SEND NEWSLETTER

SUPPORTING EVERY CHILD

October 2026

Welcome to the the latest edition of the Chesterfield Primary School Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Newsletter. We would also like to extend a very warm welcome to all new families who have joined out school this year. We are committed to working closely with you to ensure every child thrives. At Chesterfield, we aim to provide as much practical information and guidance about the support and resources available for your children, next steps and contact information as possible.

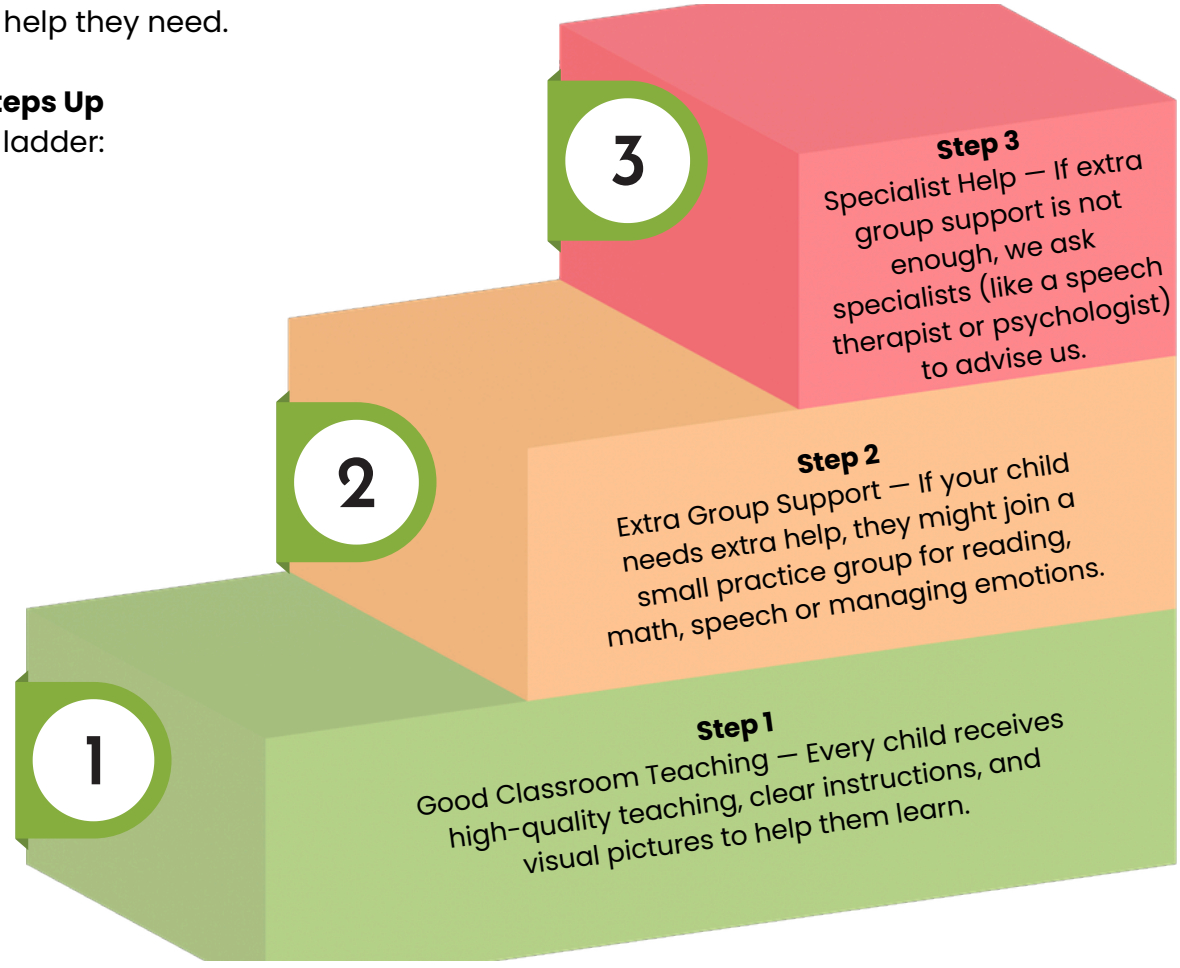
Understanding Our Support: The Graduated Approach

What is the Graduated Approach?

The Graduated Approach is the step-by-step way our school helps children who need extra support with their learning, talking, behaviour or well-being. Instead of using a "one size fits all" plan, we try small steps first. If your child needs more, we step up (graduate) the support to give them the exact help they need.

How Support Steps Up

Think of it like a ladder:



Key Things to Remember

- We will always talk with you before putting extra support in place.
- If you need information in your home language, please tell us—we are always happy to try to help wherever we can.

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

Important information about requesting a referral to CAMHS

CAMHS referrals are made for one of the following two reasons:

1. To request a neurodivergent screening for Autism and/or ADHD
2. To make a referral for mental health concerns

What do I need to do to request a screening for Autism and/or ADHD?

Your first step is to book an appointment to talk with the SENDCo about your concerns. If it is agreed that a referral would be appropriate, we will follow the steps below:

1. You will receive a copy of the CAMHS Autism and/or ADHD Parent Screener and a referral form. Please complete both of these, providing as much detail and information as you can. Feel free to provide additional sheets/pages if you would like.
2. The completed paperwork should then be returned to school and we will then ask the class teacher to complete the CAMHS school-based questionnaire to state how your child presents at school.
3. The SENDCo will then collect all the information together and send the referral to CAMHS.

What do I need to do to request mental health support from CAMHS?

For mental health concerns for which you would like support from CAMHS, please contact the front office and ask to speak to the SENDCo directly.

What do I do if my child's GP is not based in Enfield?

Please note that CAMHS referrals are made based on the location of your child's GP. Therefore, if your child's GP is not based in Enfield, please contact the school directly and let us know the address of your child's GP, so that we can provide you with the correct paperwork.

Is there a CAMHS waiting list?

Please be aware that referrals for CAMHS Autism and/or ADHD screenings currently have long waiting lists. However, you can contact CAMHS directly on 0208 702 3111 once the referral has been sent to request an update.

Is there a school waiting list?

Please note that the school receives a high number of requests for CAMHS referrals and your child's screening will be added to our waiting list and completed as soon as possible. Priority will be given to urgent referrals. We thank you in advance for your understanding.

What if I need urgent support?

If you have immediate, serious concerns about your child's mental health, please contact your GP, call NHS 111 (Option 2), or in an emergency, go to A&E.

Frequently Asked Questions About SEND

Q: What is SEND?
A: SEND stands for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. A child can have SEND if they need extra help to learn, communicate, manage their feelings or move around compared to other children of the same age.

Q: Who is the best person to talk to if I am worried about my child?
A: Start with your child's Class Teacher and explain what you see at home. They see your child every day and are the best person to talk to in the first instance. The teacher can put steps in place to provide additional support for your child in the classroom if needed. If you still have concerns, ask for a meeting with Danny, our SENDCo. The SENDCo is the school's expert who manages and coordinates all SEND support.

Q: What should I do if I think my child needs more support?
A: The first and most important step is to talk to your child's Class Teacher. They know your child best in the school setting. If you still have concerns after speaking to the teacher, you can then also arrange a time to speak with our SENDCo by contacting the school office.

Q: Will extra support be given by a teacher or a teaching assistant (TA)?
A: The main responsibility for progress rests with the Class Teacher. Targeted SEND Support might be delivered by a TA through a planned intervention in a small group, but the teacher will be designing and overseeing the programme and regularly checking that it is making a difference.

Q: I want my child to have 1:1 support. What do I do?
A: If you feel your child needs more support in school than they are currently receiving, please talk to the SENDCo about concerns you have in the first instance. Evidence suggests that having 1:1 support is often not the most effective approach, as children and young people can become over reliant. Research has found that children progress well using evidence based interventions and targeted strategies, as opposed to consistent 1-1 support.

Q: What is a 'Provision Map' or 'IEP' (Individual Education Plan)?
A: This is a document that outlines your child's specific needs, the targets they are working towards, and the extra support (or 'provision') they receive in school to meet those targets. We will share this with you.

Q: How can I help my child at home?
1. Talk in your home language: Speaking, telling stories, and singing in your native language helps your child's brain develop strong language skills, which helps them learn English faster!
2. Keep routines simple: Clear bedtime and morning routines help children feel safe and relaxed.
3. Stay in touch: Tell the school about any big changes at home so we can support your child in class.

Q: Can I get an interpreter for school meetings?
A: We want you to understand everything about your child's education and we will try our very best to either find a suitable interpreter or use technology to support conversations.

Practical Help at Home: Top Tips for Routines

Creating predictable routines can be hugely beneficial for all children, especially those who find change or uncertainty challenging. Consistency helps reduce anxiety and promotes independence.

Sleep

- Establish a wind-down routine: About an hour before bedtime, switch off screens (TV, tablets, phones). Try a bath, a quiet game, or reading a book.
- Keep the bedroom dark and cool: This helps signal to the brain that it's time to sleep.
- Be consistent: Go to bed and wake up at roughly the same time, even at weekends.





Eating

- Structure mealtimes: Have regular times for meals and snacks to avoid grazing.
- Offer choice and control: Let your child choose which plate to use or how much food they want to start with.
- Reduce pressure: Try to keep mealtimes calm and avoid forcing your child to eat. Introducing a small, new food alongside familiar favourites can work well.

Morning Routines

- Prepare the night before: Get school bags, uniforms, and packed lunches ready before bed.
- Use a visual schedule: A simple list or a few pictures showing the steps (get dressed, eat breakfast, brush teeth) can help children stay on track and feel in control.
- Build in extra time: Rushing increases stress for everyone. Aim to be ready 10 minutes early.



Sources of help and support



- Danny Neville, SENDCo via office@chesterfieldprimary.org
- Our school website has a section dedicated to SEND: https://www.chesterfieldschool.co.uk/page/?title=SEND&pid=232
- Enfield Local Offer: This website lists all the services, provisions, and resources available in the Enfield area for children and young people with SEND: https://www.enfield.gov.uk/services/children-and-education/local-offer/education-5-to-18/support-at-school-for-young-people-with-send
- Enfield Advisory Service for Autism (EASA): https://www.enfieldasa.org.uk/
- The National Autistic Society: www.autism.org.uk
- British Dyslexia Association: https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk

SEND Coffee Mornings



We will be holding regular SEND Coffee Mornings across the year—a practical and informative way to learn how we support your child in school.

Each session will be designed to give you valuable insights into our strategies, followed by a hands-on resource-making workshop. You'll leave with ready-to-use materials and clear instructions on how to use them with your child at home!

Dates for future sessions will be announced shortly.



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