

Miers Court Primary School are committed to creating an inclusive, safe and stimulating environment where we can all learn together.

### Meet the Team



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First Aider



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Welcome to the new Miers Court Primary Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Newsletter which will be published three times a year (Terms 2, 4 and 6). In this first edition, we'd like to introduce the team, especially for those of you who are new to the school.

Firstly, **ALL** teachers are teachers of pupils with SEND. Therefore, if you have any concerns about your child's learning, please speak to their class teacher in the first instance. They will know your child and how they learn best in the school. If you and the class teacher have concerns about their learning or behaviour, teachers will discuss this with me as Additional Educational Needs (AEN) Lead in school. If these concerns persist, children may be placed on the school's SEND register. This means that your child will receive additional support to help them learn. Much of the support in school, will happen as part of our 'Ordinarily Available' provision. This is support which is available to all children if they require it.

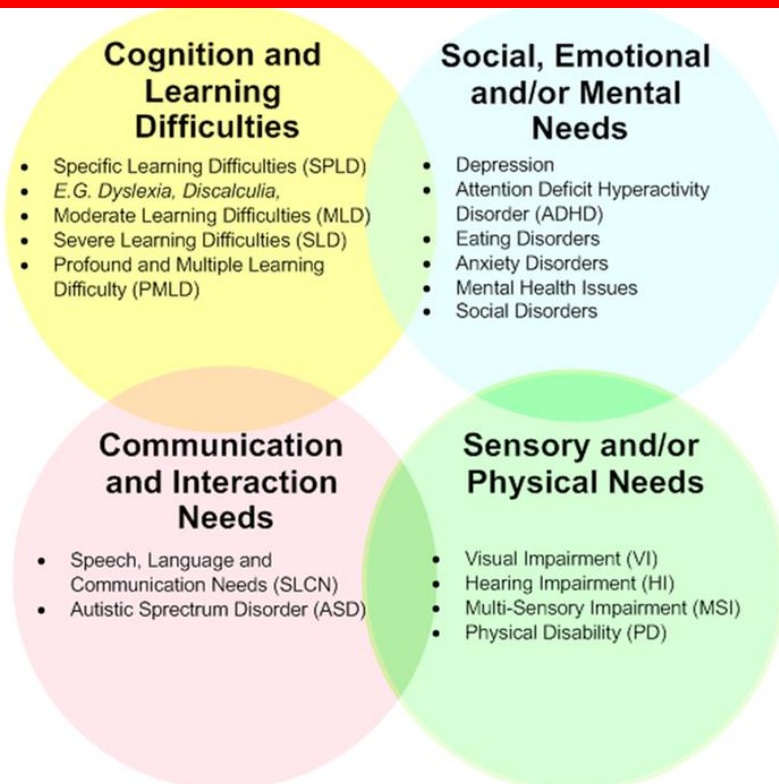
If your child needs further support, then a School Based Plan may be introduced. This document, is produced by the class teachers and will focus on the specific skills which your child needs to develop in order to make further progress.

In some cases, we will refer your child for additional assessment with a Speech and Language Therapist or an Occupational Therapist. There is a waiting list for this service. In the meantime, we will put programmes of support in place such as sensory circuits.

If necessary, we can refer individuals to the NHS for assessment by a paediatrician for conditions such as Autism or ADHD. There is a long waiting list for this.

We can also refer children and families to the School Nursing Team for support with Emotional Health and Wellbeing; Health Needs; Healthy Eating and Lifestyle; Puberty/Growing Up/Healthy Relationships; Sleep; Toileting.

These are the 4 areas of need for SEND. Here is some general information about some of the more common SEND needs at Miers Court.



### **Autism Spectrum Condition (ASC)**

ASC is an overarching term used to describe autism, Asperger's Syndrome, pathological demand avoidance (PDA) and pervasive developmental disorder (PDD). It is a lifelong developmental disability, which affects how a person communicates, relates to other people and makes sense of the world around them. ASC is a 'spectrum condition' meaning that, while all people with autism share certain difficulties, their condition affects them in different ways. It can only be diagnosed by a paediatrician.

Common traits of ASC include:

difficulties in understanding the perspectives or feelings of others

- difficulties reading social cues and knowing when to speak or listen
- literal interpretation of what is said
- struggle to make eye contact
- prefer a rigid routine and struggling to cope with change
- having over or under sensitivity to touch, taste, smell, light or colours and sounds.

In school, if we suspect that a child may have ASC, we can put strategies in place to support them, even before a diagnosis is made.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you have concerns about your child.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/autism>

### **Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)**

Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) is a condition that affects people's behaviour. People with ADHD can seem restless, may have trouble concentrating and may act on impulse.

Symptoms of ADHD tend to be noticed at an early age and may become more noticeable when a child's circumstances change, such as when they start school.

Most cases are diagnosed when children are under 12 years old, but sometimes it's diagnosed later in childhood.

The symptoms of ADHD may improve with age, but many adults who were diagnosed with the condition at a young age continue to experience problems.

People with ADHD may also have additional problems, such as sleep and anxiety disorders.

It can only be diagnosed by a paediatrician.

In school, if we suspect that a child may have ADHD, we can put strategies in place to support them, even before a diagnosis is made.

Please speak to your child's teacher if you have concerns about your child.

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorder-adhd/>

<https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/>

**Literacy Difficulties (including Dyslexia)**

Some children have particular difficulties in acquiring literacy skills so they can find it very difficult to read, write and spell accurately and fluently at the level expected for their age.

For younger children, literacy difficulties could be considered to be 'developmental' or they are acquiring literacy skills.

Support for children with literacy difficulties in primary school, will be the same regardless of whether they have a diagnosis of dyslexia or not.

This may include working on a computer using a programme such as Clicker 8; small group or 1:1 intervention for phonics and/or reading; handwriting support; support to develop memory skills.

**Dyslexia**

This is a specific learning difficulty, which means it causes problems with certain skills used for learning, such as reading and writing. It is a lifelong learning difficulty that can present challenges on a daily basis.

Diagnosis for Dyslexia can be carried out by an appropriately qualified person, who has undergone specific training. Best practice says that a child should not be assessed until they are 9 years old.

Dyslexia can only be assessed if a child is not under assessment for any other condition, for example ADHD, ASC or Auditory Processing Disorder.

If you have any concerns about your child, please speak to your child's teacher in the first instance.

**Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)**

SLCN is the term used to describe difficulties with:

- producing speech sounds accurately
- stammering
- voice problems, such as hoarseness and loss of voice
- understanding language (making sense of what people say)
- using language (words and sentences)
- interacting with others, for example, difficulties understanding the non-verbal rules of good communication or using language in different ways to question, clarify or describe things

Everyone with SLCN is different and may have difficulty with one, some, or all of the different aspects of speech, language or communication at different times of their lives. Some difficulties are short-term but others will be more permanent and remain throughout childhood and adult life. Sometimes a child or young person's language disorder is associated with an underlying or co-occurring condition such as autism, hearing loss, cleft palate, neurodegenerative conditions and genetic conditions – for example, cerebral palsy or Down's syndrome. However, there are times when there may be no clearly identifiable cause. This is known as developmental language disorder (DLD).

If you have any concerns about your child's SLCN, please speak to your child's teacher. If need be, the SENCo can refer to the NHS or our own therapist for assessment.

<https://speechandlanguage.org.uk/talking-point/parents/resource-library-for-families/>

**DID YOU KNOW?**

You can self-refer your child to the School Nursing Team at MCH. The school nurses can support with a range of issues such as: healthy lifestyles and growth; emotional wellbeing; toileting; sleep; behaviour; managing long term conditions and complex needs in school; healthy relationships; puberty and growing up; and staying safe. More information can be found at <https://www.medwaycommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services/a-z-services/child-health-service/school-health>

Please get in touch with the Miss Munns or Mrs Bedford via the school office if you would like support with referring your child.

**Our Top websites for support**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

[https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200307/local\\_offer/824/what\\_special\\_educational\\_needs\\_and\\_disabilities\\_send\\_is](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200307/local_offer/824/what_special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_send_is)

[https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200307/local\\_offer/823/family\\_help\\_and\\_support](https://www.medway.gov.uk/info/200307/local_offer/823/family_help_and_support)

<https://www.family-action.org.uk/what-we-do/children-families/medway-small-steps-service/>