

The Local Offer

The Local Offer was first introduced in the Green Paper (March 2011) as a local offer of all services available to support disabled children and children with SEN and their families. The Local Offer will provide parents/carers with information about how to access services in their area, and what they can expect from those services.

With regard to Education, it will let parents/carers and young people know how school and colleges will support them, and what they can expect across the local settings.

There are 14 questions, devised in consultation with parents/carers and other agencies, which reflect their concerns and interests. These will be answered by agencies, schools and colleges to provide information to parents and carers to enable them to make decisions about how to best support their child's needs.

Our SEN Information Report details our current responses to these questions.

At St John's Primary School we are continually improving the provision for our pupils. To this end, the information in these responses will be regularly reviewed and updated as necessary.

Identifying the Special Educational Needs of pupils

At different times in their school life, a child or young person may have a special educational need. The Code of Practice 2014 defines SEN as follows:

“A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special education provision to be made for him or her. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- a) has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age, or**
- b) has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.**

Where pupils' progress is significantly slower than that of their peers, or fails to match their previous rate of progress, despite high quality teaching targeted at specific areas of difficulty, it may be that the child has SEN. Information will be gathered, including seeking the views of parents and the pupil, as well as from teachers and assessments.

There can be a many reasons for learners 'falling behind.' These may include absences, attending lots of different schools, difficulties with speaking English, or worries that distract them from learning. The schools understand that children who experience these barriers to learning are vulnerable. This does not mean that all vulnerable learners have SEN. Only those with a learning difficulty that requires special educational provision will be identified as having SEN.

For further information regarding Staffordshire's Local Offer then please see their website using the link below:

<http://www.staffordshirecares.info/pages/my-disability/children-additional-needs/send-reforms/Local-offer/Local-Offer.aspx>