additional support over and above the normal provision. About one child in every five has learning difficulties at some point during his or her school career.

Your child may have learning difficulties if she or he:

- Finds it harder to learn than most children of the same age;
- Has a medical need or disability which makes it difficult for him or her to use the normal education facilities.

Your child may have difficulties in one or more of these areas of need:

- Communication and Interaction (speech and language difficulties or Autistic Spectrum Condition);
- Cognition and Learning (delayed learning);
- Social, Emotional or Mental Health difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs (hearing or visual impairments and physical difficulties);
- Medical condition (if it has an impact on the child's ability to learn).

You know your child best so your views are therefore especially important. The closer you can work with your child's school the more effective any extra help they can provide will be.

What to do if you are concerned about your child?

If you are concerned about your child's progress at school you should:

1. Talk to your child's teacher;
2. Speak to the school's special educational needs and disabilities co-ordinator (SENDCo)
3. Ask to see your child's Headteacher.

School can help to support your child's progress at school through Monitoring or SEND Support.

At Monitoring level, your child's class teacher will be responsible for overseeing the progress that your child makes, however the SENDCo will have limited involvement.

At SEN Support level, the SENDCo will assess your child's difficulties and will decide what support is needed to help your child. They will ask you and your child's teacher what you feel your child's difficulties are. Your child will be given a learning plan which will include strategies that are going to be used, what provision is going to be put in place and when the plan is going to be reviewed. This will be at least twice a year. A review of your child's plan will take place at least twice a year.

If your child continues to have difficulties despite the strategies used/implemented, the school can request for additional help from outside agencies. You would be involved in this process.

Education, Health and Care Plans

For a very small number of children, despite all the help given by school, they may still not make progress. At this point the school, in consultation with the parents and other agencies, may ask the Local Authority (LA) for an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA). In order for this to be done, your child must have seen an Educational Psychologist.

An EHCNA is a very detailed examination of what your child's strengths and difficulties are and what help your child needs. The LA will request information from the child, parents and other professionals working with your child. Parents do also have the right to request/ask for an assessment themselves.

This assessment would be carried out through the EHC Hub. It can be requested by going to <https://ehchub.staffordshire.gov.uk/>

For more information about SEND in Staffordshire, please go to <https://www.staffordshireconnects.info/kb5/staffordshire/directory/localoffer.page?localofferchannel=0>

The School SENDCO is Miss Laura Gray.
The assistant SENDCo is Miss Emily Banks.
If you wish to speak to this team, please contact the school office on 01543 227170.