

Special Educational Needs Support Service

The **Special Educational Needs Support Service** is established to support the LEA's Schools Improvement Programme to raise the attainment of pupils with special educational needs. The Service aims to have a coherent strategy, which emphasises early intervention and mainstream inclusion and which works towards 'Achievement for All', Wakefield's strategic plan for the development of Special Educational Needs Inclusion. In order to support schools to meet a wide range of needs a number of services are offered.

Advisory teachers and other support staff work with schools to support pupils in the areas of: General Learning Difficulties, Moderate Learning Difficulties, Severe Learning Difficulties, Specific Learning Difficulties and Physical and Medical Needs, Visual Impairment, Deaf and Hearing Impairment, ICT and Communication needs.

One of the core aims is to work with schools to help them to become increasingly self sufficient by providing a range of advice and support including:

- Identification and assessment of the needs of individual children and assistance with the development of IEPs and targets for such children;
- Arranging, monitoring and reviewing the support for children with SEN;
- Advice to schools on whole school SEN planning and provision;
- Staff development and training to assist schools in meeting the needs of children who have special educational needs;
- Developing resources; and
- Promoting parent partnership.

All branches of the service contribute to the annual reviews of pupils with statements of special educational needs at both a professional level where they have been previously involved and/or as a representative of the Education Department.

The Service has produced **publications** to help develop a range of skills. These are available from the Heath View Centre and include SENSS Phonic work cards and workbooks, Games and Activities to promote phonological skills and the SENSS Sight Vocabulary Programme. Also, publications to help with fine and gross motor skills: 'A Practical Guide for Teachers: Assessment and Activities for Early Gross Motor Skills', 'Ready Steady Go to PE' and 'Look, See,

Know and Understand!' Information to support schools and parents is available from all branches of the Service.

General Learning Difficulties

Referrals from primary schools are accepted in the areas of General Learning difficulties, Moderate Learning difficulties, Specific Learning difficulties, Communication difficulties and related motor skills difficulties. The main roles undertaken are:

- Providing advice and support to primary schools at School Action and for children whose progress is of concern at School Action Plus of the Code of Practice;
- Providing advice and support to secondary schools for pupils with Specific Learning difficulties on transfer to high school

The Service for Significant Learning Needs

This branch of the Service is established to support the inclusion of pupils with significant learning needs (moderate learning difficulties or severe learning difficulties) in mainstream high schools.

Severe Learning Difficulties (Primary)

This branch of the service is established to support the inclusion of children with severe learning difficulties in mainstream primary schools. It works closely with the outreach team at Kingsland School.

Physical Difficulties/Medical Needs

This branch of the service is established to support the inclusion of children with physical difficulties and or medical needs in mainstream schools. The staff also support the Primary

Resource at Streethouse J and I School and the provision at Featherstone High School.

ICT SEN Inclusion

This branch is formed to support the inclusion of children in mainstream schools by providing access through the use of Information and communication Technology. Once involvement is agreed and assessment advice has been offered:

- Equipment and software is provided;
- Staff and pupil training takes place;
- Monitoring and re-assessment is undertaken;
- Equipment is repaired and technical support given.

Service for Visually Impaired Children

The service consists of a team of qualified and experienced teachers and support staff who have undertaken further training in the education of children with a visual impairment.

The team provides advice and support for schools and parents and is involved with children from birth to nineteen years who have a range of visual difficulties.

When a child with a visual impairment is in school training on the implications of specific visual impairments and on the use of appropriate equipment is given along with advice on curriculum access. Children may be personally supported by the staff and assisted with independence training. If a higher level of support is required children with a severe visual impairment may be educated in resource provision at Sharlston J and I School or Crofton High School. Support is also given to children with visual impairments in Wakefield's Special Schools.

Service for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children

The Service for Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children provides educational support for children and young adults. This support is offered from birth through to post 16 for any child with a diagnosed hearing loss.

The service aims to maximise linguistic, academic and social progress through early intervention, on-going support and the provision of technical aids. The majority of children attend their local mainstream school, with varying amounts of support according to need. For some children, an inclusive mainstream education is

offered in a school supported by resourced provision. A number of children are also supported who are in Wakefield's special schools.

Service Brochure

The Service produces a brochure on an annual basis, which contains up to date information and is circulated to schools and settings.