



Chorlton CE Primary School

SEND UPDATE 2024-2025

**"The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children"
(Article 3)**

At Chorlton CE Primary School we pride ourselves in being an inclusive environment, with a top school priority to support children with additional needs and disabilities. However, in recent years, along with the rest of the country, there are greater challenges relating to the increase of NHS waiting lists combined with ongoing school budgetary issues. This has meant that as a school we have had to review our school SEND offer and adapt our provision to try and ensure that all children with SEND are accessing the best support we can provide in line with the challenges we face as a school.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As a school we are not in a position to provide a dedicated Learning Support Assistant (LSA) in each classroom. Our current LSA provision is set out across phases with dedicated LSAs within EYFS/KS1/LKS2 and UKS2.

SCHOOL NURSE

School no longer has a dedicated linked school nurse who comes into school and this service is no longer available. Referrals can be made by school to the Manchester South school health team for one of the following three reasons if there is a significant concern and all other support avenues have been explored:

- Weight severely impacting on health
- Sleep
- Safeguarding (including CiN, social care requests, LAC & post LAC)

REFERRAL PATHWAYS FOR AUTISM ASSESSMENTS/SCP REFERRALS

School operate a waiting list for referral completion due to the significant rise in the number of requests. If you have an initial concern regarding your child, then please speak to your class teacher who will then refer your concerns onto the SENDCo.

Once agreed with parents that a referral will be completed there may be a *minimum wait time of 4-8 weeks* for school to complete the written application. Parents will be expected to also complete a parental application form and return this to school. Once school have completed our application then a copy of this will be sent to parents as we submit the forms to the SCP (Social Communication Pathway).

Please note that there is a requirement of criteria from Manchester SCP pathway to submit a referral for an autism assessment which is two cycles of assess, plan, do review including intervention for social communication difficulties. Exceptions to this are

- Autistic parent or sibling
- Regression of a core skill, such as talking

Please use [this link](#) to view the SCP padlet which has all the information on it to help support children with difficulties as they are on the waiting list. This is currently in excess of two and a half years.

REFERRAL PATHWAYS FOR ADHD ASSESSMENTS/CAMHS REFERRALS

School operate a waiting list for referral completion due to the significant rise in the number of requests. If you have an initial concern regarding your child, then please speak to your class teacher who will then refer your concerns onto the SENDCo.

Once agreed with parents that a referral will be completed there may be a *minimum wait time of 4-8 weeks* for school to complete the written application. Parents will be contacted by the school SENDCo to forward their concerns in written form so the application includes a full picture of the child both in school and at home.

If a parent has had a CAMHS referral made by their GP, CAMHS will send information and follow up questionnaires to school. Please note there should be an expectation of similar wait times for school to complete this documentation as outlined above for submitting initial paperwork. However, *we will aim to complete it as quickly as possible.*

CAMHS will correspond directly with parents and carers regarding referrals. As a school we would suggest following up on this regularly directly with CAMHS.

EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY ASSESSMENTS (EP)

Pete Hick is our school linked EP through a Service Level Agreement (SLA). This is a service that the school buys in at significant cost to ensure we can support our children effectively across the school. Pete is not employed as a full time member of staff and as such has limited time within school. As a result of this we have to operate a waiting list for support and assessment from Pete.

Children will be identified by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in conjunction with teachers and LSAs to identify those children who require support and/or formal assessments. Please note, Pete does not undertake any individual therapeutic support or provide any individual interventions.

As Pete is also commissioned by other schools and services, it can take between 4-6 weeks for the reports to be provided to school. Once these are received then they will be forwarded to parents and teachers.

School will advise parents in advance of any observations, assessments and meetings with regards to their child.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ASSESSMENTS (SALT) FOR GENERAL LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION DIFFICULTIES

NHS offer

The NHS SALT service used to have a 'core offer' for all schools in Manchester which included an in person SALT assessment looking at all areas of speech and language. However, the NHS service saw a surge in referrals post Covid where numbers had doubled from the amount of referrals pre pandemic, this was alongside a national shortage of Speech and Language Therapists. As such, this offer has now ceased and a new process has been introduced for the 2024-25 academic year.

The new process will be formed through termly SALCA sessions, this allows schools to refer four children per term for a collaborate meeting between a Speech and Language Therapist (SALT), SENDCo and the class teacher. These will be a 45-minute session where strengths, needs and support will be discussed. Written feedback will then be provided to schools and parents of strategies that can be used to support their child. Please note this will be expected to be delivered in school by school staff and at home from parents. ***There will be no direct input with a child from a Speech and Language Therapist.***

School offer

Sam Bratby is our school linked SALT through a Service Level Agreement (SLA). This is a service that the school buys in at significant cost to ensure we can support our children effectively across the school. Sam is not employed as a full time member of staff and as such has limited time within school. As a result of this we have to operate a waiting list for support and assessment from Sam.

Children will be identified by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in conjunction with teachers and LSAs to identify those children who require support and/or formal assessments. There is currently a waiting list for children to be seen by SALT.

School will gain parental consent before any work is completed with Sam and will advise parents in advance of any observations, assessments, interventions and meetings with regards to their child.

In addition to this we have ensured that many staff have undertaken training in a number of SALT intervention programmes such as WELCOMM, NELI, ELKLAN, Lego Therapy, Talkabout and others to ensure we can provide support in school for these difficulties whilst children wait for a referral. However, these are prioritised on a needs basis to ensure all children with difficulties can have access to a programme across the academic year.

If you have concerns regarding your child's language and communication difficulties, then please speak to your class teacher to discuss further who will then refer your concerns onto the SENDCo if required.

SPEECH AND LANGUAGE ASSESSMENTS FOR SPEECH SOUNDS DIFFICULTIES

Manchester NHS SALT offer a different pathway for children who are experiencing speech sounds/articulation difficulties, this also includes children with a stammer. They offer assessment and 1:1 direct therapy for these difficulties.

Referrals can be made via your GP, school or a self-referral by parents. Usually school will contact parents if there are any concerns with a child's speech sounds and will seek consent for a referral.

If you feel that your child has difficulties pronouncing any speech sounds, then please contact your child's class teacher who can refer your concerns onto the SENDCo.

If a parent wishes to self-refer their child then the relevant email is: cmm-tr.SLT.admin@nhs.net or for children in the Early Years: SLTearly.yearsadmin@mft.nhs.uk.

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY (OT) REFERRALS

School are no longer able to submit referrals to OT services in Manchester due to a change in process from the NHS OT service. For a child to receive a referral to OT they must request a referral through their health professional, this can be completed via a visit to their GP or another health professional such as a paediatrician (if your child is already being seen).

NHS OT services will contact parents directly, following referral, regarding their child. If they wish for information to be provided from school, then we urge parents to advise NHS services upon their referral request.

School no longer have access to a school based OT through an agreed SLA due to the difficulties outlined above. However, we have ensured that many staff have undertaken training in a number of OT intervention programmes/in class support programmes such as sensory circuits, sensory diet, fine motor interventions, gross motor interventions and others to ensure we can provide support in school for these difficulties whilst children wait for a referral/assessment. However, these are prioritised on a needs basis to ensure all children with difficulties can have access to a programme across the academic year.

If you have concerns regarding your child's difficulties in the areas of:

- fine and gross motor skills
- sensory processing difficulties
- self-care skills
- organisation
- self-regulation skills

then please speak to your class teacher who will then refer your concerns onto the SENDCo.

SCHOOL THERAPIST

We have access to a school based therapist (Miss Bethel) who offers therapeutic play as well as other interventions to support SEMH difficulties. Children access the school therapist through a waiting list and children will be identified by the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in conjunction with teachers and LSAs.

Once a child has been identified as requiring direct support from the school therapist and has reached the top of the waiting list then parents will receive an invitation direct from Miss Bethel, this is to discuss their child's difficulties and any support we can offer. Some children may have access to a "weekly check in" from Miss Bethel as a form of holding work to identify whether a formal intervention is required. These timetables are discussed and devised between Miss Bethel and Miss Gunn on a termly basis.

If you have concerns regarding your child's SEMH difficulties, then please speak to your class teacher who will then refer your concerns onto the SENDCo.

PUPILS WITH AN EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLAN (EHCP)

Children at school who "have complex and/or severe difficulties which impact on learning and progress, despite the school having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the SEND needs of an individual" may then have an EHC plan.

These legal documents are issued to a very small percentage of children nationally who have been identified as having a significant level of need (currently an average of 4.8% nationally). These needs are persistent and significant enough to require additional support to be put into place which exceeds the ordinarily available provision which can be provided within a mainstream school.

An EHCP application is an intense process where significant evidence is required to provide information which supports the recognition of a greater need, requiring additional provision for the child to access their learning/the school environment.

Applications can be made by schools'/health professionals or directly by parents/carers. The decision to proceed with an assessment or issue an EHC plan is made by a multi-disciplinary team at a LA panel and is not decided by the school. The Local Authority has a duty following receipt of referral to correspond directly with the parent/carer regarding submitted referrals.

Further information regarding Manchester EHCP applications can be found on the Local offer page [here](#).

Please note that an EHCP may not guarantee that a child's needs can be met in school, if a child has significant needs that require adaptations outside of what our school can provide *even with additional funding*. There may be a requirement for further discussions regarding an application for a place at an alternative provision or a specialist school to enable a child to access the support they require. *Please note these decisions are only taken in exceptional circumstances in conjunction with the parent/carer and other professionals.*

INDEPENDENT ADVICE

Further information can be sought from the following organisations

- SENDIASS MANCHESTER: <https://www.iasmanchester.org/>
- SENDIASS TRAFFORD: <https://sendiass.trafford.gov.uk/Home.aspx>
- IPSEA CHARITY: <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/>