



December 2022

PROGRAMME UPDATE

Keeping stakeholders, parents and carers informed about Dudley's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Improvement Programme.

SEN Support – The Graduated Support Pathway for Children/Young People with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

'All children and young people are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs, promotes high standards and the fulfilment of potential.' (Code of Practice 6.1)

Every school is required to identify and address the SEN of the pupils and use their best endeavours to make sure that the pupils with SEN gets the support they require. SEN support is where a pupil has a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision that is different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age. Schools must take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place.

A schools first response will be to assess the needs and barriers of the pupil and target the SEN identified using high quality first teaching and interventions. The school will consistently deliver the planned interventions over a period of one term and then review the impact/progress made by the pupil. This Assess, Plan, Do, Review process is known as the graduated approach and draws on more detailed approaches, more frequent review and more specialist expertise in successive cycles. Parents and pupils should be fully included in the graduated approach and participate in the termly reviews that monitor impact and progress.

For some children, SEN can be identified at an early age. However, for other children and young people, difficulties become evident only as they develop. Slow progress and low attainment do not necessarily mean that a child has SEN and should not automatically lead to a pupil being recorded as having SEN. It is also important to recognise that disruptive or withdrawn behaviours do not necessarily mean that a child or young person has SEN. Where there are concerns, there should be an assessment to determine whether there are factors such as undiagnosed learning difficulties, difficulties with communication or mental health issues. If housing, family or other domestic circumstances may be contributing to the presenting behaviour a multi-agency approach, supported by the use of approaches such as the Early Help Assessment will be required.

Further information can be found on Dudley SEND Local Offer <https://dudleyci.co.uk/sen-support>

SEN Support will also be the focus at the next SENCO Network Forum in February 2023.