



Rush Common School SEND Information Report 2023-2024

Updated September 2023

These pages set out information about our provision for children and young people with special educational needs and Disabilities (SEND). They are updated annually.

About our school

At Rush Common School we believe that each pupil has individual and unique needs. However, some pupils require more support than others. If these pupils are to achieve their full potential, we must recognise this and plan accordingly. We acknowledge that a proportion of pupils will have special educational needs at some time in their school career. Many of these pupils may require help throughout their time in school, whilst others may need a little extra support for a short period to help overcome more temporary needs. Rush Common School aims to provide all pupils with strategies for dealing with their needs in a supportive environment, and to give them meaningful access to the National Curriculum.

We aim:

- to enable every pupil to experience success
- to promote individual confidence and a positive attitude
- to ensure that all pupils, whatever their special educational needs, receive appropriate educational provision through a broad and balanced curriculum that is relevant and differentiated, and that demonstrates coherence and progression in learning
- to give pupils with SEND equal opportunities to take part in all aspects of the school's provision, as far as is appropriate
- to identify, assess, record, and regularly review pupils' progress and needs
- to involve parents/carers in planning and supporting at all stages of their pupil's development
- to work collaboratively with parents, other professionals and support services including the Educational Psychology Service
- to ensure that the responsibility held by all staff and the governor responsible for SEND is implemented and maintained to meet needs appropriately and inclusively.

Rush Common School provides for children and young people with a wide range of special educational needs including those with:

- Communication and interaction needs;
this includes children who have speech language and communication difficulties including autistic spectrum conditions.
- Cognition and Learning needs;
this includes children who have learning difficulties and specific learning difficulties like dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia.
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs;
this includes behaviour reflecting underlying mental health difficulties (e.g. anxiety, depression), attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), attachment disorder.
- Sensory and/or Physical needs;
this includes children who have visual or hearing needs, or a physical disability that affects their learning

We are a mainstream school. In the academic year 2022-2023 we had 378 pupils on roll with 66 pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEND) 15.07% of school. This includes 8 pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) in place which is 2.1% of the school population and 12.3% of the SEND pupils.

Our SEND policy and Equality Policy and Plan can be found on Rush Common School's website.

The Oxfordshire County Council Local Offer for Children with SEN and disabilities can be found at:

<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/cms/taxonomy/term/278>

Points of Contact

Our school believes that good communication between parents/carers and staff is essential so that they can share their knowledge and expertise about their child. This is important in enabling children SEND to achieve their potential. Parents are always welcome to contact the school to discuss any concerns about their child with the class teacher, at a mutually agreed time.

- A child's class teacher is the first point of contact. They monitor the progress of each child and liaise with key staff about interventions needed
- Rush Common School have a Pupil Support and Welfare Lead, Nicola Drew, who is also the special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCo).
- She can be contacted on: 01235 533583 (SENCo@rushcommonschoo.org)
- Our governor with responsibility for SEND is Chrissie Dreier.
- Our Headteacher is Kristen Fawcett.
- Deputy Headteacher is Leah Kendry.

Assessment, planning and Review / Partnerships for Progress

How does the school know how well my child is doing? How will I be kept informed about how well my child is doing? How regularly will I be updated on my child's progress?

Will I know if my child is not making progress and what will happen?

- Class teachers attend a pupil progress meeting each term to discuss the progress of each pupil. The rates of progress are monitored and those pupils not making the expected rate of progress are identified. Strategies will be put in place in order for the identified pupils to reach their expected outcomes.
- Twice yearly parents' evenings, where parents of SEND pupils arrange a double appointment, to enable them to discuss SEND needs and progress in greater depth.
- Ongoing teacher assessment strategies are used to determine progress and attainment.
- Regular review meetings are held with the class teacher to track progress towards outcomes and evaluate interventions.
- Diagnostic marking is used in English and maths and provides feedback to pupils.
- Diagnostic assessments are used for some pupils to get a greater understanding of their reading, spelling or maths age.
- A SEND Forum is held annually with parents in November.
- We have a SEND Annual timetable which is shared with parents. This outlines SEND events.

How do we identify and give extra help to children and young people with SEND?

The school uses Oxfordshire County Council's guidance 'Identifying and supporting Special Educational Needs in Oxfordshire schools and settings'.

The guidance sets out:

- How we identify if a child or young person has a special educational need.
- How we assess children and plan for their special educational needs, and how we adapt our teaching.
- Ways in which we can adapt our school environment to meet each child's needs
- How we review progress and agree outcomes and involve parents/carers and pupils in this.

Click here to read it:

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/special-educational-needs/Schools_SEN_guidance.pdf

https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/sites/default/files/file/special-educational-needs/early_years_SEN_guidance.docx

- Additional support may be provided after discussions with key staff, parents/carers, pupil and where relevant, external agencies.

- The school will seek external support/advice for children continuing to experience significant difficulty – this may involve an application for an Education, Health and Care Plan assessment (EHCP).
- School staff may informally discuss progress with parents/carers as needed.
- Governors are provided with attainment and progress information. They act as 'critical friends' and challenge staff to use their best endeavours to raise standards further.

How do we work with parents and children/young people?

- We will always contact parents if we have a concern that a child or young person may have a special educational need.
- We aim to ensure the involvement of parents and carers from an early stage and liaise closely so that they are aware of the strategies that are being used and are involved as partners in the process.
- Parents are notified if the school decides to make SEND provision for their child by placing them on the SEND register.
- We work closely with children and young people with SEND and their parents to agree outcomes and how we will all work towards these, and then to review progress.
- Pupil profiles provide targets appropriate to the needs of the pupil. Regular meetings between parents and class teachers are held termly to review provision, targets and progress. Pupils are involved as far as practicable in discussions about their targets and provision.
- Parents are invited to parents' evenings to discuss progress, attainment levels and expected outcomes, with the class teacher and SENCo if appropriate.
- Parents of children with SEND are invited to review meetings, where appropriate.
- Parents are kept informed about their child's progress at the twice yearly parent's evenings.
- Children with EHC Plans have an annual review, where progress is discussed and targets set. Written reports are provided and sent out in advance. Children are invited to contribute to this review.
- The targets of children with EHC Plans are reviewed termly.
- An annual report to parents/carers is written by the class teacher which details the achievements, strengths and areas of development in the different curriculum areas.

In Rush Common School, we encourage pupils to participate in their learning by:

- contributing to reviews and targets (formally or informally)
- talking to teaching assistants (TAs) and teachers about their learning
- whole school, class and individual reward systems

Parents are kept informed by class teachers and are encouraged to be involved in the support of their child whenever possible.

The SENCo liaises with parents and pupils with EHCP's who have an Annual review with the SENCo.

There are also opportunities for parents and children to contribute to our policies on SEND and Equality. We do this by parent focus groups; SEND forums; school parliament and consultation activities.

Adapting the curriculum

Rush Common School strives to be an inclusive school, engendering a sense of community and belonging through its:

- inclusive ethos;
- broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils;
- systems for early identification of barriers to learning and participation;
- high expectations and suitable targets for all children.

Pupils are grouped in classes according to age and/or ability. As there is a wide range of ability in each class, all staff provide a differentiated curriculum suitable for all the pupils, to ensure access at all levels.

Any pupils with particular needs are included as fully as possible into the normal classroom environment and, where appropriate, the curriculum is adjusted. Sometimes it may be appropriate to withdraw a pupil sensitively, to work individually with a TA or the SENCo in order to acquire, reinforce or extend skills more effectively. For some pupils, withdrawal sessions may be used to improve motor skills or application or to give support in a particular area e.g. spelling. Withdrawal programmes are normally time-limited and criteria for inclusion in such programmes are clearly specified.

Provision for pupils with SEND is intended to enable them to make the greatest possible progress in the context of the National Curriculum and in their personal development.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum for all children and young people including those with SEND. The National Curriculum is an entitlement for all children.

- Class teachers are responsible for the learning of all children in their class and they ensure all children receive Quality First Teaching.
- Teachers are skilled at adapting and differentiating the curriculum to take account of individual pupil needs.
- Teachers are able to take into account different learning styles and use them to ensure they meet the needs of all the children in their class.
- First hand experiences through visits are explored when topics are planned.
- Grouping arrangements are organised carefully to maximise learning opportunities for all.
- Additional adults may be used to support groups but independence is encouraged.
- Children may be identified as benefitting from intervention programmes. Progress within these programmes is carefully monitored.

- A range of intervention programmes in the areas of English, Numeracy, social, emotional, and motor skills are available to support individuals and groups and there are staff trained to deliver them. The use of intervention programmes complements the Quality First Teaching that all children receive.
- The effectiveness of the intervention programmes is monitored by assessing their impact. Intervention programmes are continually under review.
- A Rush Common trained and accredited ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) is available in school to work 1-1 or with small groups of pupils.
- ELSA Nurture groups are provided for pupils in KS1 and KS2 to encourage self-esteem and anger management skills for small groups of pupils.
- We use intervention programmes to support the development of language and literacy skills, as appropriate.
- Specific programmes of work from Speech and Language Therapist and Physiotherapists are used to support pupils with specific or more complex needs.
- ICT is used to support and enhance the curriculum for all pupils including those with SEND. iPad and laptops are used to support writing and recording (i.e. Clicker 6, To Simple to Type).
- Advice from educational agencies such as OXSIT Inclusion Consultants (who offer support to primary, secondary and special schools across Oxfordshire) Educational Psychology, Speech, Communication and Interaction Team (CIT) and health agencies such as Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and CAMHS may be sought.

Access to Learning and the Curriculum

Are there any special features or strategies to help children learn? How do I know my child's particular need will be met?

- Children are involved in their own learning
- Children are aware of next steps. They receive feedback on progress towards targets through discussions with teachers and diagnostic marking. Self-evaluation is also encouraged.
- Daily phonics lesson, across Reception and Key Stage 1.
- Lessons are differentiated to meet the needs of all learners.
- Learning walls in classrooms support the learning of English and Maths.
- ICT is used to support learning.
- Some classes/identified pupils may be allocated support staff and have access to guided group work.
- Classes have a visual timetable on display which details the daily planned activities. Some pupils have their own visual timetable.
- The school's physical environment is accessible to all learners, including those with disabilities.
- Reasonable adjustments are made to help pupils to learn. For example, some pupils may use special equipment such as pencils grips, sound amplification systems and sloped writing desks.
- Children may be identified as benefitting from social skills groups.

Tests and Assessments: Access Arrangements

What arrangements are available for pupils to access tests and assessments?

How will I know if my child qualifies for additional support or time to access tests?

- Year 6 pupils may be assessed to determine whether individuals may qualify for additional time.
- Some pupils may access statutory tests in a smaller environment and support for reading tests or writing for pupils may be requested, as appropriate and to comply with test guidelines.
- School adheres to current access arrangements for Key Stage 1 and 2 statutory tests.
- Class teachers will inform parents/carers whether their child qualifies for additional support or time to access tests.

Social and Emotional Support

How does the school help my child to feel comfortable and safe and manage social situations?

How does the school help develop my child's social and emotional skills?

What is the school's policy on bullying?

- We listen to the views of children/young people with SEND by encouraging them to consider and record their views on pupil profiles. We capture pupil voice as needed.
- All classes follow a structured PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic education) sessions using the Jigsaw programme. Teachers identify children who would benefit from small/group interventions to develop their social and emotional skills.
- A Rush Common trained and accredited ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) is available in school to work 1-1 or with small groups of pupils with social, emotional or mental health difficulties.
- Drawing and Talking 1-1 Therapeutic programme is available to support pupils with underlying emotional difficulties.
- Lunchtime and after-school clubs e.g. sports activities.
- Additional support for children who are struggling at playtime.
- We take bullying very seriously. Anti-bullying and Cyber-bullying online questionnaires are completed by all pupils in Years 4, 5 and 6. Results are analysed and actions form part of Rush Common's Anti-bullying self-assessment plan.
- We help to prevent bullying of children/young people with SEND by encouraging pupils to talk to named adults. We have clear procedures and recording methods in place for dealing with bullying incidents. Anti-Bullying Policy and procedures are in place and reviewed annually.
- Anti-bullying Ambassadors (four Year 5 pupils) lead and encourage whole school pupil involvement in anti-bullying procedures. "Be Buddies not Bullies"

leaflet has been drafted by pupils to support all pupils and parents in dealing with bullying.

- Online safety and cyber bullying is addressed at an age appropriate level. Digital Leaders support pupils.
- Pupils are prepared for transition in school and to receiving schools
- All children have the opportunity to share their views through school parliament.

What expertise can we offer?

Nicky Drew is the Pupil Support & Welfare Lead at Rush Common School. As SENCo she holds a teaching qualification and is a member of Rush Common Leadership Team. Nicky has completed Specialist Training in Safeguarding and is also the Designated Safeguarding Lead. Nicky will begin studying for the National Award for Senco's in January 2024. The SENCo has completed training in behaviour management strategies including Team Teach.

All staff have Generalist safeguarding training. The SENCo has delivered Inclusive Classrooms Part 1 and Part 2 to all teaching staff. Some members of staff have completed basic awareness level training in Autistic Spectrum Difficulties, behaviour management and speech and language skills.

A number of SEND TAs have completed specialist training in supporting pupils with communication difficulties; language and communication skills (including PECS); Autistic Spectrum Difficulties and Clicker 6 and 7.

TAs are trained to support the particular needs of the children they work with.

Fifteen members of staff have completed Team Teach Training. Three more members of staff are due to complete Team Teach training in October 2023.

Staff have been provided with information and training about restorative approaches towards behaviour management.

Rush Common School has access to a range of specialist support services including:
Educational Psychology Service
SENSS, who support children with communication and language, sensory needs and physical needs (including Autism Advisory teacher)
Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
Speech, Language Service
OXSiT Inclusion Consultants
SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service)
Occupational Therapy Service
Physical Disability Service
School Nurse
Voluntary Services
Children's social care

Support services are consulted following discussions with the Headteacher or SENCo, and with the full agreement of parents/carers. For assessment and advice from most services a request form must be completed initially, following which additional information may be required e.g. the service's own checklist, and information about strategies already in use.

School SEND information July 2023

Number of pupils	378
No Special Educational Need	312
EHCP	8
SEND Support	58
<u>Pupil primary need</u>	
Communication & Interaction	22
Cognition & Learning	27
Social Emotional & Mental Health	14
Sensory & Physical	3
Total	66

How do we know if SEND provision is effective?

The progress of all children/young people is tracked throughout the school. Data is analysed termly for all pupils including SEND and interventions put in place as needed and available.

In addition, for children/young people with SEND we regularly review progress towards agreed outcomes assessing whether the support that's been in place has made a difference and what we need to do next. Pupil profiles are used for every pupil on the SEND register to record pupil and parent voice and outcomes. Pupil profiles are discussed and reviewed with SEND pupils and their parents three times per academic year to review progress and provision. Parents/carers are kept informed by class teachers and are encouraged to be involved in the support of their child whenever possible.

How are children and young people with SEND helped to access activities outside of the classroom?

All children and young people are included in activities and trips following risk assessments where needed and in accordance with duties under the Equalities Act 2010. We communicate with parents and young people when planning trips so that everyone is clear about what will happen. Evenings where parents can learn more about trips and residential visits are held, as well as communication via letters and Rush Common's ParentMail system.

A variety of after school clubs are held over the course of the academic year. Pupils with SEND are encouraged to attend and additional and different provision put in place to enable this to happen successfully.

There is information about activities and events for disabled children and those with SEND in Oxfordshire in the Family Information Directory:
<http://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/fsd/disabilities.page>

Oxfordshire's accessibility strategy can be read at:
[OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL](#)

Accessibility to Premises and Facilities

All teachers and teaching assistants have the necessary training to teach and support pupils with a variety of disabilities. Lessons provide opportunities for all pupils to achieve. All pupils are encouraged to take part in all lessons including music, drama and physical activities.

Pupils who use wheelchairs can move around the school without experiencing barriers to access such as those caused by doorways, steps and stairs. Disabled toilet facilities have adequate room to accommodate a hoist and changing bed if needed. Disabled parking is available in the school's front car park.

Steps are taken to reduce background noise for hearing impaired pupils. Furniture and equipment are selected, adjusted and located appropriately to meet the needs of disabled pupils.

School visits are made accessible to all pupils irrespective of attainment or impairment. Risk Assessments are undertaken appropriately taking into account the needs of pupils with disabilities.

Joining the school and moving on

Rush Common School strives to be a fully inclusive school. It acknowledges the range of issues to be taken account of in the process of development. All pupils are welcome, including those with SEND, in accordance with the Admissions Policy. According to the Education Act 1996, (Section 316), the school will admit a child with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) subject to the wishes of their parent unless this is incompatible with the efficient education of other children and there are no reasonable steps that can be taken to prevent the incompatibility.

Starting in Reception

We encourage all new children to visit the school before starting, where possible. Online meetings may be used if required. For children/young people with SEND, we may visit them in their pre-school or nursery setting to gain a better understanding of their needs. Reception staff speak with every pupil's pre-school setting before the pupil starts school in September. Individual meetings where pupil and parents are able to meet their Reception teacher are arranged in June/July prior to starting school.

All pupils are offered the opportunity to visit the Reception classes on a number of occasions before starting school. Some pupils with SEND may require additional visits. Additional liaison with pre-school keyworkers may be sought by Reception staff including them in any additional visits to Rush Common School.

For pre-school pupils where an Education, Health and Care Plan is already in place the SENCo will endeavour to attend Annual Reviews and professional meetings in preparation for the pupil starting school. Reception staff may also use "This is me" photo books to aid transition into Rush Common for those SEND pupils with emotional, social and mental health needs.

In Year transition

Teachers liaise closely when pupils transfer to another class within the school. A hand over meeting will take place between the present and new teacher. Meetings are arranged wherever possible between the staff involved in monitoring the pupil's progress. Transition visits and "Move up Day" are planned in the second half of the summer term. Identified SEND pupils may have additional visits to the new class. Communication passports are drafted for SEND pupils with complex needs (i.e., ASD) so that teachers, TAs and visiting professionals are aware of common strategies used to support their needs. Communication passports are also an important part of transition for SEND pupils. They are used when pupils move from year to year, to new schools and secondary schools. Transition booklets are completed for some SEND pupils who may need additional support or time to prepare for a change of year group. Transition booklets prepare SEND pupils for the next stage of their school life and are shared with parents and professionals involved. The transition process starts in the summer term.

Moving to secondary school

For SEND pupils in Year 6 the SENCo meets with colleagues from the three main secondary schools in Abingdon to discuss provision, strategies and additional and different needs and to handover relevant documentation. Pupils with SEND are given additional visits, if required, so that they will become more confident in the new setting.

Representatives from local secondary schools are available for consultation before the time for transfer. Key secondary school staff visit Rush Common to speak to Year 6 pupils transferring to their school. There are opportunities for all pupils to visit their prospective secondary school. For pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan, the pupil's plan is amended by 15th February of the year of transfer. It must be amended in the light of the recommendations of the annual review in the Autumn term. The SENCo of the receiving school, where possible, attends the final annual review of Year 6 pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan for whom the particular school has been named.

Procedures including Strengths and Needs Assessments (S&N) and Team Around the Family (TAF) are in place to ensure smooth transitions.

Rush Common expects our Year 6 pupils to be independent learners and prepares them for secondary school as much as possible.

Who to contact

If a parent/carer is concerned about SEND provision for their child, initial contact should be made with the class teacher. A meeting will be arranged, which may include the Headteacher and/or SENCO, to discuss the concern. Parents/carers can request an appointment with the Headteacher directly.

SENDIASS (01865 810516) is available to support parents in meetings concerning their child's progress and welfare.

In the event of a formal complaint concerning SEND provision, parents/carers are advised to contact the Headteacher. Parents may also contact the Board of Governors

If you would like to know more about opportunities for children and young people with SEND and their families, support groups or information about SEND these are listed in the Family Information Directory:

<http://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/fsd/disabilities.page>

Oxfordshire's Local Offer contains lots of information for parents. Click here to see it: <http://fisd.oxfordshire.gov.uk/kb5/oxfordshire/fsd/disabilities.page>

Related policies are available on Rush Common School's website.

- SEND policy
- Behaviour policy
- Anti-bullying policy
- Equality Policy and Plan

Nicky Drew- September 2023