



**Astrea Academy Trust**

**Information for Parents & Carers of  
Children with Special Education Needs**

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Written by	R Veal
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## **Overview of Hexthorpe Primary Academy**

Pupils on roll: 24.06.20: 465

Hexthorpe Primary Academy is a mainstream primary catering for children aged 3 to 11 years old. At Hexthorpe Primary we believe that every child can make progress and achieve and we believe it is our responsibility in partnership with parents, to make sure that this happens. We ensure that teaching and learning opportunities meet the needs of all our learners. At Hexthorpe Primary Academy we ensure that appropriate provision is made for all pupils who belong to vulnerable groups. This includes children with levels of special educational need, pupils with English as an additional language, those who are disadvantaged and/or Looked After. We aim to ensure that pupil needs are assessed and addressed. Special Educational Needs and provision can be considered as falling under four broad areas:

Communication and interaction

Cognition and learning

Social, mental and emotional health

Sensory and/or physical

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### **How does the academy know if my child needs extra help?**

Hexthorpe Primary Academy has developed a rigorous system of identification of pupils who may have a special educational or emotional need. Both teachers and support staff have been trained to identify specific needs and any pupil identified will be referred to the SENDCO to identify potential barriers to learning and the area(s) in which your child needs additional support. SEN support plans are then drawn up for pupils. Pupils and parents are consulted closely as part of this process. Progress meetings are then held termly with the class teacher and reviewed with the SENDCO.

### **Whom do I contact if I have questions or concerns about my child?**

Your child's class teacher is always the first port of call for any compliments, questions or concerns. On most occasions, the class teacher will be able to answer questions; however, they may sometimes need to speak to other members of staff in which case they will get back to you as soon as they are able. If you need to speak to someone about a more specific educational need or support that your child can access, then appointments can be made to talk things through with the SENDCO, Mrs Veal.

The academy is extremely fortunate to have an established pastoral team who also work with specific children in school as well as working closely with families. The Pastoral Team consists of Mrs Garbett our Pupil and Family Liaison Officer, and the Learning Mentor, Mrs Higham. Any of these members of staff can help to make referrals to different agencies for additional help specifically for parents or for individual pupils.

### **How will I know how you are supporting my child?**

All pupils at Hexthorpe Primary work with class teachers and teaching assistants (TAs) on a daily basis. Additional adults may work alongside children with identified special educational needs either inside or outside the classroom on a regular basis. The teaching assistants work with pupils either as individuals or with small groups towards specific goals or targets. Progress towards these targets will be monitored to ensure a pupil is improving. Discussions with parents/carers will take place during the termly SEN review meetings. Additional meetings may be held with the pastoral / SEND team if additional support is required. Some pupils also need a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP)

### **If my child has medical needs, how will they be supported?**

The academy works closely with health visitors and Doncaster Schools' Nursing Service to address any medical needs and make reasonable adjustments accordingly. We are an NHS accredited asthma friendly academy.

We aim to gather as much information as possible about a child's medical needs and this information will be put in to an Individual Medical Plan to ensure your child receives the appropriate level of support in school. We will then liaise with medical professionals who are working with your child to ensure we are following appropriate advice.

Hexthorpe has an ongoing program of staff training which responds to the needs of the children we have in our academy. This involves liaising closely with the school nursing service to train key staff in

different areas of medical need. Hexthorpe Primary has a safe administration of medicines policy and is able to administer some prescribed medications.

### **Have any staff received specialist training for children with special educational needs?**

Hexthorpe Primary Academy continuously evolves and undertakes training to adapt to the needs of our children. All key staff are trained in precision teaching to target key gaps in literacy and numeracy learning and plan an intervention to close these gaps. RWI is used throughout school to identify gaps in phonic knowledge and provide catch up interventions for children who have fallen behind. The ASCETS team support school to deliver social communication programs such as 'I am special' and Lego therapy to develop skills in this area.

Thrive is the key driver for all children at Hexthorpe, with additional group and 1:1 interventions to address the additional needs of some children. Key staff are also trained in moving and handling for children with additional physical needs and Team Teach to promote positive behaviour strategies for children with social, emotional and mental health areas of need. The whole staff have received training from behaviour management specialist Jason Bangbala in 2018 / 19 and this will continue during the academic year 2019 / 20 when Jason Bangbala will return to assess the impact and provide additional training where any need is identified.

All members of staff have completed the communication trust training for Speech and Language in school and the SENDCO works closely with the speech and language service to deliver bespoke programs for children across school where a need has been identified.

The academy is also involved in a speech and language intervention programme, brokered by the Trust.

Key staff in the academy also have specialist training in EAL and there is a robust process to monitor EAL children closely to identify additional SEN needs for EAL children.

### **How are the academy's resources allocated?**

We are committed to monitoring the progress of every child and direct resources according to the level of need for individuals and groups of children. The effectiveness of interventions is monitored through observations, learning walks and data analysis. If your child has an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP), you will be invited to discuss your child's needs on an individual basis and the provision made them will be based on the recommendations outlined in the plan. Your child may not have an EHCP, but may have an SEN support plan with targets that are designed to accelerate your child's learning and close the gap with other pupils where possible.

Where a child has significant additional needs but does not meet the threshold for an EHCP, the academy may apply for Higher Needs funding. This is coordinated with parents and external agencies to enable the child to access learning alongside their peers, with additional adult support where needed.

Early Intervention Allowance is also available for children in nursery and foundation who need additional adult support within the foundation unit.

Your input and support is essential to the success of any intervention with your child, this will be planned and reviewed at the termly SEN review meetings.

### **How accessible is the academy for people with additional needs?**

Hexthorpe Primary Academy is readily accessible to all who need to access it. Most classrooms are easily accessible by wheelchairs and pushchairs. For some classrooms there is also a broad, gentle slope to the playground which is suitable for wheelchairs and parents with pushchairs.

There are wheelchair accessible toilets in the Foundation stage and KS2 as well as in the main administration area of the school.

We also have a number of bilingual staff who can assist EAL pupils to access activities. Classrooms are all carpeted to keep general noise to a minimum. Where necessary, adaptations are made and a differentiated, personalised curriculum is developed.

### **How will my child be included in activities in academy, after school or visits?**

Hexthorpe Academy is very proud of its breakfast club which is available free of charge to all children. The academy provides a healthy breakfast, options for an active start to the day including sport and also the opportunity to check in with key staff, preparing the children ready for their day of learning. We believe that the best way for all children to learn is through high quality first teaching and we aim to provide a curriculum that is accessible to all pupils, regardless of their individual needs.

Teachers plan their lessons very carefully, making adjustments as necessary for individuals or groups. When going on a visit, the academy always carries out a risk assessment, as it has a duty of care to ensure everyone's safety. If an additional adult is required for 1-1 support, then the school will provide this but it may be that in certain instances we may request parental support for visits.

After academy clubs are available to all on a first come, first served basis. If your child's behaviour or need is a cause for concern and is a safety issue, it may be decided that it is not in your child's interest to attend the activity.

Hexthorpe Primary is committed to the Astrea Promise, a Trust wide initiative that enables all children to experience additional extra-curricular activities, aimed at broadening the horizons of all our children.

### **How will the academy prepare my child for joining the school or transferring to a new school?**

We have robust systems in place at Hexthorpe Academy. If your child is joining our Foundation 2 from another nursery, the school will meet with the previous nursery to gather information on how your child settled and participated in activities. We always have an induction meeting so you can share information about your child and there are also opportunities for you to visit the academy and meet the Foundation team. Occasionally the SEND team, class teacher or a member of the Pastoral team may visit your child in their setting. At all times, we aim to make the transition from one setting to another as smooth as possible as some children can find this challenging.

If your child is moving to the secondary phase, we work very closely with the local secondary schools and liaise with them on a range of issues. Staff members of the main local secondary school regularly visit Hexthorpe Primary, and the SEND team meets with the other SENDCos on a regular basis. A member of our Y6 team has particular responsibility for transition but the Y6 team all work closely together to ensure a smooth move from one setting to another. For SEN pupils, the SEND team will also be involved with the process which may involve such activities as additional visits or social stories. Secondary teachers sometimes visit Hexthorpe primary to get to know the children in their own context before they transition to their secondary school. Parents are closely involved in the process and are regularly involved in additional visits.

For children with a higher level of additional needs, the Educational Psychology service and the Behaviour Outreach Service will offer additional support during transition to ensure the best chance of success for these children.

### **My child needs help with transport to school. Can you help?**

Unfortunately, Hexthorpe Primary is unable to help with support for transport, but the SENDCo and Pastoral team can direct you to the local authority SEN/ Inclusion team who may be able to help you. They can also put you in touch with the social care team or Early Help Hub who may also be able to help.

### **How will you help me to support my child's learning?**

The academy will regularly send children home with work that they can share and complete with their parents. In key stage one this is mainly focused around practise with reading and sharing story telling, whether through pictures to develop language skills then later through applying their phonic knowledge to reading. In key stage two, regular spellings are shared with the children to practise at home with parents. Online learning such as Time Table Rockstars means that children can also access additional opportunities to improve their skills at home as well as in the academy. Each class has their own class blog, where you can find information about the learning and activities that are taking place.

Our Pastoral team can refer parents through the Early Help process which will help you to manage challenging behaviour amongst other issues and let you know you are not alone! If members of the academy feel a parent may need help in any way at all, we look at how we can help and try to encourage participation. Our Pastoral Team are also always on hand to support families or children who are going through challenging times or who are worried about bullying.

Throughout the Assess, Plan, Do, Review process, children are consulted with in relation to the progress they have made towards outcome targets and in relation to setting new targets and the appropriate strategies in place.

### **What specialist services are available or accessed by the academy?**

At Hexthorpe Primary Academy, we buy into the provision on offer by Doncaster local authority. These include the Educational Psychology service, Speech and language therapy, the School Nursing Services, Child and Adult Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and Specialist Teacher provision such as

hearing and visual impairment, occupational therapy and autism support. We also work very closely with our local Integrated Family Support Services to access what they have to offer.

Being part of the Astrea Academy Trust also means that we are able to draw on the expertise of the wider academy community. National leaders of SEND and Inclusion regularly visit the school to support with identifying areas of development and offering additional training and support where needed.

Hexthorpe also liaises with the special schools in the Doncaster area such as Heatherwood and Pennine View who offer outreach support for children and advise on SEND provision for children within their area of expertise.

### **Interventions at Hexthorpe Primary**

<b>Area of Need</b>	<b>Focus</b>	<b>Intervention Name</b>	<b>Age Range</b>
<b>Cognition and Learning</b>	Reading / phonics	Read Write Inc	Foundation – Year 4
	Reading / phonics	IDL literacy	Year 3 - 6
	Reading / writing individual words	Precision teaching	Year 3 - 6
	Reading	1:1 reading	Foundation – Year 6
	Maths	Precision Teaching	Year 3 – 6
	Maths (arithmetic)	Maths booster	Year 4-5
	Maths	IDL numeracy	Year 3-6
<b>Communication and interaction</b>	Speech and Language	Chatterbox	Foundation
	Communication	Talk Boost	Year 1
	Communication	Language Legends	Year 3-4
	Speech Therapy	Targets from Speech and Language service	Year 1-6
	Communication	Lego Therapy	Year 1-6
<b>Social Emotional Mental Health</b>	Wellbeing	Thrive	Year FS2-6
	Anger Management	Volcano In My Tummy	Year 2 – 6
	Wellbeing	Evolve	Year 3 - 6
	Mentoring	Trust Mentor Program	Year 5 - 6
	Emotional Support	Mentoring	Year FS2 -6
	Mental Health	CAMHS 1:1	FS2 - 6
	Friendship Building	Play for purpose	Year 3-6
<b>Physical</b>	Physical development	Targets from Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy.	Foundation – Year 6

### **Policies for identifying children and young people with SEN and assessing their needs**

There are a number of policies in place which contribute and guide our provision for all pupils. These school policies are available on our school website.

- Behaviour Policy including Anti-Bullying Strategy
- Astrea Inclusion Policy

- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Equality objectives
- Pupil Premium Strategy

### **Complaints Procedure**

We hope you will be very happy with the provision offered in Hexthorpe Primary Academy, however we understand that occasionally things may not go as planned. If you have a complaint about anything to do with your child's special educational need, please discuss it initially with your child's class teacher. If things are not successfully resolved, please contact Mrs Veal or Mrs Garbett in the first instance, after which please follow the academy complaints policy.

### **Contact details**

Contact Details:

Ruth Veal (SENDCO) Tel: 01302 852245 E-mail [admin@astreahexthorpe.org](mailto:admin@astreahexthorpe.org)

### **Where can further information on services be found?**

What is the Local Offer?

What is the Local Offer?

- In accordance with the Children and Families Act 2014, Local Authorities are required to publish and keep under review information about services they expect to be available for the children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) aged 0-25. This is the 'Local Offer'.
- The intention of the Local Offer is to improve choice and transparency for families. It will also be an important resource for parents in understanding the range of services and provision in the local area.
- The Local Authority has gathered information from a variety of providers, including schools and academies about the services on offer in the local area.
- This SEN Information Report utilises the Local Authorities 'Local Offer' to meet the needs of SEND pupils as determined by academy policy, and the provision that the academy is able to meet.
- To view the Doncaster's 'Local Offer' please view;  
<http://www.doncasterchildrenandfamilies.info/thelocaloffer.html>

We will always make every effort to direct you to other services and organisations available to you where possible. Information about different organisations and services is available in leaflet form in the academy entrance hall. We also aim to keep you informed and through texts through the academy website. We believe that the best provision for the children in our local community comes from quality provision and excellent relationships with parents. If you have any further questions or comments about provision for your child, please contact any member of staff who will put you in touch with the appropriate person. We look forward to meeting you.