

VERWOOD FIRST NURSERY SCHOOL

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) INFORMATION REPORT

General Information/Frequently Asked Questions

What should I do if I think my child has a Special Educational Need or Disability?

If you have worries about your child's development, behaviour or learning we will always meet with you to discuss your concerns. First of all:

- Speak to your child's key worker or someone in school you feel comfortable talking to
- We have a SENDCo (Special Educational needs Co-ordinator) who will also talk to you with the key worker and discuss any concerns you may have.
- The SENDCo may be able to discuss any other helpful agencies with you e.g. Speech and Language Therapists.

What is the school ethos/approach to SEN and Disability?

At Verwood Nursery School we strive to provide a positive, supportive and fully inclusive environment that meets the individual needs of all children.

- We ensure that all children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- We provide a differentiated curriculum which suits individual children's needs.
- When children start with us we ensure that the settling in process is appropriate for their needs.
- We ensure that all children with SEN take as full a part as possible in all school activities.
- We work very closely with parents and take the time to listen to them and consult with them on their child's needs, targets, progress, attainment and future needs.
- We work very closely with other agencies who may be involved with each child e.g. Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapists, Occupational Therapists and Paediatricians.
- Our staff have a wealth of experience in working with and supporting children who have a wide variety of SEN and we prioritise staff training and use of any specialist equipment that may be required.

How will I know how my child is doing in school?

At Verwood Nursery School we have an open door' policy when parents can discuss and worries or concerns with staff at any time:

- We want all children to do the best they can and we will support them in whatever way is needed to enable them to make progress.
- After the first few weeks of your child being in school we will complete a Baseline Assessment of each child.
- Your child will be continually assessed by their key worker and by the school SENDCo.
- Plans for 'Additional Learning Targets' will be set every term and you will be involved in the setting of these targets. We will talk to you about how we have planned your child's learning over the next few months.
- Each child has their own 'Learning Journal' where their key worker documents their progress and these are always available for you to look at and comment in.
- Parents of children who come to school on School Transport will be sent a home/school diary each day in which staff will inform parents about their child's day and we hope you will write in it too and tell us what is happening at home.
- Parents Evenings are held in the Autumn and Spring Terms and a written report is produced in the Summer Term
- For parents of children in resourced places consultation meetings will be held each term to discuss progress with our SENDCo, key workers and other professionals involved with the child.
- Transition Meetings are held with parents, other professionals involved with prospective schools to share information and ensure a smooth transition to Primary School

What support will there be for my child's overall well-being and the development of their social and emotional skills?

We have a caring, understanding team here at Verwood, who look after all our children and their well-being is very important to us.

- We assess children's social and emotional skills on entry to Nursery.
- We have an assessment and teaching scheme (The Early Years Foundation Stage) to develop all children's personal and social skills.
- Your child will have a key worker who will get to know them really well and know how to help them
- Our behaviour policy is fully understood and implemented by all staff
- In small group 'Circle Time' we emphasise and discuss with children the importance of, for example, sharing and turn taking, being kind and expectations of behaviour.
- All staff follow safeguarding procedures and policies and receive regular training.
- We have a medical policy in place and where necessary, nominated staff will administer specific medicines when a signed medicine consent form is in place.
- Relevant staff are trained to support medical needs and have received basic first aid training.

How will I be involved in discussions about, planning for, and involvement in my child's education?

- Our aim at Verwood Nursery School is that we work in close partnership with parents and carers and maintain regular and purposeful communication between school and home.

- We will talk to you regularly and also have meetings each term to discuss their individual needs and progress.
- We listen to what you tell us about your child and use that information to make sure everyone understands their needs.
- At our termly meeting with you we will discuss targets and next steps and support will be offered as to ways you can help at home and if necessary we will complete an Early Help Assessment Form. You will always be asked before we involve other services in supporting your child- you know them better than anyone else.
- Where necessary and after discussions with you and other professionals, children will be given an Education, Health and Care Plan from the Local Authority. In this plan targets will be set, and progress reviewed regularly with you and details given of specific support your child is entitled to receive.

How does the school involve children and young people in their education and decision making?

It is not always easy for very young children to express their views but we are sensitive to their individual needs, likes and dislikes and we will always take these into account. We act as advocate for the child and ensure that everyone does their part to help them make progress. Parents give us information about their child that will help us plan for their needs.

Who, outside of school, can I turn to, for advice and support?

You can contact the following agencies or charities for information and support:

- Your Health Visitor
- CAHMs (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
Ashdown Close,
Canford Heath,
Poole,
BH17 8WG Tel: 01202 605882
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
Acorn Building,
Ringwood Road,
Saint Leonards,
Ringwood,
BH24 2RR6NT

Where can I find information about the Local Authority provision for children and young people with SEN?

- The Local Authority Website <https://www.dorsetforyou.gov.uk/children-families/sen-and-disability-local-offer/dorsets-local-offer.aspx>

How should complaints regarding SEN provision be made and how will they be dealt with?

- Discussion with the child's Key Worker and our SENDCo should be the first stage.
- If this does not resolve the problem further advice should be sought from the Headteacher.
- You can also contact the Chair of Governors through the school office or in writing.
- The school has a 'Complaints Procedure' - a copy is available from school.
- The Local Authority will also offer further guidance - see the website address above

How do I get a copy of the school SEN policy?

Please ask the school SENDCo, the school office or look on the school website

www.verwoodfirst.dorset.sch.uk

Who do I contact for further information?

You can speak to key workers, the SENDCo or the Headteacher at any time by contacting the school on 01202 822652 or emailing at office@verwoodfirst.dorset.sch.uk.