



SEND Newsletter

Spring 2- 2025

Welcome!

I can't believe that I'm writing our second SEND newsletter already! Thank you all so much for your kind words about our first newsletter.

I'm really disappointed that we were unable to run our SEND coffee afternoon this half term, but please feel assured that the next one will go ahead, and that Alison from the Mental Health Schools team will be joining us. I have dedicated the spotlight section to the MHST so hopefully this answers some questions before the rearranged coffee afternoon. Please accept my apologies for having to rearrange this.

I also have to sadly tell you that Michelle Maguire, our assistant SENDCo for the past 17 years is retiring this, Easter. I know so many of you have worked with Michelle and will join me in thanking her for all of her hard work and dedication since working at Dunchurch. She really will be missed, and we wish her all the best in her retirement.

Answering FAQ's:

I wanted to take this opportunity to answer some common questions which we receive. If anyone has any other questions which they would like me to answer, please do not hesitate to let me know.

What is SEND?

SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and/or a Disability.

A child has SEN if they:

- have significantly more difficulty learning than most others their age

- have a disability which prevents them taking part in similar learning to others of the same age
- need extra support that is 'additional to' and 'different from' the support that other children of the same age get

The other part of SEND is Disability-

- A disability is defined as a physical or mental condition which has a long-term and substantial impact on your daily life (Equality Act 2010).
- It can be physical, e.g cerebral palsy
- It can be neurological, e.g autism spectrum disorder

If a child has a disability that does not affect their learning, they are part of SEND but do not have Special Educational Needs (SEN).

Who can I talk to if I am concerned my child may need additional support?

In the first instance, you would discuss your concerns with your child's class teacher. You can also contact me (Mrs Hannah Owen who is our school SENDCo) who will be happy to meet to discuss your concerns.

What is the SEND register?

Our SEND register is an internal register which is used to keep track of the children within school and nursery who have been placed on the SEND register. It supports all staff to monitor their progress and to be aware of their additional needs. Parents/ carers will always be consulted before a child is placed onto the SEND register. Once a child is on the register, they will remain there until a further conversation has been had with parents/carers to discuss whether the child will remain on the register and all views will be considered.

What is an IEP?

An IEP is an individual education plan which all children on the SEND register will have. These consist of SMART targets which the child will focus on in the next term. These are reviewed and written every term and are shared with parents/ carers within IEP meetings. Parents and carers have the opportunity to contribute to their child's IEP review and new targets.

What is an EHCP?

An EHCP is an Educational Health and Care Plan. It is a legal document which details the child's needs and how the child will be supported. Most children and young people with SEND are supported in schools without an EHCP and you do not need one to receive additional support.

An EHCP formalises the support your child will receive. EHC Plans are for complex, long-term needs and when a child's progress suggests they need more targeted support.

What are the 4 broad areas of need?

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs

What is Warwickshire's local offer?:

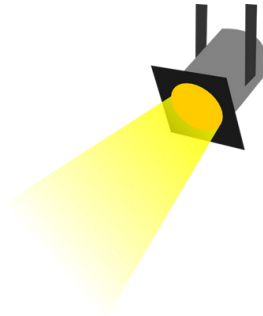
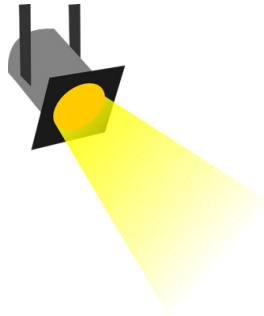
Warwickshire's SEND local offer brings together information about the local services and support available across education, health and social care for families with children and young people aged 0 to 25, who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. [SEND Local Offer – Warwickshire County Council](#)

Summer 1 events

Activity	Date
Rearranged SENCo drop in sessions (due to not being available on Parents Evening this is an opportunity for you to make an appointment with me to discuss your child who is on the SEN register)	Please contact me directly if you would like to arrange a meeting with your availability.

SEND coffee afternoon

TBC with Alison from the Mental Health School team ASAP. I will let everyone know.



Spotlight on ... MHST



The Mental Health in Schools Team is an NHS service that has been introduced as part of the national plans to expand mental health services for children, young people and their families within the education setting.

Working across Coventry and Warwickshire, they provide mental health interventions, advice, and liaison with specialist services to help children and young people get the right support. They work closely with us as a school to develop a whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing.

They support young people who are experiencing low mood and a range of anxiety difficulties.

The team consists of qualified and trainee Educational Mental Health Practitioners (EMHPs), Senior Educational Mental Health Practitioners, Specialist Mental Health Practitioners, Team Leaders, a Service Manager and Clinical Lead.

The MHST's focus is to positively impact young people's mental health and wellbeing. They aim to do this by:

- Using evidence-based CBT treatment approaches for anxiety and low mood. This can be done in group or 1:1 settings, either face to face or virtually. This means that they can continue to work with young people during school holidays.
- They work closely with each school's identified Mental Health Lead (Hannah Owen) who has received specific training to take on this role to support individual referrals and to complete regular audits of the school's mental health needs.
- They support each school in developing and maintaining a 'whole school approach'.



Referrals:

Each school's Mental Health Lead (Hannah Owen) has received training in how to recognise mental health difficulties in the early stages and with support from the EMHP they can complete the process for young people to be referred to the MHST. A discussion will always take place with the young person and their family before a referral is made and consent requested to share this information.



We treat the sharing of information very carefully and confidentially. We only share information where it is helpful to do so and with consent. The only exception to this is if we need to share information to support the safety of the young person or others around them.

Once a referral has been received, the team will review the information and consider the next steps. This is often to invite the young person and their families to have a chat with us about the difficulties they have been experiencing (an assessment), so that we can decide together what support would be most appropriate. Sometimes, we decide that we might not be the right service for their particular circumstances, and we may make suggestions about where they would receive more appropriate help and support.

How to contact:

The contact method is through the Rise Navigation Hub: 0300 200 2021 – please ensure you ask for the MHST and they will take a message and will contact you as soon as they are able to.

Last half terms highlights:

World Autism Day:



On April 2nd, as an Academy we celebrated World Autism Day through collective worship. We looked the character 'Pablo' and discussed how he sees the world in a different way. We talked about everyone's strengths and differences and how we could help people who might find making friends tricky.

That's a wrap!



For questions and clarifications, you may reach out to me directly on-
hannah.owen@dunchurch.covmat.org or via class dojo.



ClassDojo