



HASLINGFIELD ENDOWED PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Friday 17th October 2014

Dear Parents,

New arrangements for supporting children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

On the 1st September 2014 the Government introduced a new SEND Code of Practice. This new law has resulted in changes to the way that children with SEND receive support from school and the services we work with, such as health and social care. It will take approximately three years to implement these changes, with the aim of creating a greater focus on personal goals, increased family involvement and improved rights and protections for young people in further education and training.

Statements of special educational needs are being replaced by a single education, health and care (EHC) plan for children and young people with complex needs. The EHC plan will place much more emphasis on personal goals and will describe the support children will receive while they are in education or training. Children with an EHC plan will have access to a 'personal budget' which will give parents more input into the support their child receives. The amount given and how it can be spent, is something that parents would agree with their local education authority.

If your child already has a statement of SEN, they will be transferred to the new system within the next three and a half years. The transfer is likely to happen around transition points in your child's education such as when they move from primary to secondary school.

For children with less complex needs, but who still require help, we are introducing a new system called special educational needs (SEN) support which replaces School Action and School Action Plus. The new process will be similar, but will build on our current school system of creating target cards to document the extra support or intervention some pupils need. We will follow the newly-named cycle of 'Plan-Do-Assess-Review', involving parent and child in both the target setting and review process.

Some parents have expressed concern that their child will lose support because of the changes, however we can assure you that this will not be the case. The definition of special educational needs or the basis on which councils determine whether a child needs a statutory assessment has also not changed.

The local education authority has published a 'local offer' which lists the support and services that parents and children can access under the new system. Our school website also has links to further information regarding the new code of practice.

In the meantime, your child's teacher will be in touch to arrange a meeting to discuss target setting for this term. Your child is actively encouraged to be part of this meeting.

If you have any questions regarding the new code of practice and what it means for your child, please call the office and I will call you back with as much information as is available to me.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Wernham
SENCo