

**OUR SCHOOL OFFER
FOR PUPILS WITH
SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL
NEEDS AND
DISABILITIES**

JANUARY 2020

At Ark Ayrton Primary and Ark Ayrton Nursery we offer a graduated approach to meeting the needs of our pupils.

In class, for all pupils, you can expect to see 6 key principles driving our work: high expectations; great teaching; more time for learning; depth before breadth; exemplary behaviour and the staff knowing every pupil.

This is underpinned by our vision and values of:

AIM HIGH, WORK HARD, PLAY FAIR and SHINE BRIGHTLY

We understand and recognise that sometimes, some pupils, require some additional support to help them catch up or keep up with their learning.

At Ark Ayrton this could be, for example, small group learning, one to one learning, after school tuition and booster sessions or a language enrichment programme.

Some pupils will have additional needs – special educational needs and/or disabilities.

They may require more specialist and personalised support and we, alongside parents, may seek specialist advice from other professionals to help us meet their individualised needs.

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities will have a need in one of the following 4 areas:

Communication and Interaction

Cognition and Learning

Social, Mental and Emotional Health

Sensory and/or Physical

Commonly Asked Questions by Parents and Carers of children with Special Educational Needs/Disabilities (SEND) ANSWERED

1. Who are the best people to talk to at Ark Ayrton about my child's difficulties with learning, special educational needs or disability (SEND)?

- ***At Ark Ayrton we have an open door policy where all staff are happy to listen and help***
- Firstly you can talk to your child's class teacher/ Lead practitioner about your concerns
- You may wish to arrange a meeting with the Nursery manager or the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)
- If you continue to have concerns, you should arrange to discuss these with the most appropriate staff (see question 15 for further details)

2. How will the school let me know if they have any concerns about my child's learning, special educational needs or disability?

- ***At Ark Ayrton we pride ourselves in developing open and honest relationships with parents and carers***
- Initially your child's class teacher or Lead practitioner may speak to you at the beginning or the end of a normal school day and arrange a further time to discuss the concerns
- The class teacher or room leader may also talk to you about any concerns at parents evening
- The SENCo may contact you and arrange a meeting to discuss your child's difficulties with learning and any possible support strategies the school might be considering
- The Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teacher or Nursery Manager may speak to you at your New Entry Meeting (if you are new to, and joining Ark Ayrton during the year) once they have liaised with your child's previous school or nursery.

3. How does Ark Ayrton ensure the teaching staff are appropriately trained to support my child's special educational needs and/or disability?

- ***At Ark Ayrton we believe our most valuable resource is our staff. We have a strong team dedicated to improving outcomes for all our pupils and we invest heavily in them***
- All staff receive weekly coaching visits and developmental feedback about their teaching from the Head Teacher, Deputy Head Teachers and other senior staff
- We have an on-going training and professional development programme which includes ensuring all staff have the appropriate skills and knowledge to support children with special educational needs
- The school is able to access training from a wide source including partnership agencies eg Educational Psychology, Speech and Language specialists, the local authority and curriculum organisations eg Read Write Inc

4. How will Ark Ayrton consider my views and those of my child with regard to their difficulties with learning, special educational needs or disabilities?

- ***At Ark Ayrton we believe it is very important for parents/carers to be involved in all areas of their child's learning. We actively encourage and promote working in close partnership in an open and honest manner. We also believe it is essential to understand your child's views on any difficulties they may experience with their learning***
- We will ask to speak to you if we have any concerns about your child, their needs and their progress – we can discuss the strategies being used and expected outcomes and any further support or referrals we think will help your child
- You will be able to share your views, discuss your child's progress and review the plans in place, at our regular parents evenings
- If your child has an Education *Health and Care plan* (EHCP) you and your child will be able to share your views through and at the Annual Review process.
- However, if you have any concerns about your child's learning at any time, you can make an appointment to meet your child's teacher and/or the SENCo who will be more than happy to discuss these with you
- Your child will have many opportunities to discuss and share their views about their learning regularly with their teacher and support staff in class, in small groups, individually and through responding to feedback marking in their books if appropriate

5. How will the curriculum and the environment be matched to my child's needs?

- ***At Ark Ayrton we believe that all teachers are teachers of pupils with SEND and, as such, they provide high quality first teaching taking account of the needs of all pupils in their class including those with SEND***
- We carefully plan our curriculum to match the age, ability and needs of all children
- Class teachers will adapt lesson planning and teaching to match your child's special educational needs and/or disability
- It may be appropriate to adopt different strategies or resources and adapt outcomes to meet your child's learning needs
- Additional specialist advice is sought when appropriate and, when necessary, accessibility aids and technology may be used to support your child's learning.
- We have a Disability Access Plan to ensure that all children have the fullest access to the curriculum and the school site as possible and this is regularly reviewed and monitored internally and externally

6. What types of support may be suitable and available for my child at Ark Ayrton?

- *At Ark Ayrton we have a large team of staff who specialise in a variety of support that may be offered to your child. We also run a number of catch up and SEND programmes and work closely with a wide range of professionals who support and advise us in meeting the needs of pupils with SEND*
- **We have a 3 tiered approach to supporting pupils**
- **Universal support – this is the provision in the classroom – the work the teacher plans, who the teacher works with, the use of additional support staff and a variety of resources and adaptations to planning**
- **Targeted support – this is the planning and provision of a short term intervention to help pupils catch up or keep up eg a 10 week after school maths tuition programme, a 10 week vocabulary and language enrichment programme, a 6 week social skills programme. It may be delivered 1-1 or in small groups during the afternoon or after school**
- **Specialist support – this is the planning of a specialist and personalised provision for pupils with particular and more complex needs and difficulties. Support staff in school may work 1-1 or 1-2 with your child at this level delivering programmes and personalised interventions as part of an Individualised Learning Plan.**
- **Teaching Assistants (TAs) deliver a variety of interventions at this level including Catch Up Reading, Spelling Support, Wave 3 Maths, Read Write Inc 1-1 sessions, Speech and Language targets and fine and gross motor skills. TAs may also be deployed to support pupils with SEND at this level more frequently in class with their work as well as providing provision outside of the classroom**
- **Our Pastoral Team staff work with pupils to deliver focussed work around social, emotional aspects of learning including Self Awareness, Social Skills and Managing Feelings. They also offer loss and bereavement work.**
- **It may be necessary to seek specialist advice and/or regular input from partnership agencies in developing and reviewing plans for pupils who require this level of support. We work closely with the following partnership agencies: Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Physiotherapy, School Nurse, CAMHS, Sensory Impairment Service, Multi Agency Behaviour Support Service, Teacher Advisors for Specific Learning Difficulties including Dyslexia**
- **For a very small number of pupils, access to these specialists may be through an Education Healthcare Plan (EHCP)**

7. How will you support my child to reach his/her learning outcomes?

- ***We review and assess the progress of all pupils continually through observing and questioning pupils, marking work and the use of more formal tests. The outcomes of all of these are used to review, plan and update support where needed***
- The class teacher and other staff working with your child ensure that your child receives appropriate teaching and support in order to reach these goals in class and through interventions where needed
- If your child has an Individual Learning Plan, progress against the targets will be reviewed half termly and you will have an opportunity to be a part of this
- External agencies and specialists may also review your child's progress and adapt their planning accordingly.

8. What is an EHC Plan and who can request one for my child?

The purpose of an EHC Plan, which replaced The Statement of SEN from September 2014, is to make special education provision to meet the special educational needs of a child or young person, to secure improved outcomes for them across education, health and social care and, as he/she gets older, prepare them for adulthood. An EHC Plan will contain;

- the views and aspirations of you and your child,
- a full description of his/her special educational needs and any health and social care needs,
- agreed outcomes for your child's progress,
- specify the provision required and how education, health and social care will work together to meet your child's needs and support the achievement of the agreed outcomes

You, and/or the school (the SENCo), can request that the local authority conduct an assessment of your child's needs. This may lead to an EHC Plan.

9. How will you help me to support my child's learning?

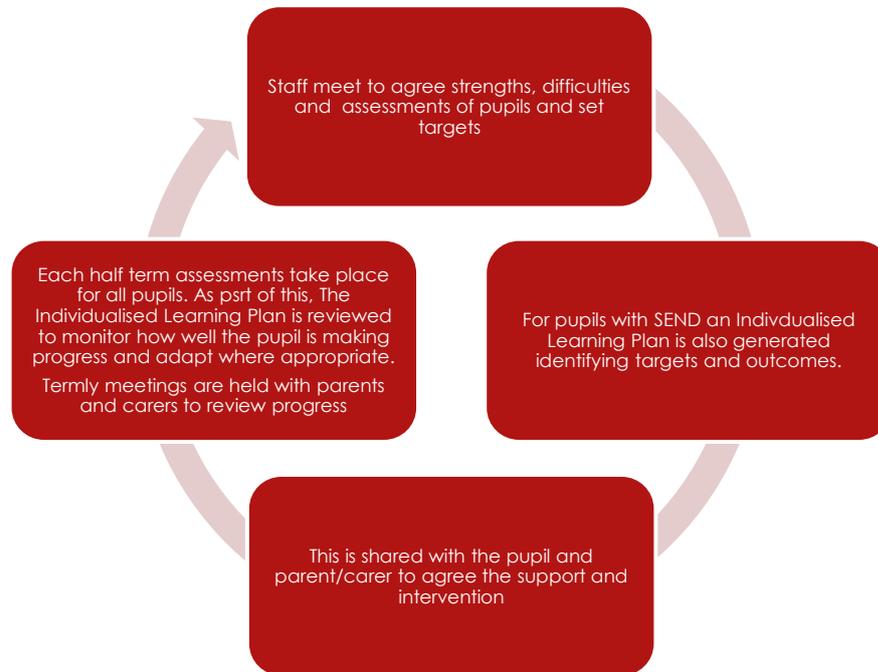
- ***At Ark Ayrton we work in close partnership with parents and carers to help ensure all pupils feel supported at both school and home to achieve the best possible outcomes for them***
- Each year group at Ark Ayrton sends home a half termly curriculum newsletter outlining what the pupils will be learning, homework projects and other suggestions of ideas and activities you can do at home with your child to help them
- All pupils receive regular, weekly homework appropriate to their needs and we encourage parents and carers to support with the completion of this
- We run parent/carer workshops in school to help you understand the strategies we use in school. In addition, your child's class teacher and/or the SENCo may be able to offer you individual training and support in specific support strategies/resources relevant to your child.
- At the nursery we hold regular parent partnership meeting so that information can be shared and next steps/targets for the child are set together.

10. How is support allocated to children and how do they move between the different levels of support in school?

- ***Ark Ayrton receives funding from and via the local authority. These funds include money to support the learning of children with SEN and/or disabilities.***
- The Head teacher, in consultation with the school Governors, decides the budget for SEN provision on the basis of the needs of the children in the school.
- Every half term the Head teacher, SENCo and teachers discuss and review the effectiveness of the school's current interventions and provisions on pupil progress and outcomes and agree appropriate changes to pupil plans where necessary

11. How will Ark Ayrton know that the support has made a difference to my child's learning and how can I and my child be included in this review process?

- At Ark Ayrton we adopt the following formal assessment cycle



- Your child's progress will also be assessed continually both in terms of their daily learning within the class and with regard to specific intervention programmes
- The impact of the support given is carefully measured to ensure that the learning outcomes have been achieved and if not, what adaptations are necessary. It may be decided that a further period of support and or a different intervention would be beneficial for your child
- You and your child will be kept informed and encouraged to be actively involved
- You can request a meeting with your child's teacher and/or the SENCo at any time if you have any questions or concerns

12. What support will there be for my child's happiness and well-being at Ark Ayrton?

- ***At Ark Ayrton our ethos of AIM HIGH, WORK HARD, PLAY FAIR and SHINE BRIGHTLY underpins all that we do. The happiness and well-being of all our pupils is paramount. All members of staff take this aspect of school life very seriously and we pride ourselves in the relationships we have developed within The Ark Ayrton Family and how well we know and get to know every pupil and their family***
- You can be confident that in particular your child's class teacher, Lead practitioner, Teaching Assistants, Learning Support Assistants, Pastoral Team and the SENCo are available to provide support to match your child's needs
- Our pupils views are sought regularly through School Council and they play an active role in developing our school
- The Pastoral Team are available at any time to talk to pupils, parents and carers and offer support if there is a problem. Support is provided for social skills, self-esteem and confidence, as well as for any learning needs

13. How is my child included in all the same activities as his/her peers at school?

- ***Ark Ayrton Primary is an inclusive school and committed to providing equal opportunities for all children.***
- School clubs, educational visits and residential trips are available to all children
- When necessary the school will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that children with SEN and/or disabilities are included in all activities and able to access them

14. How will Ark Ayrton support my child in transition stages?

- ***We recognise and understand how important good transitions are for pupils to make the most progress and achieve the best outcomes throughout their education***
- We ensure that at key transition points (between classes each year and at the end of Key Stages) all staff are aware of individual pupil's needs, learning, progress and best support strategies.
- We have strong links with our local schools and work with them to ensure there is a smooth transition when your child transfers to his/her secondary school of choice or moves during the school year. We can also support with identifying possible school choices and school visits. Please contact us for further details.

- If your child joins us during the school year we will liaise closely with their previous school to understand their needs, hold a New Entry Meeting with you and your child and make any other reasonable arrangements that may be necessary or specific for your child if they have a special educational need and/or disability eg extra visits, purchasing specific equipment. Similarly if your child moves to another school during the school year we will contact the new school to share all relevant information, request a meeting with new staff if local and necessary and help to prepare and support your child and you with the transition where appropriate
- If your child has an EHC Plan, we will plan reviews in sufficient time prior to them moving between key phases of education. You will be kept informed of these arrangements and asked to attend the reviews and appropriate staff from the new school will also be invited to attend
- In Year 5 and 6 all EHC Plan reviews will have an additional focus on preparing for secondary school

15. If I have any other questions about my child at Ark Ayrton Primary and Ark Ayrton Nursery, who can I ask?

- ***At Ark Ayrton we have an 'open door' policy and are always very happy to speak to you about any aspect of your child's education at any point during the school year. It is best to speak to one of the following in this order;***
- The class teacher and/or TA or LSA
- Lead practitioner/ Kimberley, Amanda and Gemma
- The Pastoral Team (if appropriate) – Mandy, Debbie and Shannon
- SENCo –Ark Ayrton Primary – Mrs Tabraham
- SENCo – Ark Ayrton Nursery – Mrs Ayrton
- Nursery Manager – Mrs Ayrton
- Early Years Phase Leader – Mrs Scarsbrook
- Year 1/2 Phase Leader – Mrs Serjent
- Year 3/4 Phase Leader – Miss Kohli
- Year 5/6 Phase Leader – Miss Woods
- Assistant Head teacher – Mrs Truscott
- The Deputy Head (Teaching & Learning) Mrs Bennett-Acres
- The Head teacher, Mrs Chapman

15. What is the local authority's local offer?

The Portsmouth SEND Local Offer details the information, support and services that Portsmouth City Council expects to be available in our local area for children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and or a disability (SEND).

<https://portsmouthlocaloffer.org/>