



Sir William Burrough Primary School

Special Education Needs Report for Parents





What kind of school is Sir William Burrough?

We are a state-funded Academy serving the local communities of Tower Hamlets.

Walk around our school any time, any day, and you will see classrooms where children and adults are alive with energy, passion and inspiration. Classrooms which are an endless joy, and a great privilege to see and to share. (Avril Newman, Head teacher)

Ofsted Comments

"This is a school where everyone is valued and cherished, and that generates high self-esteem through the satisfaction of high achievement in personal skills and across the curriculum."

At Sir William Burrough we value all children equally, irrespective of ability, disability, race, gender or background. We firmly believe that all children can develop to their fullest potential and endeavour to give every child inclusive access to the whole curriculum. We want all children to be the best they can be!





What are 'special needs'?

The legal definition of Special Needs is 'any child who has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age or who has a disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her'. [Education act 1996; SEN Code of Practice 2014]

At Sir William Burrough, special educational needs and provision are divided into four broad areas:

- Communication and interaction e.g. speech and language problems, autistic spectrum disorders.
- Cognition and learning e.g. memory retention problems, dyslexia.
- Social, mental and emotional health e.g. anxiety, depression, severe lack of confidence.
- Sensory and/or physical e.g. vision and hearing problems, mobility problems.

Parents and carers know their children best. If you are aware of any special needs your child has or if you just suspect your child may have a special need please don't hesitate to speak, in the first instance, to your child's teacher.

We will always contact parents if we have a concern that a child or young person may have a special educational need.





What does the school need to know about your child?

The more information the school has about your child's special needs the better the provision we can put in place to support them properly in school. Information which is helpful would include things like:

- Does your child need to wear glasses?
- Do they have any hearing problems?
- Does your child have any allergies or on-going medical problems?
- Was your child's speech delayed?
- Do they have any mobility problems?
- Are they toilet trained?
- Do you have any concerns about your children's behaviour.
- Are there concerns about anything outside of school which you think may affect your child's well-being?
- Is your child receiving any support from any professionals such as medical, speech and language, psychologist or mental health professionals.

Please inform your child's class teacher of any changes in circumstances that may affect your child's needs in school so that they can put into place effective provision.





How does the school identify children who need extra help?

Teachers often act on information given by parents and carers in the first instance. For example if they are told that a child needs glasses to see properly it can be ensured that these are worn at all times and that these children sit at the front of the class.

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

In KS1 and KS2 the school has a system of on-going assessment and progress reports that take place every half term and these, alongside on-going teacher assessment help to quickly highlight the children who may be experiencing difficulties.

Our teachers have a high level of expertise and they are familiar with age related expectations for the children and are alert to children who may find it difficult to achieve these. Usually through targeted, extra support within the classroom the class teacher can help children to achieve their potential. If the child continues to experience problems the class teacher will arrange for the parent to come in and discuss progress and support. If appropriate, the school SENCO or school Medical officer will attend this meeting and discuss the possibility of accessing support from agencies outside of the school.





What specialist services are available to children at Sir William Burrough School?

The needs of most of the children at Sir William Burrough will be met by provision put in place by the child's class teacher. However, some needs are better met in consultation with other professionals.

The school has a dedicated speech and language therapist who works closely with class teachers and parents to identify speech and language problems early and to provide specially tailored programmes of intensive speech and language therapy.

There is also a dedicated school nurse who is available to help support children with medical and health related needs and to advise parents and teachers.

Where necessary, the school can refer children to an educational psychologist and other agencies such as occupational therapy, visual impairment unit or mental health unit can be consulted.

Referrals to other agencies will only be done after discussion and consultation with the parent and with their agreement. The results of any observations and reports done in school will be shared as soon as possible with parents.





How are decisions made about how much/what support my child will receive?

Part of the school's budget is for support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. In exceptional circumstances where we feel we are not able to meet a child's needs from our own funds we will apply to the local authority for additional support for a child in the form of an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan) which, if granted, comes with extra funding.

How will I know how my child is doing?

All pupils identified as having a special educational need will be discussed in parent teacher meetings at least once a term with the class teacher.

At any point where a referral to an outside agency is to be made there will be a consultation meeting with the parent detailing the reasons for the referral. There will also be a follow-up meeting after the child has been seen where results of observations and recommendations can be discussed.

In addition to these meetings children with EHCPs will have an annual review meeting to which relevant outside professionals will be invited.

Who should I contact if I have any concerns?

- Your child's class teacher
- Avril Newman –Head teacher and Child Protection officer
- Helen Green – School SENCO
- Alan Hurst – Medical and Healthcare Needs
- David White – governor with responsibility for Special Needs.

The Tower Hamlets local offer can be found here:

http://www.towerhamlets.gov.uk/ignl/education_and_learning/local_offer.aspx.



