

Locality SEND Support



Our school has become part of an exciting new initiative by Croydon Council to improve support for children with special needs or disabilities who live in Croydon.

Along with several other schools in our area, we've been given funding to provide earlier and better targeted help and support to SEND youngsters. This will enable our special needs staff to work closely with our partner schools to quickly get the necessary support and help for students who are beginning to demonstrate that they have additional needs which can't be met through our own school SEND resources.

This early help which may be in the form of advice, school to school support, referral to specialist services, or additional resource can be put in place rapidly without unnecessary delay. This is because our group of schools hold the funding between us so we can direct this to the most suitable children in an efficient targeted way.

The initiative is called "Locality SEND Support" and will run throughout this academic year. We will of course monitor the outcomes closely. Not all Croydon schools are yet in the project, but it will be rolled out across all mainstream schools in Croydon by next September 2022. Presently the scheme is only for Croydon residents and will not impact on students who already have an Education & Health Care Plan or those in Enhanced Learning Provisions.

If you want to learn more about this scheme please contact our SENDCO and we will be happy to send you further details.

Locality SEND Support in Mainstream Schools A Brief Guide for Parents and Carers.

In order to improve the quality and timing of support to Croydon resident children with special needs and disabilities the Local Authority has embarked on an exciting new project with around 75 mainstream primary and secondary schools. The project is called "Locality SEND Support, (LSS).



The aim of the project is to provide earlier and better targeted help and support to SEND youngsters by working with six groups of schools who are all local to each other and better placed to understand the needs of their children. Each group has been given a sum of money to directly support pupils in their local area and have been given the flexibility to spend this in the way that best helps children with emerging challenges to their learning and progress.

Two Area SEND Leads have been appointed who are SEND specialists and will directly support LSS schools, both to use their existing SEND resources in the best interest of the young people and to help distribute additional funding where schools may have insufficient resource to meet an emergent need. The Area SEND Leads will work very closely with school SENDCos, parents, SEND professionals, such as Educational Psychologists to provide and signpost support to SEND pupils. This local approach will enable us to better understand the needs of the children in our care and get help to them quickly in order for them to catch up with their learning and overcome their challenges.

SEND Locality Support is not aimed at children who already have an EHCP nor at youngsters in special schools or enhanced learning provisions. The project is focused on working with local schools to identify young people who are demonstrating a special need and who require early help to support this need.

Whilst we expect many students to benefit from this locally provided and targeted help, we understand that this may not work for some students who present or develop complex and exceptional needs. In order to meet these needs Croydon has allocated a significant sum of money to be shared between all six local areas. This resource will be distributed by a multi-disciplinary panel at Headteacher level.

There is nothing in this project that will take away the right for a parent to request an Education Health Care needs assessment, however the funding for any ECHPs issued will come from the budget of the Locality SEND Support funds. The sincere hope however, is that early intervention will ensure that the correct strategies, support and therapies are offered in a timely manner. Hence, by the time statutory assessment is considered, funding will already be in place as will a dialogue between schools, youngsters and parents which will help to build trust and a common agreement of what is required in the best interests of each child.