



Supporting children who  
need

'SEN School Support'

## SEN School Support – a quick guide

Children being identified as needing SEN School Support is not a term to be concerned by. It means that your child has been identified as having a difficulty with aspects of the curriculum. They may be having difficulties processing information, and this may extend across the curriculum, or be in a specific area.

You may find that your child find some things difficult:

- Understanding basic concepts.
- Problems acquiring basic skills in reading, writing and numeracy.
- A lack of confidence to use and develop the skills they have.
- A lack of logic.
- Poor problem solving skills.
- An inability to generalise learning and apply it to new situations.
- Limited communication skills.
- Difficulty working as part of a large group and understanding how to work with others.
- Poor fine and/or gross motor skills.
- Difficulty with personal organisation.
- Poor auditory/visual memory.
- Poor long and short term memory; difficulty remembering what has been taught.
- Speech and language delay.
- Sensory impairment.
- Underdeveloped social skills.

If this is the case, there are many things that you can do to support your child. Working in partnership with the school to establish routines and strategies that work is a first step. In school there will be a number of strategies teachers might try. These may include:

- Routine and structure – clear timetables and routines in the classroom to decrease anxiety.
- Giving responsibilities to build self esteem and self view.
- Encouragement, praise, reward – not just for work and achievements but for positive behaviour too.
- Repeated small step learning that builds on the child's current knowledge and understanding.
- Breaking down tasks into smaller steps to ensure that success is achievable.
- Giving clear instructions. Careful questioning to ensure a child knows what is expected of them and of the task.
- Carefully planned and differentiated work, broken down into small manageable tasks.
- Regular reinforcement of tasks to be mastered and the opportunity to practise and apply skills in everyday situations.
- Providing pre teaching or 'fluid' intervention to prevent gaps in learning growing.
- Showing how things are done rather than just explaining. Providing plenty of opportunities for multi-sensory, practical learning.
- Visiting tasks, such as handling money and telling the time in short, frequent bursts.
- Writing frames to help structure work.
- Use of ICT, including where applicable, modified hardware.
- Facilitating friendship groups.
- Having positive role models.
- Providing small group reinforcement as appropriate.
- Providing word mats, number fact books and practical resources to support with activities.

## At home:

1. Be positive, patient and persevering:

Good home school links will go a long way. Develop a good parent/ teacher relationship. Set up the communication network and keep it going.

Try and develop a routine at home of when tasks need to be done. When will home reading be done? When is homework completed and handed in?

2. Be aware.

Be aware of the problems, symptoms and signs of stress. Make sure that you know events or activities that are stressful and warn your child that they are coming up. If you know the School Production is coming up, you may need to prompt your child to help you prepare them for it, rather than have a last minute panic or rush. If you know Sports Day is coming up – are they prepared? Do they have their kit etc?

3. Be practical.

If your child does not like reading, little and often may be a solution to overcome their reluctance. Story tapes may be enjoyable, and another way of interesting your child in the written word and developing their vocabulary and interest in words. In the same way, maths songs and games may be beneficial.

4. Use resources in school.

Did you know we have resource stations in school with simple but practical resources you could replicate at home? Did you know we offer training to parents across the year in aspects of the curriculum or year group knowledge? Do you feel you need to improve your skills to support your child with ICT/Online activities? We have ICT training for adults available. Ask your child's teacher or our Pupil and Family Support Officer for more information.

## Parent Support

Wolverhampton has a dedicated SEND support team. Wolverhampton Information Advice and Support Service are there to support you in meetings, offer advice or be a friendly ear. Their leaflets are in the entrance hall, or alternatively you can call 01902 556945.

Some useful websites are:

<https://wolvesiass.org/>

### At home activities

If you wish to work at home with your child, these are some of the websites that may be of use, but also fun to try.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks1bitesize/index.shtml>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/>

<http://www.ictgames.com/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/cbeebies/grownups/>

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/parents/resources/?page=7-11&subject=art&page=1>