



The Willows School Academy Trust



PARENT INFORMATION: SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEND) AND SEND INFORMATION REPORT 2026-2027

Updated September 2026

We are committed to ensuring all parents and carers can access and understand information about our SEND provision. If you require this document in an alternative format, have any questions about the content, or would like to discuss your child's individual needs, please contact **Ms D. Vourdanou (SENCO)**. Our SEND Governor is **Mr Olumuyiwa Olufunwa** and our Head teacher is **Mr M Shaw**. Please call the school office on **020 8841 7176** and we will be happy to arrange a meeting or telephone conversation at a time convenient to you.

About Our School and Our SEND Provision

The Willows School Academy Trust works closely with the London Borough of Hillingdon to ensure that all pupils, regardless of their specific needs, make the best possible progress. We are a fully inclusive specialist SEND school that admits pupils from Year 1 to Year 6.

Our aim is to ensure that all pupils achieve their potential personally, socially, emotionally and academically in all areas of the curriculum, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, social background, religion, sexual identity, physical ability or educational needs.

This document provides information about how we support all of our pupils with SEND so they can reach their full potential. It should be read alongside our SEND Policy, which is available on the school website. Other useful documents such as our Disability Accessibility Plan, Medical Needs Policy, Equality Plan and Admissions Policy are also available on our website.

- This report has been written in line with the SEND Code of Practice (2015). The London Borough of Hillingdon also provides a local offer for pupils with SEND which can be accessed at: <https://careandsupport.hillingdon.gov.uk/?pageId=3553>
- The Willows School Academy Trust local offer can be accessed at: <https://the-willows-school-academy-trust.secure-primariesite.net/local-offer/>

If you are considering The Willows School Academy Trust and your child has special educational needs and/or a disability, please contact the school for further information about what we can offer.

Our approach is informed by Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) 2026, which recognises that mental health problems can, in some cases, be an indicator that a child has suffered or is at risk of suffering abuse, neglect or exploitation.

Our Current SEND Profile

As of September 2026:

- Number of pupils on roll: 105

- Number of pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs): 100% of our school population
- All pupils at The Willows School Academy Trust have an EHCP, reflecting our status as a specialist SEND school.

Range of Needs We Support

Our pupils have a wide variety of special educational needs, and many have more than one area of need. We support pupils across all four broad areas of need identified in the SEND Code of Practice:

Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH)

- Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD)
- Attachment disorders
- Emotional difficulties
- Mental health needs including anxiety, depression, self-harm and trauma-related difficulties
- Staff are trained to recognise early warning signs of mental health difficulties and work closely with families and external agencies to provide appropriate support

Communication and Interaction

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD)
- Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
- Attention and listening difficulties

Cognition and Learning

- Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD)
- Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD) such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia

Physical and Sensory

- Fine and gross motor difficulties
- Medical needs including asthma, diabetes, allergies, and epilepsy

We recognise that this list is not exhaustive and that many pupils have complex, overlapping needs that span multiple areas. Each child's needs are unique, and we take a personalised approach to provision that responds to the individual rather than the label. If your child has needs that are not specifically mentioned here, please contact us to discuss how we can support them. We work closely with families and outside agencies to ensure we provide an inclusive education tailored to each child's individual needs.

Frequently Asked Questions About SEND Provision

❖ How can I let the school know I am concerned about my child's progress?

- First step: Speak to your child's class teacher
- If you need further specialist advice: Contact the SENCO (Ms D. Vourdanou)
- If you still have concerns: Speak to the Headteacher (Mr M Shaw)
- Final step: Approach the school SEND Governor (Mr Olumuyiwa Olufunwa)

You can contact us on **0208 841 7176**.

❖ How will the school let me know if they have any concerns about my child's learning or progress?

- All pupils have individual targets set in line with their EHCP outcomes to ensure ambition and progress
- Parents are informed of progress via our reporting system and at events such as parent consultation meetings and weekly calls
- Pupils' attainment is tracked using our whole school tracking system and any pupils not making expected progress are identified quickly

- The class teacher will inform you if your child is not making progress, either in a face-to-face meeting or via telephone
- The class teacher will want to find out more and listen to any concerns you may have
- You may be invited to meet with the SENCO for further advice and guidance, or to discuss referrals to outside professionals

❖ **How is extra support or resources allocated to children?**

- The school budget, received from Hillingdon LA, includes funding for supporting children with SEND
- Resources are allocated on a needs basis – children with the most complex needs receive the most support, often involving additional adult support
- The Headteacher decides on the budget allocation for SEND in consultation with school governors, based on needs in the school and available resources
- We ensure that all children with SEND have their needs met to the best of the school's ability within available funds
- We have a team of Teaching Assistants funded from the SEND budget who deliver programmes designed to meet groups of children's needs
- Pupil progress meetings are held termly with the Senior Leadership Team, SENCO and class teacher as part of our whole school tracking system
- Pupils are observed in the classroom by senior leaders, the SENCO, and external professionals
- Work sampling and scrutiny of planning ensures effective matching of work to pupil need

Extra support might take the form of:

- Targeted differentiation
- In-class additional adult support
- Out-of-class intervention
- Small group work
- Provision of specialist resources or equipment
- Access to targeted before/after school clubs
- Access to outside professionals

All support and additional resources are reviewed regularly and changes made as needed.

❖ **What are the school's arrangements for looked-after children with SEND?**

- We understand that looked-after children (LAC) and previously looked-after children (post-LAC) with SEND are amongst our most vulnerable pupils
- The Designated Teacher for looked-after pupils is **Mrs D. Downie (Family Liaison)** who oversees all matters related to LAC pupils at The Willows School Academy Trust
- Where a looked-after pupil has SEND, we maintain close contact with carers/parents, the Local Authority Virtual School, the allocated social worker and the Independent Reviewing Officer (IRO)
- Contact with parents and the passing on of information is always guided by Social Care and the IRO
- The Designated Teacher involves the SENCO as soon as special educational needs have been raised as a concern

❖ **How are the teachers in school helped to work with children with SEND and what training do they have?**

- Our SENCO is fully qualified, having undertaken the National SENCO accredited training
- The SENCO's role is to support class teachers in planning for children with SEND and to coordinate provision for SEND pupils
- The SENCO provides advice and guidance on strategies and class-based provision
- We have a training plan for all staff to improve the teaching and learning of children with SEND

- This includes whole school training on a range of SEND issues such as speech, language and communication needs, target setting, and autism
- The SENCO delivers regular training for Teaching Assistants and the Inclusion team on delivering structured interventions
- The SENCO provides training for Learning Support Assistants supporting pupils with EHCPs
- All TAs delivering speech and language programmes receive regular training from the speech and language therapist
- Staff are sent on relevant courses run by external agencies as appropriate
- A number of staff are trained as First Aiders
- All staff receive regular training on mental health awareness and recognizing early signs of mental health difficulties in line with KCSIE 2026 requirements

❖ **How will teaching be adapted for my child with SEND?**

- Class teachers plan lessons according to the specific needs of all groups of children in their class
- Your child's needs will be met through appropriate differentiation of learning
- Reasonable adjustments will be made to support assessed needs and Accessibility Plans
- Specific resources and strategies will be used to support your child individually and in groups
- Where appropriate, class teachers incorporate strategies and advice given by outside agencies (e.g., Educational Psychologist)
- All pupils have an EHCP which sets out the specific provision and adaptations required

❖ **How will we measure the progress of your child in school?**

- Your child's progress is continually monitored by their class teacher and reviewed formally every term
- Assessment levels are given in reading, writing, numeracy and science.
- Progress is reviewed termly in pupil progress meetings with the Senior Leadership Team, SENCO and class teacher
- At the end of KS2, all children are formally assessed using Standard Assessment Tests (SATs) where appropriate
- Year 6 results are published nationally
- Pupils at SEN Support level have a Support Plan which is reviewed with your involvement
- Class teachers meet with parents to discuss the strategies and interventions on these plans
- Pupils on Support Plans are monitored through the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle
- If there are insufficient signs of progress, further assessment takes place
- The progress of children with an EHCP is formally reviewed at an Annual Review with all adults involved in the child's education
- The Inclusion Team monitors attendance, punctuality and behaviour across the school
- The SENCO monitors the impact of any additional support or interventions for SEND pupils

❖ **How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?**

- All children are included in all parts of the school curriculum and we aim for all children to be included on school trips
- We provide the necessary support to ensure that this is successful
- A risk assessment is carried out prior to any off-site activity to ensure everyone's health and safety will not be compromised
- In the unlikely event that it is considered unsafe for a child to take part in an activity, alternative activities covering the same curriculum areas will be provided in school
- Within school, all activities and workshops are fully accessible and planned with our pupils' needs in mind

❖ **What support do we have for you as a parent of a child with SEND?**

- At The Willows School Academy Trust, we believe that your child's education should be a partnership between parents and teachers, so we aim to communicate with you regularly
- The class teacher is frequently available to discuss your child's progress or any concerns you may have

- The SENCO and class teachers are available to discuss your child's progress or any concerns/worries you may have
- All information from outside professionals will be discussed with you directly by the person involved, or where this is not possible, in a report
- Support Plans are reviewed with your involvement twice a year
- Home learning is adjusted as needed to your child's individual needs
- A home/school contact book may be used to support communication when this has been agreed to be useful for you and your child
- Parents are invited to concerts, PTA-led events, celebrations and other events
- Parent coffee mornings are held regularly by the Family Support lead
- At least once a year there is a meeting with a specific SEND focus

❖ **What support is there for my child's overall wellbeing?**

- We are an inclusive school; we welcome and celebrate diversity
- Our staff believe that high self-esteem is crucial to a child's wellbeing
- We have a caring, understanding team looking after our children
- We offer an evaluated Personal, Social, Health Education (PSHE) curriculum which equips pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to enhance their emotional and social knowledge and wellbeing (please visit our website to see the topics included in this curriculum area)
- The Willows School Academy Trust takes bullying very seriously and anti-bullying is a focus within the school year
- The Family Support Worker offers pastoral support for all pupils in the classroom, in small groups and on an individual level
- They are also available to support families with a range of issues and run parenting groups in school
- The Willows School Academy Trust has an open-door policy that enables pupils and parents to speak to staff with any concerns
- Social skills groups and enrichment activities such as drama and visual arts support improved communication and interaction skills, emotional resilience and wellbeing
- Pupil voice is embedded through the School Council
- Staff are trained to recognize early signs of mental health difficulties and know how to respond appropriately including when to seek support from the Designated Safeguarding Lead

❖ **How does the school manage the administration of medicines?**

- The school has policies regarding the administration and management of medicines and First Aid on the school site, published on our website
- Parents need to contact admin staff if medication recommended by health professionals needs to be taken during the school day
- As a staff, we have regular training and updates on conditions and medication affecting individual children so that all staff are able to manage medical situations
- If a child requires personal hygiene care, this is managed through an Individual Health Care Plan

❖ **How will we support your child when they are leaving this school or moving to another class?**

We recognise that transitions can be difficult for a child with SEND and take steps to ensure that any transition is as smooth as possible.

If your child is moving to another school:

- We will contact the new school's SENCO and ensure they know about any special arrangements or support that needs to be made for your child
- We will make sure that all records about your child are passed on as soon as possible

When moving classes within school:

- Information will be passed on to the new class teacher in advance
- In most cases, a handover meeting will take place with the new teacher
- All Support Plans and EHCP information will be shared with the new teacher

- If your child would be helped by a transition book or booklet to support them in understanding the move, one will be made for them

In Year 6:

- The SENCO will liaise with the SENCO of your child's secondary school to discuss their specific needs and set up a transition plan
- Your child will do focused learning about aspects of transition to support their understanding of the changes ahead
- Where possible, your child will visit their new school on several occasions
- In some cases, staff from the new school will visit your child at The Willows School Academy Trust
- We write social stories with children if transition is potentially going to be difficult
- We liaise closely with staff when transferring children to different schools, ensuring all relevant paperwork is passed on and all needs are discussed and understood
- Every child has an EHCP and an Annual Review will be planned as a transition meeting, to which we will invite secondary school staff to attend

❖ What support is there for behaviour, avoiding exclusion and increasing attendance?

- As a school, we have a very positive approach to all types of behaviour with a clear behaviour policy and reward system that is followed by all staff and pupils
- This is monitored closely by the Senior Leadership Team
- Every child has an individual behaviour management plan (IBP) written alongside the child and parents to identify specific issues, put relevant support in place and set targets
- After any behaviour incident, we expect the child to reflect on their behaviour with an adult, often completing a reflection form
- This helps to identify why the incident happened and what the child needs to do differently next time to change and improve their behaviour
- Attendance of every child is monitored on a daily basis
- Lateness and absence are recorded and reported to the Headteacher
- Support is given through an incentive scheme where good attendance is actively encouraged throughout the school
- We have had many successes where families were struggling with lateness but are now able to get their children into school on time with support from transport

❖ How does the school evaluate the effectiveness of its SEND provision?

- Pupil progress tracking meetings to discuss progress towards EHCP outcomes
- Analysis of progress data for SEND pupils to ensure they are making at least expected progress
- Reviewing feedback from parents and pupils
- Monitoring of planning for SEND pupils to ensure the inclusiveness of the curriculum offer
- Regular reviews of Support Plans and EHCPs
- Evaluation of interventions and their impact on pupil outcomes
- Governor monitoring visits and reports
- Analysis of attendance and behaviour data

Reviewed and updated by: Ms D. Vourdanou (SENCO) and The Willows Senior Leadership Team

Date: September 2026

Review date: September 2027

