

## Tower Hamlets: SCHOOLS SEN REPORT

### Chisenhale Primary School

#### HOW WE SUPPORT CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS OR DISABILITIES

##### **Our vision and how we hope to achieve it**

Our vision is 'Learning together for a better future'. The school aims to expend this vision by developing children as: successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens. We are committed to providing an appropriate and high quality education to all the children living in our local area (Article 28 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child – Right to an Education). We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs, should be fully included in all aspects of school life (Article 23 – Children with Disabilities).

Staff work hard to support all children in our school to be the best they can be, both academically and socially.

##### **Type of school we are**

Chisenhale is a 1.5 form entry community primary school for the 5-11 age range.

We have a Nursery for children aged 3 to 4, with a mixture of full time and part time places. Children start school in the year they are 5 in our Reception class.

There are 1.5 classes (45 pupils) in each year group. In the Early Years Foundation Stage children are taught in mixed Nursery Reception classes. In KS1 (Y1 & Y2), LKS2 (Y3 & Y4) and UKS2 (Y5 & Y6) pupils are taught in single year group classes for literacy and maths every morning and in mixed age group classes for other subjects every afternoon (apart from Y5 and Y6 whom remain in single year groups all day). For example, in KS1 pupils are taught in two Y1 and two Y2 classes every morning and three mixed Y1/ Y2 classes every afternoon.

##### **Our Ofsted rating**

In our most recent Ofsted inspection (June 2015) we were rated as good in all areas.

"Disabled pupils and those who have special educational needs are taught well." "(They) make good progress from their starting points and achieve well." (Ofsted 2015)

##### **How we give children a voice**

We have a School Council made up of two elected members from each class from Y1 to Y6. The Head teacher meets with the School Council on a weekly basis to discuss a range of concerns and suggestions that the pupils have.

Pupils in need of SEN support have a Pupil Passport, where they have an opportunity to record their views on a number of areas including information they would like adults in the school to know about them, strategies that they find helpful and things that they find difficult. Parents also are invited to contribute to the Passport. There are termly review meetings where the pupils are actively encouraged to fully participate. The school makes every effort to arrange meetings at times that are suitable for parents and we are happy to communicate with parents over the phone or through email also.

We try to ensure that pupils with Statements of SEN or those with Education and Health Care Plans play an active role in reviewing their own progress and deciding on future targets. We hold person-centred annual review meetings where children are supported to express their views in person and through pictures, written presentations or video.

### **How we know if a child has special educational needs**

Just prior to children starting in our Nursery or Reception classes we complete home visits. During these visits we ask parents/ carers if their child has a disability or they feel that their child has any special educational needs so that we can discuss this and make sure that the right support is in place for the child. In addition to the home visits we offer new pupils the opportunity to attend 'stay and play' sessions in the summer term, where parents also have the opportunity to share any information they feel the school might need to know about their child.

If a child has special educational needs it is very important that they get help as soon as possible. In order to make sure that any special educational needs not known about before starting the school are picked up early, all pupils are assessed during the first half-term at the school.

We encourage children to contribute through our 'All about Me' work in the first term.

The school's system for regularly observing, assessing and recording the progress of all children is used to identify children who are not progressing satisfactorily and who may have additional needs. Children may be identified as needing additional support at any point during their time in the school.

We see parents/ carers as partners in the education of their children and always welcome parents coming to speak to us with any concerns they might have about their child. Where staff identify concerns regarding a child these will always be discussed with the parents / carers at the earliest possible opportunity.

### **What we do to help children with special educational needs**

Chisenhale has developed a wide range of ways in which we support children with special educational needs or disabilities. This is how we plan support:

- First we complete some assessments in order to identify what the particular problem is and we meet with the parents to discuss their child's needs. We also try to get the views of the child.
- We agree a programme of support that is carefully targeted to the particular area of difficulty. We also agree what we want the support to achieve and set a review date.
- We then implement the support programme.
- Finally we hold a review with the parents and the child to see how things are going.
- This process is then repeated as necessary.

Key information about pupils with SEN is recorded in a Student Passport, which is shared with all adults who work with the child. Pupils, parents and staff contribute to the information on Pupil Passports.

Class teachers are responsible for ensuring that all the children in their class are receiving appropriate teaching. The Special Educational Needs Coordinator (Senco) supports class teachers in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs or disabilities. Pupils are sometimes given additional support in the form of small group or 1:1 work for an agreed period of time. The Senco, Phase Leaders and other members of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) regularly monitor this additional support across the school to see how effective it is in helping pupils with additional needs make good progress. Where it is felt necessary, and with parental agreement, the school may seek advice from outside specialists.

### **How we adapt our teaching for children/young people with special educational needs**

Children with special educational needs are taught alongside other children. Lessons are designed so that all children in the class learn and make progress. We do this by planning what are called 'differentiated' lessons in which pupils of differing abilities are given similar but more or less challenging work, matched to their needs. Some pupils may also be given access to additional equipment or may have additional adult support for part or all of the lesson.

Every class teacher is involved in planning, monitoring and providing support for pupils in their class, including pupils with special educational needs.

#### **How we decide what resources we can give to a child with special educational needs**

Part of the school's budget is for support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. This is a fixed amount and so we have to use the money as cost-effectively as possible and make sure that we can give help to all the children who need it. We have costed all the ways we support children. Decisions about what support programme is best for a child is made by the Senco and Phase Leaders in consultation with the child's class teacher, any relevant support staff and the parents/ carers. Parents are invited to contribute to planning meetings but can give their views by telephone, email etc. if they are unable to come into the school.

We use evidence-based interventions with individual pupils or groups who we feel need additional support. These interventions are closely monitored to ensure that they are effective and that the pupils on them are making good progress.

In exceptional circumstances, where we feel we are not able to meet a child's needs from our own funds and where we have parental agreement, we will apply to the local authority for additional support for a child. Parents can do this too.

We are happy to discuss all of this in more detail with parents.

#### **How we check that a child is making progress and how we keep parents informed**

We work to maintain good home/ school links with parents. We have a member of staff who works full-time as a parental engagement officer. We have a weekly newsletter with general news about the schools. We have lots of information for parents on our website, which is regularly updated. We have a texting system in place so that parents are reminded about up-coming events. We have termly parents'/ carers' evenings and we send parents/ carers a report about their child's progress once a year. In addition we run regular information/ training events for parents and we have a yearly parent voice event where we try to get parents' views on how we are doing as a school.

We hold termly pupil progress meetings for each year group, attended by all staff who work with these pupils and members of the senior leadership team, where we carefully monitor the attainment and progress of all pupils in that year and identify any pupils who are not doing as well as we would like. For children with special educational needs we have an individual progress review each term. We welcome parents at this review and try as far as possible to arrange it at a time that will allow them to attend.

#### **Progress of pupils with SEN in Chisenhale**

Progress from KS1 to KS2

In 2016 pupils receiving SEN support in Chisenhale (7 pupils) made very good progress. They were in the top 10% for progress from KS1 when compared to **all** pupils in England, including those with no special educational needs. Pupils with EHC Plans (2) made less progress than **all** pupils nationally, including those with no special educational needs.

(National comparator for pupils receiving SEN Support and those with EHC Plans are no longer available.)

#### **Support we offer for children's health and general wellbeing**

Children need to be happy and to be able to behave appropriately in order to learn well so all our class teachers work with children in their class on social skills, behaviour and wellbeing. If a child has a particular difficulty, their class teacher will have help from colleagues e.g. Phase Leader, teaching assistants, learning mentor, school nurse or Senco to help support the child. Where a child has medical needs or personal care needs staff have been trained to meet these needs and administer any necessary

medication.

We employ a learning mentor whose role is to provide support for pupils' social and emotional needs and help them to access learning. We also have a 'Buddies' group of older children who have been specially trained to offer support for younger children.

Chisenhale has clear behaviour, anti-bullying, inclusion and equalities policies.

If a pupil has particular behavioural difficulties, we develop a Pastoral Support Plan (PSP) for the pupil, in consultation with parents/ carers and the pupil. The PSP process looks to identify the causes of the problem and to identify the support the child will receive to help them avoid disruption to their own learning or the learning of others and to prevent exclusion. When necessary, and with parental consent, the school will make a referral to an outside agency for advice on meeting the child's needs.

Our School Council has representatives from each year group. The Council representatives meet weekly with the Headteacher to discuss issues that pupils wish to raise about any aspect of school life.

### **Specialist external services we use when we think extra help is needed**

Sometimes a child will have needs that will benefit from additional help from specialists outside the school. Depending on a child's needs we may draw on support from a range of agencies including:

- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational Therapy
- Educational Psychology Service
- Attendance and Welfare Service
- Support for Learning Service (SLS)
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder Service (ASDAS)
- Child Development Team (CDT)
- School Nursing Team
- Children's Social Care
- Specialist Outreach Teams from our local special schools e.g. Phoenix, Cherry Trees, Stephen Hawkins

We always communicate with parents if we think additional support is required and before we contact outside specialists.

We currently employ a Speech and Language Therapist for two days per week.

We employ a dyslexia specialist teacher for 2 days per week.

We pay for an enhanced service from the Educational Psychology Service.

Our Senco has a Master's Degree in Special and Inclusive Education

### **The training our staff have had or are getting**

Every year we have 5 staff training days and weekly staff training meetings. At least some of this training time focuses on special educational needs to ensure that all staff

- understand the different special educational needs
- know how to plan and teach their lessons in a way that is appropriate for children with special educational needs
- know how to support the emotional needs of children with special educational needs
- understands how important it is to work closely with parents

All staff (teaching and non-teaching) are required to attend training. In addition to the training provided within school staff are also sent on training courses with outside bodies. For example, we buy into a service level agreement with the Local Authority to provide a range of training on SEN for all staff.

Staff have recently had training on the New Special Needs Code of Practice, working with pupils with speech and language difficulties, working with pupils with autistic spectrum disorder, supporting pupils with social and emotional difficulties and supporting pupils with diabetes.

#### **How we include children in activities and school trips**

Any trips or outings we plan always include children with special educational needs and / or disabilities. We use part of our budget to make sure that any support needed can be provided. We always consult with parents/ carers before arrangements are finalised. Detailed risk assessments are completed before any trip to ensure that all pupils have a safe and enjoyable trip.

At Chisenhale we have a breakfast club and an after school childcare club. These clubs are open to all pupils from the school. In addition the school runs a series of after-school clubs, which change on a half-termly basis. These clubs are open to all pupils and attendance is monitored to ensure that there is equality of access for all groups of pupils.

#### **Our school environment**

An extension to our school was built in 2005, which included the installation of a lift in order to make the building more accessible for children with mobility issues. Most, though not all of the classrooms and other teaching spaces can be accessed using the lift. We can move our classes if we need to in order to accommodate a child who joins the school.

There is a disabled toilet with shower facilities in the Reception area and a further disabled toilet on the first floor. Both school halls and all the classrooms were fitted with acoustic panels to support the needs of pupils hearing difficulties.

In school we have a range of equipment designed to support the development of children's coordination and motor skills in class but if any child needs additional equipment we will get this through specialist services such as Occupational Therapy.

#### **How we prepare for children joining our school and leaving our school**

Children who are due to join our Nursery and Reception classes are invited to come for a series of play sessions in the summer term before they start. In these sessions parents are provided with ideas for things to do with their children over the summer to prepare them for starting in Chisenhale in September. Our parental engagement officer is present at the stay and play sessions so that links with parents can be established. We complete home visits for all children who are due to start in our Early Years Unit before the summer holidays. We have close links with local Children's Centres and Nursery Schools.

Pupils in Y6 are given access to a transition programme in order to prepare them for secondary transfer. The school has strong links with local secondary schools and ensures that these schools are fully aware of the special needs of any of our pupils who are transferring to them. For pupils with high levels of need we organise transition meetings and support pupils in having additional visits to their new secondary in the summer term. For pupils who need it we complete referrals to the Independent Travel Training Service.

#### **How parents are involved in school life**

At Chisenhale we believe in working with parents/ carers as partners. We are always ready to speak to any parents/ carers about any worries/ concerns they may have regarding their child. Class teachers are available to have a quick word with parents at the end of each school day and are happy to make appointments for longer discussions. The Head teacher and Senco are happy to arrange appointments to

meet with parents to discuss any concerns they may have.

The school has a full time Parental Engagement Officer. There is an active Parent/ Teacher Association and parents are represented on the Governing Body.

We hold Parent Voice meetings each year, where parents are encouraged to give their views on what is working well in the school and suggestions for how we could become an even better school.

When we write to parents/ carers we always try to write in plain English. We have a number of members of staff who speak Bengali Sylhetti and who can interpret for parents for whom English is not their first language. For parents who speak other languages we try to book interpreters for all important meetings e.g special needs reviews.

**Who to contact for more information or to discuss a concern**

- **Your child's class teacher**
- **The Phase Leaders (Bonnie Mendoza - Early Years, Ms Nyes – Y1 & Y2, Ms Miles – Y3 & Y4, Ms Howes–Y5 & Y6)**
- **The special educational needs coordinator – Ms McCarthy**
- **The Head teacher – Ms James**
- **The governor – Eddie Snooks**
- **The Chair of Governors - Deborah Handforth**

**If in doubt ask- the school office**

**The school's phone number is 020 8980 2584**

**Our offer to children with special educational needs and disabilities was prepared in July 2016**

**It will be reviewed in July 2017**