

St. Martin's School - SEND Information Report – February 2023

In September 2014, a new Special Educational Needs Code of Practice came into effect. From this time, Local Authorities must publish a Local Offer, setting out, in one place, information about the provision that they expect to be made available for children and young people in their area, who have Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).

Schools must contribute to the Local Offer. This SEND Information Report is our school's contribution to the Local Offer.

Further information on what is available from Essex County Council's Local Offer can be found at: <https://send.essex.gov.uk/> .

St. Martin's School is a 11-18 comprehensive school. At St. Martin's School, the ethos is based on traditional, inclusive values, including pupils' personal development, outstanding academic achievement and personalised provision and support. The school has a committed staff, supportive parents and pupils, who want to learn. The school is forward thinking and constantly seeks to improve in order to offer a first-class education, for its pupils. St. Martin's believes that all children can be successful learners, and that all are capable of achievement, in line with the school's value of: *'Be The Best You Can Be'*. The school aims to provide learning experiences and an environment that allows all pupils to succeed. The school has an excellent academic record - significant numbers of its pupils achieve at the very highest levels at GCSE and A level. Expectations of pupils are high and the school insists on standards being maintained in every aspect of school life. The school promotes a strong code of values based on respect and tolerance and encourages its pupils to be good citizens within a caring, community. The school looks to the future with confidence and believes that it provides a safe, supportive learning environment in which all pupils enjoy school and can develop to their full potential.

What type of needs are currently supported at St. Martins' School?

The school currently provides for a range of needs:

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD);
- Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD);
- Cognitive Processing;
- Dyslexia;
- Dyspraxia;
- Physical disabilities, visual and hearing impaired;
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health;
- Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD);
- Speech, Language and Communication difficulties.

However, the school looks to support and implement its provision accordingly, when new pupils arrive with different needs.

How does St. Martin's School know if my child needs extra help?

The principle of Quality First Teaching underpins the approach taken at St. Martin's School, which means that most pupil needs are met within the classroom. All teachers are teachers of SEND and have a responsibility to identify and support pupils, who may need additional support. Pupils, who have additional needs, are identified in a range of ways, and at a number of different times in the school year. This can be done by:

- Gathering information from primary schools through the transition process, working closely with Head of Year and the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo) from primary schools;
- Informal and formal assessment and observations of lessons;
- Regular meetings between SENDCo and Heads of Year and Assistant Headteacher to discuss any concerns around pupil progress;
- Regular Learning Walks;
- Parental views and meetings;
- Child's own views;
- Teacher reports;
- Regular meetings between SENDCo and the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) Coordinator;
- Advising the parents/carers on professional services that they can contact out of school;
- Evidence from external professionals, including physiotherapists, occupational therapists, specialist teachers, speech and language therapists, social workers, educational psychologists, Emotional Wellbeing Mental Health Services (EWMHS), doctors, outreach and others. Evidence is drawn from the school's core approach to pupil progress, attainment and behaviour. It also draws on the individual's development in comparison to their peers.

What should I do if I think my child may have SEND?

If you have a concern about your child's progress, the first person to contact is your child's subject teacher and the Head of Department, who are responsible for the progress that your child makes in that specific subject. If it is a general concern, you need to contact the Head of Year/Year Administrator. The Head of Year should then liaise with the SENDCo. Should the SENDCo feel that further assessment must take place, they organise further assessment to investigate any concerns. Parents/carers and pupils are involved in this process and with further discussion in agreeing next steps.

How will I know how St. Martin's supports my child?

If St. Martin's School decides to provide SEND support, the parents/carers are informed. Review meetings with the SENDCo or another member of the SEND Department are arranged throughout the year to discuss the interventions/support to be put in place and the expected impact on progress, development and behaviour. The SENDCo contacts parents/carers regularly if there are changes to the provision offered.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Teachers plan using students' One Plans, differentiating tasks to ensure progress for every pupil in the classroom.

When a student has been identified as having Special Educational Needs, the curriculum and the learning environment are further adapted by the class teacher to reduce barriers to learning, and to enable the pupil to access the curriculum more easily.

These adaptations may include strategies suggested by the SENDCo and/or external specialists. These may include:

- Mentoring, if necessary;
- Differentiated curriculum pathways;
- Targeted interventions;
- Support for examinations from Year 7 should access arrangements be identified.

Should it be required, students may be provided with specialist equipment or resources such as ICT and/or additional adult help.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Parents are informed of their child's progress, mainly through termly reports.

Regular updates for parents/carers through One Plan review meetings – these meetings may be with a member of the SEND Department or with someone, who knows the pupil well, and parent evenings, where parents/carers have an opportunity to discuss progress with each of the pupil's subject teachers.

If there are any concerns staff also communicate with parents/carers more regularly.

How will St. Martin's School help me to support my child's learning?

Pupil voice is central to how the school plans its provision.

Pupils, who are identified as having SEND have a One plan in place. This is shared with staff, and updated when new information becomes available.

The school monitors plans for pupils, who have been discussed with the SENDCo, but do not require additional support beyond the classroom. The monitor plans are shared with staff.

- SEND pupils are encouraged to come to the SEND Department at different points of the day;
- The subject teacher or SENDCo may also suggest additional ways of supporting a child's learning;
- Parents/carers voice is important to the school. If you have ideas on support that you would like to access in order to further support your child's learning, please contact the SENDCo, who will locate additional information and guidance for you.

Targeted interventions are planned depending on the individual pupil SEND needs and parents/carers are informed of these before the child starts at the school.

Examples of some interventions are:

- ARTiculate;
- Anxiety;
- Morning check in to prepare for the day;
- SEND Lunch Club;
- Homework Club;
- Brick building;

- Talk about teens;
- SEND mentoring;
- SEND Sixth Form buddies.

What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

St. Martin's School has a SEAL Coordinator, who works closely with the SENDCo, and leads on a range of interventions to address individual needs via 1:1 sessions or group work.

The school has strong attendance, behaviour, and anti-bullying policies. St. Martin's School is proactive in seeking appropriate support for pupils, who are vulnerable or who have difficulty managing their emotions in school.

The school has a strong pastoral system with several members of staff, whose core role is to monitor and support pupil wellbeing.

What specialist services and expertise are available at, or accessed by, the school?

If your child has been identified as having a SEND need, the school does its very best to give your child the support they need. This may include getting advice and support from specialists outside of the school, such as:

- An Educational Psychologist;
- Advisory service, where possible;
- Specialist teachers;
- Education access team;
- Internal and external Careers Advisers;

The school attends termly meetings with its Essex school partnership to discuss pupils, who it has concerns about.

What training are the staff supporting children and young people with SEND had or having?

Staff are offered regular SEND CPD sessions (both internal and external) in order to improve Teaching and Learning across the whole school and improve outcomes for SEND pupils.

The SENDCo has the National Award for SEN Coordination (NASENCo) qualification.

How will my child be included in activities outside of the classroom, including school trips?

At St. Martin's School, pupils with SEND are encouraged to participate in all school activities. For example, they are allocated responsibilities around the school on an equal basis, such as pupil messengers or helping out when the school has external visitors. They are also given the opportunity to become a member of the School Council, House and games captains and front of house.

SEND pupils are invited to all lunch time and after school clubs. School trips are accompanied by a high ratio of adults to children and detailed assessments are undertaken. The school's SEND pupils are also given the opportunity to participate in many drama/music performances, which help to build their self-confidence and team-working skills.

How accessible is the school environment?

Please refer to the school's Accessibility Plan, which is available on the school's website.

How will the school prepare and support my child when joining St. Martin's or transferring to a new school or Post-16 provision?

A member of the SEND team may visit primary schools and attend annual review meetings, where applicable, for incoming Year 7 pupils.

- SEND Department and Head of Year collates specific information from primary schools to inform tutor groups and areas of concern before the beginning of the new school year;
- Individual parental visits to St. Martin's School with the SEND Department;
- Three additional SEN mornings before two full days with the rest of the Year 6 pupils, who will be joining the school for Year 7;
- SEND pupils are invited to a summer school;
- College transfer meeting;
- Travel training, if needed;
- Careers guidance.

Who can I contact for further information?

SENDCo – Mrs. Hamit - SENDCO@stmartins.essex.sch.uk

You can also contact your child's Head of Year.