

Denmead Infant School SEN Information Report

What does Denmead Infant School offer pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN)?

We are an inclusive mainstream setting that welcomes all children from different backgrounds with different needs. We listen carefully to our children and their parents/carers and work hard to make sure everyone's needs can be met in our school. Our Inclusion Leader is also our Deputy Headteacher, who leads an experienced staff committed to inclusion. We are aspirational for all our children. Making sure every child is happy, successful and included is at the heart of everything we do.

How does Denmead Infant School know if children need extra help?

At Denmead Infant School we know our children very well. Understanding our pupils enables us to spark their interest and ensure they make good progress in their learning. It also helps us see if a child needs different or extra help to be successful. We have pupil progress meetings every half term to make sure all the children are learning and achieving. In the meetings we identify any children who have not made good progress and plan how we can help.

We get to know our children before they start school. We meet with pre-schools, have parent/carer meetings and visits for the children. We also come to visit the children at their home, giving us a chance to talk to parents/carers as well. If your child joins the school later in the year, we speak to parents/carers and the child's previous school for information. If we know a child has SEN before starting at our school, we hold a transition meeting to make sure we fully understand their strengths and needs and we will try to visit them in their current setting.

What do I do if I think my child has SEN?

Talk to us! At Denmead Infant School we have an open door policy, which means you can come and talk to us whenever you like. The best time to catch teachers is at the beginning and end of the school day, or you can make an appointment for a longer chat. We have formal parents' evenings in November and February and invite you into school regularly for events like 'Stay and Play'. You can also choose to meet with our Inclusion Leader to discuss any concerns – just phone or pop into the office to make an appointment.

How will the school know how my child with SEN is doing?

Every half term, teachers meet with the Inclusion Leader for an SEN review meeting. Children with SEN are discussed, we look at their work and their needs are identified. The children are given an SEN Support Plan which sets personalised outcomes for the year, along with small step targets leading to this. Special help, resources or different work to help them achieve their targets is recorded. Children are regularly assessed to ensure progress is being made and special help is working to help them reach their end of year outcomes.

The leaders of the school, including governors, need to make sure that children with SEN are making good progress. They look carefully at data to check this is happening. They also check that teaching is effective by looking at books and observing the learning in the classrooms. Any extra help given to the children should help them catch up with their peers. The leaders will check that extra help given is effective and children are making accelerated progress (faster progress than normal).

How will I know how my child is doing and how will you help me support my child's learning?

At parents evenings and in the end of year school report, teachers will tell all parents how their child is doing. If your child has SEN, you will also receive copies of your child's SEN support plan. There may be other meetings with you

during the year, such as annual review meetings or transition meetings, where we talk about how your child is doing. Some children have a home/school book to provide additional information and some parents pop into school daily for an update.

We will help you to support your child's learning by providing home learning, such as reading books or learning letter sounds. We will provide information meetings to explain how we teach things like phonics in school. We will show you the kind of learning your child does in school during our 'Stay and Play' sessions. We will also give you suggestions, during parent meetings, about things you can do at home to help.

How will the staff at Denmead Infant School support my child?

Your child's class teacher will support your child by planning work which interests your child, teaches your child new skills, gives your child the chance to practice and apply skills independently and is at the right level for your child. Teachers assess the children through observation and looking carefully at their work. They use their assessments to make sure pupil's needs are addressed.

Teaching Assistants (TAs) work closely with the children and often work 1:1 with children who have additional needs. They follow the teacher's planning and talk to the teacher about the children regularly.

There is a Lunchtime Assistant for every class, who gets to know the children and looks after them every lunchtime. They are aware of any children with SEN and how this may affect them during lunchtimes. Sometimes they are given training to help, for example with behaviour or medical needs. Lunchtime Assistants feedback daily to teachers.

The Inclusion Leader will ensure that everyone who works with your child is aware of their needs and any adaptations that need to be made. She will ensure that your child is safe, happy and able to learn.

How will the curriculum at Denmead Infant School be matched to my child's needs?

At Denmead Infant School we ensure that all children are able to learn. We use a skills based curriculum; in a class children will be learning the same topic, but the skills they are using may be very different. Usually there are three different levels of work being taught in every lesson. Teachers assess the children and understand which skills they need to learn next. This may be taught as a whole class, a small group or individually. Pupils' needs are always considered and adjustments are made to address any barriers to learning.

How is the decision made about what type of and how much support my child will receive?

At SEN review meetings the Inclusion Leader will work with the class teacher to decide what kind of support a pupil will receive and how often. This decision is made after discussion with parents and through school assessment. Different children will require different levels of support in order to bridge the gap to achieve age expected levels.

Sometimes, other professionals such as an Educational Psychologist or Speech and Language Therapist, will have made assessments and recommendations and the school will endeavour to accommodate this. If a child has an 'Education, Health and Care Plan', there are recommendations for the kind of support a child needs and how much, which the school needs to adhere to. We will constantly reassess how effective the support is and make sure there are on-going discussions with parents.

At Denmead Infant School we have a TA (teaching assistant) in every class to meet the needs of pupils with SEN. We make sure that all children have time with their teacher and independent time, so no child will have a TA with them all the time. Every class has a 'provision map' which shows what and how much support different children receive. We are always happy to discuss this with parents.

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

Every member of staff takes the wellbeing of our pupils seriously and does their utmost to ensure children are happy at Denmead Infant School. Staff are given regular child protection and health and safety training, to ensure all pupils are safe.

Our Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (ELSA) is non-class based and full time, so is able to spend time with pupils who are emotionally vulnerable, including pupils with social difficulties.

Some pupils need medication whilst in school. Regular training is provided for staff to ensure that these needs are met. We work closely with NHS staff to ensure that children with medical needs are fully supported.

All children are given responsibilities, such as taking the register to the office. In Year 2 all children are given the opportunity to become an ambassador, where they can show prospective parents around the school, or the chance to be a play leader and help the younger children at playtimes. School councillors, which include pupils with SEN, represent each class' viewpoints in school council meetings.

Who is in charge of SEN at Denmead Infant School?

Our Inclusion Leader and Deputy Headteacher, Nicola Payne is in charge of SEN. This person can also be called a 'SENCO' (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator). Nicola Payne is always happy to meet with parents and can be contacted via the school, by phone or email.

Nicola Payne (Deputy Headteacher and Inclusion Leader)

Denmead Infant School

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What training is provided for staff supporting children with SEN and disabilities?

Our Inclusion Leader is highly skilled with experience working with children who have a wide range of disabilities and complex needs. Her qualifications include the National Award for SENCO Accreditation. Our Inclusion Leader plans staff training based on the needs of our children, delivering bespoke training herself, arranging for other professionals to deliver training or arranging for specific staff to attend external training. We have a number of staff with specialisms including autism and speech and language.

The school regularly accesses support from other professionals to help us support children with specific needs. We have an attached Educational Psychologist who offers training, advice and helps us assess pupils with complex needs. NHS colleagues help us to provide support for pupils who need speech and language therapy, physiotherapy and occupational therapy. Specialist nurses provide training and advice for pupils with severe conditions and illnesses such as diabetes or cancer. Pupils' emotional needs are supported through services such as CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) and counsellors at local hospices. Children with English as an additional language are supported through EMTAS (Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service). We also regularly use the Specialist Teacher Advisors, who offer vital information and resources for specific needs such as hearing impairment.

How accessible is Denmead Infant School?

The site is fully accessible for wheelchairs and children with physical needs. We have a disabled changing room and toilet, adaptations in children's toilets (such as bars and lever taps) and disabled parking. We work closely with Specialist Teacher Advisors and Occupational Therapists to ensure and required equipment, such as specialist seating and audio equipment are in place. We liaise with EMTAS (Ethnic Minority and Traveller Achievement Service) who assist us in supporting our families with English as an additional language.

All children are included in all parts of the school curriculum and we aim for all children to be included on school trips. We will provide the necessary support to ensure that this is successful. A risk assessment is carried out prior to any off site activity to ensure everyone's health & safety will not be compromised.

How are parents and carers currently involved at Denmead Infant School?

At Denmead Infant School we are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers to provide an outstanding education for your children. We understand that you know your children best and we want to use that expertise to ensure all children can learn well. We want you to be fully involved in school life. We have an open door policy and welcome parents into school every day. We have a full induction programme for new pupils including parent meetings, visits to school and a home visit. We encourage parents to join their children in the classroom for 'Stay and Play' events throughout the year. We hold information evenings and regular parent meetings and send home a school report.

For pupils with SEN, the relationship between home and school is vital. In addition, we provide meetings with our Inclusion Leader at parents' evenings, transition times or to discuss needs and provision at any other time during the year. Some pupils with SEN will need a home/school communication book or daily contact with the teacher or TA. Parents whose children are having specific help at school are welcome to come and observe, to help them continue the approach at home. We understand that parents who have a child with SEN may find parenting challenging at times. We are always willing to listen and advise where we can or signpost you to additional home support.

Many parents contribute to school life by becoming a regular volunteer. We really value our parent helpers and provide training for them. We also have a very active and successful PTA (parent teacher association), who organise fun activities to raise money throughout the year. Other parents support the school by becoming a governor. If you would like to be involved in any way, or would like more information please speak to your child's class teacher, the school office or contact our Inclusion Leader.

How do we involve pupils at Denmead Infant School?

We listen very carefully to our pupils and strongly believe that by fully involving children in their education they will be more motivated, more independent and take more responsibility for their own learning leading to better progress. Our children have brilliant ideas and we fully involve them in school life and decisions through our school council.

Pupils with SEN are often given additional opportunities to have a say. We ask the pupils what helps them learn best and what will help them achieve their targets. Where appropriate we will include pupils in meetings, for example by recording their views to be presented. For pupils with communication difficulties, we will ensure their voice is heard through alternative strategies, such as visual choice cards.

What steps should I take if I have a concern about the school's SEND provision?

If you have any concerns about your child, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's class teacher who will be very happy to discuss things with you. Our approach at Denmead Infant School is to listen carefully and work with you to resolve concerns quickly. You are also very welcome to speak to our Inclusion Leader or Headteacher, who you can contact via the school office. After listening to your concerns we will agree actions and will keep you informed about developments, often through further meetings. Our staff will endeavour to address your concerns, however, if you wish to make a formal complaint you can write to the chair of governors (please see the school office or website for details of our formal complaints policy).

How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school and transfer to a new school?

We have a full induction programme for new pupils including parent meetings, visits to school and a home visit. Pupils with SEN may have an annual review meeting, IPA (Inclusion Partnership Agreement) or transition meeting to

discuss strengths, needs and any support the child needs. Pupils joining the school are given a social story with photographs to introduce them to the setting and staff. We also encourage pupils with additional needs to visit the school on a number of occasions, perhaps after school when it is quieter.

A similar full programme has been developed with Denmead Junior School when the children are nearing the end of Year 2. Children are given a 'buddy', from Year 5, who writes them a letter and shows them around during their visits. IPA and transition meetings are organised, giving the new SENCO and teachers an opportunity to meet the parent/carer and discuss children in detail. There is good communication and joint working between SENCOs.

If pupils with SEN transfer to a different school, the Inclusion Leader will endeavour to arrange a transition meeting and visits in preparation. We will always send information to the receiving school.

Where can I get further information about services for my child?

If you would like any further information about Denmead Infant School please pop in and see us or visit our website:

<http://denmeadinfantschool.co.uk/>

For a full range of services in Hampshire for children with SEN please visit:

http://www.hampshirelocaloffer.info/en/Main_Page

If you are considering enrolling your child at Denmead Infant School, please contact the school Admin office to arrange to meet the Head teacher Ms Clabon or Deputy Head teacher / Inclusion Leader Mrs Payne, who will happily discuss how the school could meet your child's needs.