



Chorlton CE Primary School

SEND PROFESSIONALS UPDATE 2026

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

We pride ourselves on being an inclusive environment where supporting children with additional needs is a top priority. However, like schools nationwide, we face rising NHS waiting lists and severe budgetary constraints. To maintain high-quality support, we have adapted our SEND pathways and resources. This guide details how services are delivered.

LEARNING SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

The school is unable to budget for a dedicated LSA in every classroom. Instead, provision is shared across phases with dedicated teams across EYFS, KS1, LKS2 and UKS2.

SPECIALIST NHS PATHWAYS

For all pathways below, your first point of contact is always your child's class teacher, who will formally pass concerns to the SENDCo.

Assessment / Pathway	Referral documentation	Wait times & Constraints	Process & Requirements
School Nurse	One School referral form	Variable	A dedicated linked school nurse is no longer available. Referrals to the Manchester South school health team can only be made if all other avenues are exhausted and there is a significant concern regarding: - Weight severely impacting health - Sleep issues - Safeguarding (including CiN, social care requests, LAC & post-LAC)
SALT Language	One School referral form	6 months+ external pathway wait	The NHS core offer no longer includes an 'in person' assessment. SALCA sessions are now offered which are consultation sessions between school and NHS speech and language therapists (maximum 4 children per term) with a summary report provided at the end.

SALT Speech Sounds	- One School referral form - One Articulation Screener	Variable	For articulation, pronunciation or stammers, referrals can be made to the clinical SALT service via the GP, school or the parent directly. Parents can self-refer using the following email address: cmm-tr.SLT.admin@nhs.net EYFS self-referral: SLTEarly.yearsadmin@mft.nhs.uk
OT	One School referral form	Within 4-6 weeks	The NHS core offer allows school to submit <i>one referral per term</i> for “functional difficulties” such as self-care, or physical and fine motor difficulties. Referrals needed to OT for sensory difficulties must be submitted through the GP.
Autism / SCP	- One School referral form - One Parental referral form 4-8 weeks for school paperwork completion	2.5+ years external pathway wait	The criteria requirement from Manchester SCP pathway to submit a referral includes 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
ADHD / CAMHS	- One School referral form - One ADHD school report and SNAP (<i>if ADHD pathway</i>) - One Parental SNAP (<i>if ADHD pathway</i>) 4-8 weeks for school paperwork completion	18+ months external pathway wait	CAMHS referrals can be made by school or GP. Parents will be asked to submit written concerns to ensure the school form includes a comprehensive home/school picture. If referred via GP, CAMHS will send questionnaires to school. CAMHS will correspond directly with parents and carers regarding referrals. As a school we would suggest following up on this regularly directly with CAMHS.

SCHOOL SERVICE LEVEL AGREEMENTS

For all specialist intervention, your first point of contact is always your child's class teacher, who will formally pass concerns to the SENDCo.

Assessment / Pathway	Referral Documentation	Wait times & Constraints	Process & Requirements
Educational Psychologist (EP)	- One school referral form - One Parental consent form	Current school needs based waiting list. Reports take 4-6 weeks from date work completed.	Bought in specialist: Charlotte Naylor. 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 she does not undertake any individual therapeutic support or provide any interventions.
Speech and Language Therapist (SALT)	- One school referral form - One Parental consent form	Current school needs based waiting list. Reports take 3-4 weeks from date work completed.	Bought in specialist: Geeta Mehta. 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. Geeta will follow the direction of the school SENDCo.

SOCIAL, EMOTIONAL AND MENTAL HEALTH (SEMH)

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)

EHCPs are legal documents reserved for a small percentage of children nationally (around 6%) with persistent, complex and severe needs that exceed what a mainstream school can ordinarily provide. Applications require intensive evidence and can be made by schools, health professionals, care professionals, and parents.

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

Crucial Information for Parents:

- The decision to assess or issue an EHCP is determined entirely by a Local Authority panel, not by the school.
- An EHCP does not guarantee that a child's needs can be met within a mainstream environment. If needs require adaptations beyond our scope, discussions regarding alternative provisions or special school placements may take place in conjunction with parents and 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/>