

Blackawton Primary School SEND Information Report 2024-25

1. Introduction

At Blackawton Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that all children and young people have the opportunity to thrive. We align our approach with Devon County Council's vision of providing every child with a good start in life, regardless of their individual needs.

Some children require additional support due to Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND). The level of support needed will vary based on their specific needs and circumstances. We firmly believe that children with SEND should be fully included in their local community, learning alongside their peers whenever possible.

To support this, we offer a range of interventions, strategies, and resources, forming part of our 'Local Offer'—a guide to the support available for children and young people with SEND aged 0-25 years, in line with Devon's approach and underlying principles.

2. What Are Special Educational Needs?

SEND falls under four broad areas:

- **Communication and Interaction**
- **Cognition and Learning**
- **Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)**
- **Sensory and/or Physical Needs**

Communication and Interaction

Children with Speech, Language, and Communication Needs (SLCN) may struggle with expressing themselves verbally, understanding spoken language, or using social rules of communication effectively.

Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), including Asperger's Syndrome and Pathological Demand Avoidance (PDA), often have particular difficulties with social interaction, communication, and imaginative thinking, which can impact their ability to build relationships and engage in learning.

Cognition and Learning

Children may need additional support if they learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with classroom differentiation.

Learning difficulties range from moderate learning difficulties (MLD), where support is needed across the curriculum, to severe learning difficulties (SLD), where more complex needs require specialist input. Profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD) involve a combination of severe learning, physical, and sensory needs.

Specific learning difficulties (SpLD) affect one or more aspects of learning and include conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dyspraxia.

Social, Emotional, and Mental Health (SEMH)

Children may experience emotional and social difficulties that manifest in a variety of ways, including withdrawal, anxiety, depression, challenging or disruptive behaviour, and difficulties forming and maintaining relationships. Some children may have medical conditions such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Attachment Disorders that require additional support.

Sensory and/or Physical Needs

Some children require additional support due to hearing impairment (HI), visual impairment (VI), or multi-sensory impairment (MSI), which involves a combination of hearing and visual difficulties. Physical disabilities (PD) may require specialist equipment or mobility support to ensure full access to learning opportunities.

Our school works closely with external professionals to ensure children with sensory and physical needs have access to the right adaptations, resources, and support.

3. Who to Contact for SEND Support

Class Teacher – Identifies learning needs, delivers support, and communicates with parents. Contact your child's teacher directly.

SENDCo – Emily Risby – Leads SEND provision, coordinates support, and liaises with external agencies. Contact via email at senco@blackawtonprimary.org.uk (Available Tuesday-Thursday).

Headteacher – Liam Fielding – Oversees the overall provision for SEND pupils. Contact via the school office.

SEND Governor – Isabel Fairweather – Ensures the school meets its responsibilities for SEND provision. Contact via the school office.

School Contact Number: 01803 712 363

School Email Address: admin@blackawtonprimary.org.uk

4. Identifying SEND at Blackawton Primary School

Children may be identified as having SEND through a variety of ways, including:

- Liaison with previous educational settings, including nurseries and other schools
- Regular assessments and tracking data indicating below age-related expectations
- Concerns raised by parents, teachers, or the child themselves
- Referrals from external agencies such as Educational Psychologists or Speech & Language Therapists
- Health diagnoses provided by medical professionals

If a child is identified as needing additional support, parents will be informed, and an Initial Concerns (IC) Plan or SEND Plan will be put in place. This is reviewed every 12-14 weeks to track progress and adapt interventions.

5. Types of Support Available for SEND Pupils

Universal Support (Quality First Teaching & Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision – OAIP)

All children benefit from high-quality, inclusive teaching that is designed to meet a diverse range of needs within the classroom. This approach is referred to as Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision (OAIP), which ensures that children with additional needs receive the support they require without the need for an EHCP.

At Blackawton Primary School, our OAIP includes:

Differentiated teaching strategies to support varied learning styles.

Flexible grouping arrangements to enable children to access learning at an appropriate level.

Scaffolding and structured interventions embedded within daily classroom teaching.

Use of visual supports, practical resources, and assistive technology to aid understanding.

A focus on emotional well-being, including clear routines, social stories, and access to safe spaces when needed.

Personalised approaches, including additional processing time, alternative methods of recording, and adapted resources.

By implementing OAIP and Quality First Teaching, we ensure that children with additional needs can fully access and engage with the curriculum, promoting inclusion and fostering independence.

Targeted Support (Intervention Programmes)

Some children may require additional support through small-group or one-to-one interventions led by teachers or teaching assistants. These may include speech and language support, play therapy, nurture groups, or subject-specific interventions.

Specialist Support (External Agencies)

Where additional expertise is required, we work with external professionals, including Educational Psychologists (EPs), Speech & Language Therapists (SALT), Occupational Therapy (OT), and Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS).

Higher Needs Support (EHCPs)

For children with severe, complex, and long-term needs, an Education, Health, and Care Plan (EHCP) may be requested. This legal document outlines additional support, specialist interventions, and potential funding for tailored resources.

6. Transition Support

We recognise that moving between year groups and schools can be challenging for SEND pupils. To support smooth transitions, early years staff liaise with nurseries and parents before children start school, class teachers meet to share SEND plans before pupils move to new year groups, and Year 6 transition meetings are held with secondary schools to ensure tailored support is in place.

7. Parent Partnership and Communication

We believe that strong home-school relationships are essential for children's progress. We offer termly SEND meetings with parents, parent workshops and training on supporting children at home, regular updates via email, phone, and face-to-face meetings, and access to Devon Information Advice & Support (DIAS) for impartial guidance.

Further Information: <https://www.devonias.org.uk/>

8. Complaints Procedure

We encourage open communication. If you have concerns:

Speak to your child's class teacher. If unresolved, contact the SENDCo or Headteacher.

If necessary, escalate concerns to the SEND Governor or Local Governing Body.

A full Complaints Procedure is available on request from the school office.

Final Note

At Blackawton Primary, we are dedicated to ensuring every child reaches their full potential. If you have any concerns or need further support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Blackawton Primary School Contact Information:

Phone: 01803 712 363

Email: admin@blackawtonprimary.org.uk

We look forward to working in partnership with you.