

Acorn Free School

Special Educational Needs and Disability – Local Offer



What should I do if I think my child has special educational needs?

All pupils that attend the Acorn Free School have been identified as needing additional support with either emotional or behavioural difficulties. At induction these needs are discussed with parents and together we will agree a support plan. If at any time you feel your child has other areas of need that have previously remained undetected then please contact the special needs co-ordinator Sofia Allen or the headteacher Jerry Tucker on 01522 822428.

How will the school respond to my concern?

We will listen to your concerns and arrange for assessments to be carried out, either within our school setting or through referral to external agencies. Depending on the results of these assessments we may then prepare a plan, including specific targets plan to be reviewed six weekly.

How will the school decide if my child needs extra support?

On entry to the Acorn Free Scholl all pupils have induction screening to highlight any difficulties. These assessments provide a baseline for all future targets and cover a wide range of topics including:

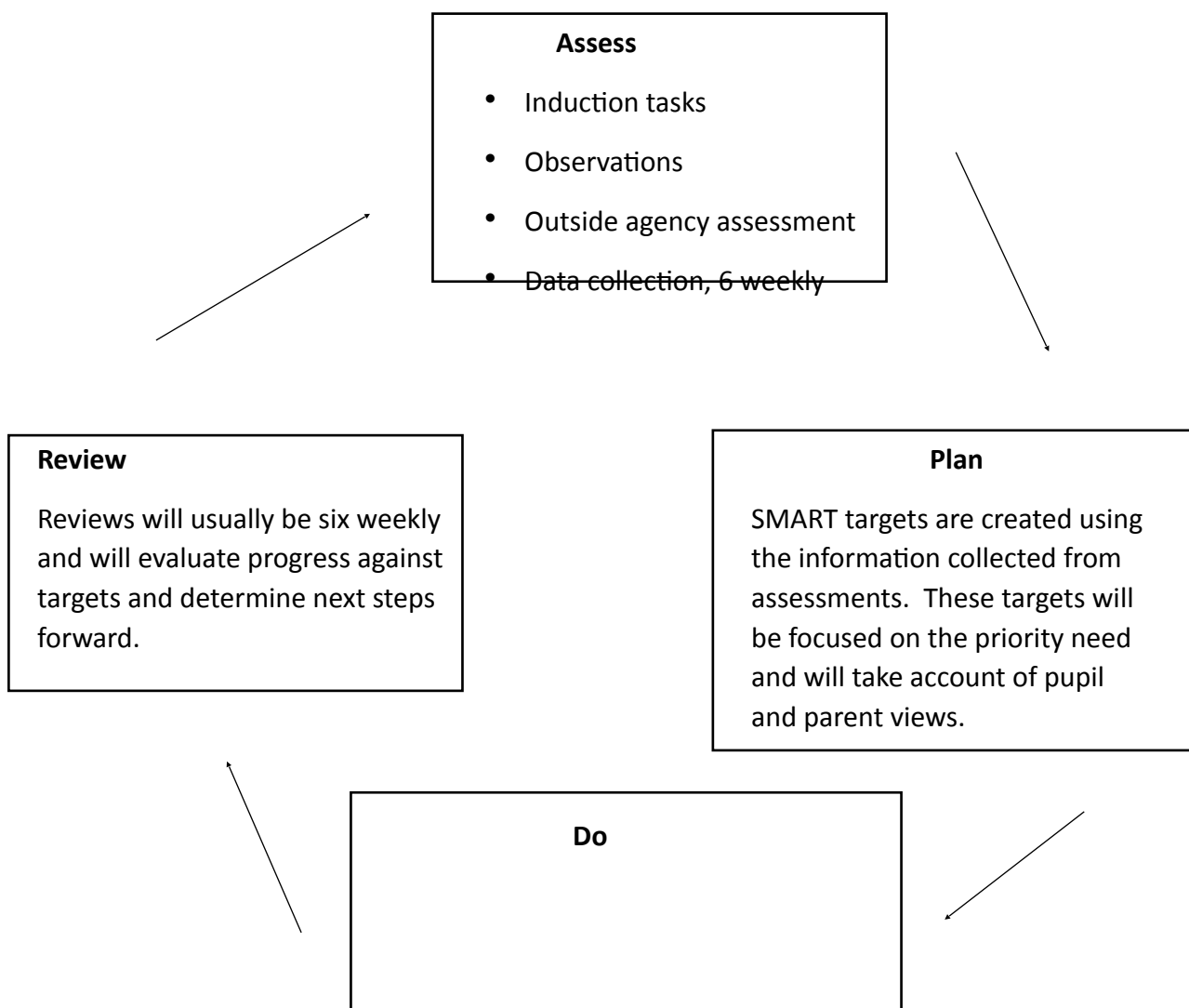
- Phonic knowledge
- Reading comprehension
- Dyslexic tendencies
- Behavioural attitude to school/learning
- Emotional well being
- Visual stress
- Understanding of social language

As your child continues their education here ongoing decisions will be made based on both formal and informal methods including:

- School staff observations over a period of time and in different settings
- Monitoring data (collected and analysed every term)
- Pupil discussions – do they find something challenging? (this could be social, emotional, behavioural or academic).
- Parent discussions (as detailed above).

What will the school do to support my child?

Your child will have an Individual Education Plan and their progress will be monitored by both the class teacher and the SENDCO. They may receive additional support from teaching assistants, specialist teachers or outside agency support workers. The process of providing support is:



Using a wide range of interventions and strategies we will support your child to achieve their targets.

Who will support my child in school?

A number of our school staff will be involved in supporting your child in school.

<u>Who?</u>	<u>How?</u>
Class Teacher	Setting targets based on your child's needs. Responsible for ensuring specific needs are met within the classroom
SENDco – Sofia Allen	Support and co-ordinate IEP target setting. Organising and monitoring the effectiveness of intervention groups. Completing and co-ordinating referral for outside agency support, including writing letters for referral via child's GP. Lead review meetings and complete relevant paperwork.
Teaching assistants	Day to day support in the classroom targeted towards specific needs. Providing additional interventions e.g. read, write inc. programme, anger management sessions, scribing for pupils who have difficulty with writing, support pupils to realise their potential/work toward individual goals (e.g. careers visit, reward sessions).

What training and experience do staff have for the additional support my child needs?

All of our staff are specialised in supporting pupils with emotional and behavioural needs, and have a range of experience and training in the following areas:

- Dyslexia
- ADHD
- ASD
- PDA
- Counselling
- Visual stress
- Self-harm
- Restorative practices
- Transactional analysis
- Eating disorders

All staff are trained regularly on first aid and safeguarding.

Who else might be involved in supporting my child?

The Acorn Free School works with many outside agencies including;

CAMHs (Child and Adolescent Mental Health service) – Sarah Gibson

Families Working Together – Sue Stuart

Addaction – Nicky Sanderson and Yvonne Walker

Social Care Team

Bracebridge Community Policing Team – PCSO Zoe Watts and PC Garside

Positive Health – Katy Mitchell

School Nursing Team – Liz Timms

Educational Psychologist – Dependant on feeder school.

Youth Offending – Callum McDonald

Barnardos – Lisa Green.

Phoenix Stop Smoking service

Education Welfare Service

We are continually working towards extending our outside agency provision and are happy to contact/work alongside any new agencies that can help to support your child's wellbeing

What support will be available for my child's emotional and social well-being?

Our core purpose at the Acorn Free School is to meet your child's emotional and social needs. This will form a large part of discussion at induction. Our environment is organised carefully to ensure that pupil well-being is our priority. Pupil groupings are small and can range from 3-12 dependant on need. Staff members meet and greet pupils individually and at the start of the day there is always the opportunity for individual 1:1 discussions. We pride ourselves in the strong relationships that we build with our pupils to support their emotional needs. Restorative practices promoting empathy and following social rules are carried out daily in all classes. In addition we run specialised groups for pupils around self esteem, managing anger, 'girls groups' and also can meet individual pupil needs relating to personal interests (e.g. stable management course at a local riding stable to support social inclusion skills for a child).

How will my child be involved in the process and be able to contribute their views?

Your child's view are of paramount importance to us and we need their contribution and co-operation in order to successfully meet their needs. All pupils have regular 1:1 and small group sessions with teachers and teaching assistants where views are collected on a more informal basis. During induction, IEP target settings and planning re-integration back into school, views are collected more formally and recorded as part of the meeting.

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

The Acorn Free School is a specialist alternative provision setting geared towards meeting individual curriculum needs. We have very small pupil groupings and high pupil to adult ratio to allow for a high level of differentiation in all lessons. The core curriculum on offer can be enhanced and tailored towards pupils specific and individual needs due to our high staffing ratio and flexibility of provision.

What opportunities will there be for me to discuss my child's attainment and achievement? How will I know my child is progressing?

You will be invited to six weekly review meetings to discuss your child's progress with regard to learning as well as with their social and emotional development. We will also make regular contact with home to discuss their success and ongoing needs. You are also welcome to contact and visit the school at any point to discuss your child's progress.

How does the school know how well my child is doing?

We carefully track children's progress across each term through the use of data on both learning and behaviour, and through observations. If your child is not making expected progress we may use a range of assessment tools to help us to pin point how best to support them.

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

We frequently use outdoor education and educational visits and reward trips to enhance our curriculum. We will always include your child on a visit ensuring any specific needs they have are taken into account with our risk assessment. The only exception to this is when a

child has not earned/accrued the reward points needed to take part in a trip which celebrates positive behaviour. Depending on the needs of your child, you may be asked to support them on an educational visit.

How accessible is the school environment? How accessible is the curriculum?

The school site and all facilities are accessible by wheelchair. The curriculum is accessible to all and any specific equipment which may be needed can be sourced from outside agencies.

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

Every child who attends the Acorn Free School has an induction meeting which yourself, your child and a member of staff from your child's mainstream school will be invited too. At this meeting your child will be able to have a tour of the school and meet their class teacher and key worker. Any needs your child has will also be discussed at this point and the relevant members of staff will be informed and equipment/resources prepared for your child's start date.

How can I be involved in supporting my child?

We work very closely in partnership with parents to ensure that children have a positive experience of education and reach their potential. We welcome, and need your involvement in a range of areas including:-

- talking about their school day and sharing any concerns or achievements with us.
- attending review meetings.
- discussing any changes in circumstances to the school, from arguments with siblings to moving house.
- reporting any worries you have regarding your child or their education to school.
- supporting your child with any targets they have been set.
- celebrating their successes and achievements.

How can I access support for myself and family?

If you require any support with your child please feel free to contact the school on 01522 822428 or for information on support in your area access the Local Authority website www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/SENDlocaloffer.

The chart overleaf provides the contact details for a number of helpful agencies in Lincolnshire who offer support to families.

Organisation	Telephone	Website/Email
Lincolnshire County Council Support and Aspirations	01522 782030	www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/support-and-aspiration.co.uk
Lincolnshire Children's Services	01522 554673	
Parent Partnership	01522 553351	www.lincolnshireparentpartnership.org.uk
Parent line plus	0808 800 2222	www.parentlineplus.org.uk
PAACT (Autism Support)		paactsupport@hotmail.co.uk
Lincolnshire ADHD Support Group	01522 539939	Lincoln.adhd@btconnect.com
EMC Services Equality for Minority Communities	01472 787190	emclincs@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Family Action	01522 69010	lincoln@family-action.org.uk
Lincolnshire Centre Grief and Loss	01522 546168	
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Lincolnshire County Council Support and Aspirations	01522 782030	www.lincolnshire.gov.uk/parents/support-and-aspiration.co.uk
Lincolnshire Children's Services	01522 554673	
Parent Partnership	01522 553351	www.lincolnshireparentpartnership.org.uk
Parent line plus	0808 800 2222	www.parentlineplus.org.uk
PAACT (Autism Support)		paactsupport@hotmail.co.uk
Lincolnshire ADHD Support Group	01522 539939	Lincoln.adhd@btconnect.com
EMC Services Equality for Minority Communities	01472 787190	emclincs@lincolnshire.gov.uk
Family Action	01522 69010	lincoln@family-action.org.uk
Lincolnshire Centre Grief and Loss	01522 546168	