

Where to go for more information

Contact the school

If you have any questions about the support your child is receiving, or about SEND more generally, please speak to our SENDCO, Mrs Young or Assistant SENDCO, Mrs McKenzie.

See our website

The school's SEND policy and information report set out more detailed information about the support available for children with SEND and disabilities.

You can access this information on our website.

Further information can be found on the Gloucestershire County Council Website under Education.

External links

The government's SEND Code of Practice and a related guide for parents have more information about the topics outlined in this leaflet:

- **SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years**, GOV.UK – DfE
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/398815/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf
- **SEND: a guide for parents and carers**, GOV.UK – DfE
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/417435/Special_educational_needs_and_disabilities_guide_for_parents_and_carers.pdf
- IPSEA is a charity that helps parents and professionals to support children with SEN and disabilities:

IPSEA home, IPSEA <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/home>

Glossary of terms

EHCP- education, health and care plan

SEN- special educational needs

SENDCO - SEND co-ordinator

SEND - SEN and disability

Balcarras School

SEN Support



Balcarras
From strength to strength

What is SEND?

Some children find learning more challenging than others and may need extra support to achieve their full potential.

For example, they might have difficulty with:

- Expressing themselves
- Interacting with others
- Reading, writing and/or maths
- Following lesson instructions
- Controlling their emotions
- Sensory or physical mobility

These difficulties can be barriers to learning. Schools assess **all** children to identify their strengths and needs and how they can best be supported.

Children who need extra help with their learning may receive additional support under one of the following categories:

- SEN support
- An EHC Plan

What is SEN support?

SEN support describes the additional help that assists children to access the curriculum.

This might include:

- Strategies to help the teacher/TA to support them in the classroom
- Small group or one-to-one learning or interventions
- Support from specialists such as speech and language therapists

Schools must work with parents and the students when agreeing what support to provide and what it will achieve.

What are EHC Plans?

If your child has more complex needs, he or she might already have an EHCP or be assessed for an EHCP, if needs change significantly at secondary school. In this case we follow Gloucestershire's Graduated Pathway approach to achieve an appropriate level of support and work towards an EHCP Needs Assessment where necessary. The level of support provided by an EHCP is reviewed at EHCP Annual Review meetings.

FAQs

How will the school decide what type of support my child receives?

Every child's needs are different and may change over time. The school will assess each child's needs closely to identify which support suits him/her best.

The school will also regularly review the support your child receives to see what is working and what isn't, and will invite your views too.

How do I know if my child needs SEN support?

If your child is not making expected progress for his/her year group, he/she may need SEN support.

The school will discuss your child's needs with you before placing your child on SEN support.

What if I think my child needs SEN support?

Please speak to Mrs Young or Mrs McKenzie, who may recommend further assessment for SEN support.

How long will my child be on SEN support level?

At each meeting with parents (usually 3 meetings per academic year), Mrs Young or Mrs McKenzie will discuss your child's progress and support strategies. We use entry and exit criteria for our SEND register and students who have not received an intervention for several months may be taken off SEN Support if they are making good progress. The school will continue to monitor their progress and inform staff of their learning needs.

How does the school decide if my child needs special arrangements in exams?

Mrs Young will assess all students who are or who have been on the SEND register when they are in Year 9. The results of these assessments along with teacher feedback and the student's history of need, will be used to determine if a student qualifies for special arrangements in public exams (e.g. extra time, use of a word processor).

Schools often use a graduated response to determine the type of support best suited to each child:

