



Ryhope Infant School Academy

Information Sharing Report

Review Date: September 2026

Next Review Date: September 2027

Person in charge: Miss Lumsden (SENDCo)

Question 10

What support do we have for you as a parent or carer of a child with SEND?

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We recognise that parents and carers know their children best and are an essential part of the team supporting a child with SEND.

We understand that having a child with additional needs can sometimes feel challenging or overwhelming. Our aim is to work in partnership with parents and carers, to listen to your views and to ensure that you feel informed, involved and supported.

Who can I speak to about my child?

Your child's class teacher will usually be your first point of contact. They can discuss your child's learning, progress, strengths, needs, classroom support and next steps.

If your child is receiving SEND Support, or if your concerns require more detailed discussion, you may also speak to the SENDCo. The SENDCo can provide information and guidance about SEND arrangements, the graduated approach, additional provision, external professionals, EHCP processes and transition arrangements.

If you are unsure who you need to speak to, the school office will be happy to direct you to the appropriate member of staff.

What advice and information can school provide?

We will aim to provide information that helps parents and carers understand their child's needs and the support available. This may include:

- information about identified needs
- strategies being used in school
- ideas for supporting learning at home
- information about interventions or additional provision
- relevant professional advice
- information about SEND processes
- transition arrangements
- signposting to relevant services

Local support and advice for parents and carers in Sunderland

As a school in Sunderland, we recognise that parents and carers may sometimes need advice, information or support from services outside school. Where appropriate, we can help to signpost families to relevant local services.

Sunderland SEND Local Offer

The Sunderland SEND Local Offer provides information and support for children and young people with SEND aged 0–25 and their families and carers. It can help families find information about:

- education and SEND Support
- Education, Health and Care Needs Assessments and EHCPs
- health and therapy services
- social care and family support
- activities and short breaks
- local support groups and organisations
- transitions and services available across Sunderland

Sunderland SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS)

Sunderland SENDIASS is a free, impartial, confidential and independent statutory service for parents and carers of children and young people aged 0–25 with SEND. The service can provide information, advice and guidance about SEND law and processes,

SEND Support, EHCPs, exclusions and suspensions, rights and responsibilities, meetings and decision-making.

Parents and carers can contact SENDIASS directly. School can recommend or signpost families to the service, but referrals normally need to come directly from the parent or carer.

Sunderland Parent Carer Forum

Sunderland Parent Carer Forum is a parent-led group for parents and carers of children and young people aged 0–25 with special, additional or SEND needs. It provides opportunities to:

- meet and connect with other families
- share experiences and information
- attend coffee mornings, events and training
- have views heard
- contribute to parent participation and co-production
- help influence and improve local services

Daisy Chain – Sunderland Family Support Service

Daisy Chain provides a specialist Family Support Service for Sunderland families of children and young people aged 0–18 who display traits associated with, are being assessed for, or have a diagnosis of a neurodevelopmental difference. This includes autism, ADHD, sensory processing differences and Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD). A formal diagnosis is not required, and support is available before, during and after diagnosis.

The service may offer:

- peer-support drop-in sessions
- one-to-one parent support and telephone appointments
- multi-agency drop-in sessions
- parent learning opportunities and workshops
- advice and information to help families understand their child's needs
- strategies relating to emotional regulation, visuals and understanding behaviour
- social communication and interaction sessions
- tailored sleep support

Together for Children – Sunderland

Together for Children delivers children's services on behalf of Sunderland City Council. Depending on individual circumstances, families may need information or support relating to SEND services, EHCPs, family support, social care, short breaks, activities, transport and transitions.

Parents and carers who are unsure which service they need can contact Together for Children and ask to be directed to the appropriate team.

Supporting you through important transitions

We will work with parents and carers to plan for key transitions, including:

- moving into Nursery or Reception
- moving between classes or learning environments
- accessing or leaving the Butterfly Group
- moving from Year 2 into the next stage of education
- moving to another school or specialist provision where appropriate.

Working together

We value the knowledge, experience and commitment that parents and carers bring to supporting their children. Our aim is to ensure that you feel:

- listened to
- respected
- included in decisions
- informed about your child's progress and support
- able to share your views and concerns
- confident about who to contact when you need help

We believe that the best outcomes for children are achieved when children, parents and carers, school staff and other professionals work together. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's learning, development or SEND, please contact your child's class teacher or our SENDCo.

Useful Sunderland contacts

- Sunderland SEND Local Offer – Together for Children
- Sunderland SENDIASS – Helpline: 0191 537 5764 | Email: contactus@sunderlandsendiass.co.uk

- Sunderland Parent Carer Forum – Telephone: 07393 129858 | Email: spcfoffice@sunderlandpcf.co.uk
- Daisy Chain Sunderland Family Support Service – Email: sunderlandfamilysupport@daisychainproject.co.uk
- Together for Children Contact Centre – Telephone: 0191 520 5560

Please note: External services operate independently from the school, and their eligibility criteria, referral processes and availability may change. Parents and carers should check directly with the relevant service for the most up-to-date information.