



## **Lowther School Special Education Needs Disability School Offer**

Complies with SEN Code of Practice 2014

### *MISSION STATEMENT*

**Where a child has a special need, we will help the pupil and the family to decide how to respond, and we will support every child's learning journey.**

**Every child is different, so our SEND offer will not apply to everybody in the same way. We think that our offer will answer the questions you may have, so please look below for information.**

### Link to Richmond Local Offer

1. Who are the best people to talk to at Lowther about my child's difficulties with learning, special educational needs or disability?

- Talk first to your child's class teacher about your concerns.
- The class teacher will raise your concerns with the school SENCo. You may wish to arrange a meeting with the SENCo.

2. How will the school let me know if they have any concerns about my child's learning, special educational needs or disability?

- Your child's class teacher will speak to you at the beginning or the end of a normal school day and may arrange a further meeting with you.
- The class teacher may also raise an issue at a parent/teacher meeting.

3. How will the school consider my views and those of my child?

- We believe it is very important for parents/carers to be involved in all areas of their child's learning, and we actively encourage discussion. Whenever possible, we will include your child's views.
- If your child has an identified special educational need you will be invited to a meeting with the class teacher and SENCo to discuss current progress, support strategies being used and expected outcomes.
- If your child has a *Statement* of special educational need or an *Education, Health and Care Plan* (EHCP) you and your child will be able to share your views at the Annual Review.

#### 4. How will the curriculum and the school environment support my child's needs?

- We believe that your child's learning needs will first be met through the high quality teaching delivered by her/his class teacher.
- We plan our curriculum to suit the age, ability and needs of all children.
- The class teacher will adapt lesson planning and teaching to meet your child's needs.
- We may need to adopt different strategies to meet your child's learning needs.
- Additional specialist advice is sought when appropriate.
- We review our Accessibility Plan regularly to ensure that all children have the fullest possible access to the curriculum and the school site.

#### 5. How does Lowther ensure that teaching staff are appropriately trained to support my child's special educational needs and/or disability?

- We regularly review professional development for all teaching and support staff to ensure that they have appropriate expertise.
- The school is able to access training programmes from a range of organisations.

#### 6. What types of support may be suitable and available for my child?

This really depends upon the nature of your child's needs and difficulties with learning. The SEN Code of Practice 2014 describes four broad areas of need and support;

- **Communication and interaction**
- **Cognition and learning**
- **Social, emotional and mental health**
- **Sensory and/or physical needs**
  - We have a 3 wave approach to supporting a child's learning.
    - Wave 1** – this is the quality teaching your child will receive from her/his class teacher and support staff and may include adaptations to match learning needs.
    - Wave 2** - it may be appropriate to make additional short term special educational provision. We review our assessments of your child's needs, we plan the most effective and appropriate intervention, we provide this interventions and we monitor the impact on your child's progress towards individual learning outcomes.
    - Wave 3** – it may be necessary for the SENCo to seek specialist advice and regular long term support from professionals outside the school in order to plan for the best possible learning outcomes for your child. This may include educational psychology, speech and language therapy, and occupational therapy. The school may need to prioritise referrals to these services. For a very small number of pupils access to specialists may only be through a Statement of SEN or an EHC Plan.

## 7. How will we all support my child to reach his or her learning outcomes?

- The class teacher and all other professionals working with your child ensure that your child receives appropriate teaching and support in order to reach these goals. Learning targets, strategies and progress are assessed and reviewed regularly.
- Progress is always enhanced when families and schools work together. We will share information and strategies where we can with parents and carers to help them to support their child's learning at home.

## 8. What is an EHC Plan?

An Educational Health Care Plan is similar to the former SEN statement process.

*'The majority of children and young people with SEN or disabilities will have their needs met within local mainstream early years or school settings. Some children may require an EHC needs assessment in order for the local authority to decide whether it is necessary for it to make provision in accordance with an EHC plan.'*

*'The purpose of an EHC plan is to make special educational provision to meet the special educational needs of the children, to secure the best possible outcomes for them across education, health and social care and, as they get older, prepare them for adulthood.'*

Parents/carers or the school may apply for an EHC plan on behalf of a young person.

## 9. How are budgets allocated to children?

- The school receives funding from the local authority. This funding includes money to support the learning of children with SEN and/or disabilities.
- The Headteacher, in consultation with the School's Governing Body, decides the budget for SEN provision on the basis of the needs of the children in the school.
- The Headteacher and the SENCo discuss the effectiveness of the school's current interventions and provisions and prioritise an action plan, which may include additional or alternative interventions, staff training and equipment needs.
- This process is reviewed regularly to ensure the best possible intervention is provided to those children who require additional support to learn.

10. What support will there be for my child's safety and well-being at school?

- We believe that the safety and well-being of all our pupils is paramount. All members of staff take this aspect of school life very seriously.
- You should be confident that your child's class teacher, the SENCo and all staff will support your child's needs.
- You are always welcome to contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns.

11. How is my child included in the same activities as his/her peers at school?

- Lowther is an inclusive school and committed to providing equal opportunities for all children.
- Clubs, educational visits and residential trips are available to all children.
- When necessary the school will make reasonable adjustments to ensure that children with SEN and/or disabilities are not excluded from any activities.
- You are always welcome to contact your child's class teacher if you have any concerns.

12. How will Lowther support my child when moving between schools and between stages within school?

- We liaise closely with the school or nursery from which your child is transferring. We are generally able to discuss with the relevant staff any individual needs and how best to support your child.
- At Lowther we take care to ensure that during transition points (between classes each year and at the end of Key Stages) all staff are aware of individual pupils' needs, learning progress and best support strategies.
- We make arrangements to ensure there is a smooth transition when your child transfers to his/her secondary school.
- If your child has an EHC Plan, it will be reviewed before transition to secondary school. You will be kept informed of these arrangements and invited to attend the

13. Who can I contact if I am worried about the SEND provision made for my child?

- Speak initially to your child's class teacher or to the SENCo. They will probably be able to address your concerns.
- If you are still concerned you should contact the Headteacher.
- If you need to make a formal complaint, please refer to the Complaints Policy.