



# SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEND) INFORMATION REPORT

**This report will tell you how Southampton Children's Hospital School (SCHS) will support your child, if they have a special educational need or disability.**

SCHS an Alternative Provision Academy based at Southampton General Hospital. Our school is focused on enabling pupils with medical needs to access education and we are fully committed to including all children with a range of special educational needs and disabilities including: -

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health
- Sensory and/or physical needs

**How do we know if a child needs additional support?**

This is decided on an individual basis by the class teacher and SENCO, in conjunction children's home school and/or parents. We use information provided by:

- Home schools
- Parents and carers
- Staff working with the children
- Medical practitioners within Southampton Children's Hospital
- Outside agencies (e.g. Social Services, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Occupational Therapy, Speech and Language Therapy, Physiotherapy)
- Educational Psychologists

All parents and carers are required on their child's admission to provide the school with consent to contact these agencies in order to gain this information. This will allow us to ensure that we are providing teaching that matches every child's individual needs.

If you feel your child may need extra help or has special educational needs contact the SENCO or Head of School, Nell Giles.

**Assessment and parent links**

We hold parents' evenings every half term for children staying in Bursledon House. On the children's wards, teachers are happy to meet with parents at a time that is convenient to both. Parents should speak to the teachers in the classrooms or at the bedside to arrange this. On a child's discharge, we will provide the home school with a report, either written or verbal, depending upon the child's length of stay. Parents will receive a copy of all written reports and teachers will always be happy to meet and discuss this report with parents on request. The school will also ask parents to complete a questionnaire on the child's discharge. If a child has an Education, Health and Care Plan, we ask the home school or parents to provide us with a copy to ensure we are helping children achieve their individualised educational plans and targets.

The Head of School, Nell Giles, and the SENCO are also available to talk to parents at any time. Please use the contact details at the end of this report to request an appointment. This can also be arranged through your child's teacher or by visiting the school office within Bursledon House.

Progress of children with a Special Educational Need or Disability is tracked by the SENCO. Progress of the whole school is tracked by the Head of School and Executive Head, Gary Hampton.

### **Support in class for your child**

All staff at SCHS are trained to work with children with Special Educational Needs. All children, regardless of need, will be fully included in any classroom or bedside teaching through differentiation and additional support where required. They will also be encouraged to work independently at times. On a daily basis class teachers are responsible for supporting your child. This is overseen by the SENCO.

### **Curriculum**

SCHS will include all children in the school's curriculum through differentiation and making reasonable adjustments. If a child has an EHCP or additional needs, opportunities will be created to support your child to achieve these more personalised targets.

### **Support**

Teachers at SCHS are highly trained in working with students with additional needs and will support all children primarily through quality first teaching. Much of our teaching is delivered on a one to one or small group basis, so teaching can be tailored specifically to meet the requirements of individual children. If your child has an EHCP, they will receive the additional support set out in the EHCP. SCHS will work with home schools to ensure that this provision is maintained during their stay in hospital wherever possible.

### **Trips and activities**

At SCHS, we endeavour to include ALL children on trips and extra-curricular activities. If there are concerns we will always seek to make adaptations, and will discuss this with you. It is school policy that medical staff are in attendance during all off site activities.

### **Wellbeing**

At SCHS, a number of our teachers and teaching assistants have received ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training. All staff are highly skilled at providing emotional support for children who need it. If this is a particular area of need for your child, please contact teachers or the SENCO. We also work closely with medical staff within the hospital and outside agencies such as Social Services, Solent Psychology, CAMHS, etc. to support families.

### **Staff Professional Development**

Staff are given regular training to fit into the needs of the school. Our SENCO will run various courses for staff throughout the year relevant to the needs of our children and character of our

provision. Staff also regularly attend external courses and visit mainstream schools to ensure our SEND provision and practices are effective and current.

We will work in conjunction with medical staff within the hospital such as Speech and Language Therapists, Physiotherapist, Medical Psychologists, Occupational Therapists and Play Specialists to share information and strategies to best support all children within the school. The Head of School, the SENCO and teaching staff regularly attend ward round and handovers with medical staff to ensure we have all of the information we require to provide the best educational opportunities and activities for all children.

### **Access**

All access needs will be addressed by the hospital and medical staff.

### **Community**

At SCHS, we strongly believe that close relationships with parents and carers are key in ensuring children are receiving the best education and care, often at a time when they are facing certain adversities and challenges in their lives. We welcome parental involvement with all aspects of the school and if you are interested in becoming a volunteer at the school, to assist with reading or other areas of school life please contact the school office.

### **Concerns**

When your child is admitted to hospital, it is a worrying and difficult time. If you are at all worried about your child's period of stay and educational provision at SCHS during this time, please contact the SENCO in the first instance. If you have further concerns, please contact the Head of School or Executive Head.

### **Reintegration to home schools**

At SCHS we know that your child's reintegration back into mainstream education can be a challenging time for children and a worrying time for parents, so we endeavour to support every child through this process. We can arrange visits from home school staff and, alongside medical staff, we can help to organise a programme of reintegration visits. Please speak to the SENCO, Head of School or medical staff if you think this would be appropriate and helpful for your child.

### **Additional queries/ information**

If you need further information please contact the school SENCO, Jane Williams, or the Head of School, Nell Giles.

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Please also see [Southampton City Council's local offer](#).

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