
SEND LOCAL OFFER

How will school staff support my child?

Polegate is an inclusive school with a strong commitment to meeting the needs of all our students. The Inclusion team work together with all staff to ensure that our creative curriculum promotes the development of the whole child, and a range of teaching and learning styles are adopted so that lessons and extracurricular activities are accessible for all children. We also provide a range of additional support for students who have been identified as having a specific need. This might include:

- differentiated classwork, which means adapting tasks to suit individual needs
- in-class support across the curriculum
- reading recovery taught by a specialist teacher
- early numeracy taught by a specialist teacher
- social skills groups
- behaviour, emotional, social development projects
- support with homework
- interventions before, during or after school, across a range of areas

How does the school know if children need extra help and what should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

Polegate staff meet regularly with parents to discuss the needs of each child. Your child's progress is then monitored throughout their time in school and support plans are put in place if children do not make expected progress. Some students will make good progress and come off the SEND register.

Teachers and support staff will share any concerns regarding SEND with the Inclusion team, who will carry out further assessments (formal and informal) and work with other professionals where appropriate. Similarly, if you have concerns you should contact the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), Una Holbrook at: u.holbrook@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

All teachers are responsible for using a range of methods and resources to make sure that students enjoy and achieve within their classrooms, e.g. resources using symbols, ICT software to support writing or writing frames.

The Inclusion team and staff from outside the school advise and support teachers to devise a range of tasks and methods of working to support all pupils. We work closely with the Educational Psychology Service; Children's Integrated Therapy Services; Language and Learning Support Service; and the Education Support, Behaviour and Attendance Service to ensure that the curriculum is matched to your child's needs.

Polegate School follows a creative curriculum which promotes the development of the whole child. We are also a Dyslexia Friendly School (Level 1).

We have recently been awarded Inclusion Quality Mark School of Excellence status.



What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school/college?

Polegate School has access to the full range of Local Authority specialist services in education, health and social care [see the Local Authority local offer].

We have specialist teachers in dyslexia, reading recovery, early numeracy, literacy and speech, language and communication. Staff take part in an ongoing training programme which includes sessions on autistic spectrum disorder (ASD); speech, language and communication needs (SLCN); and dyslexia.

Many have attended courses or gained higher qualifications in different aspects of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND); for example we have staff who have completed post degree level courses in SLCN, and University Certificates in SEND teaching and learning.

How accessible is the school environment?

The school is a one storey building which is fully wheelchair accessible. It has disabled changing and toilet facilities. When your child first joins the school we will ask you to let us know of any access issues you or family members have.

How will I know how my child is doing?

We will track your child's progress on an ongoing basis and take action when students are not making the expected progress.

You will be invited to attend teacher/parent meetings to discuss your child's progress. The SENCO is also available to discuss any matters related to your child's progress and needs. Students with a statement of SEND and/or Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC) <http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/specialneeds/sen/pathfinder/ehcplans/explained.htm> will also have an annual review meeting to discuss arrangements and progress.

Additional meetings are available by request (email or telephone) and for students with a high level of need, regular contact can be arranged.

The support that a student receives will be discussed with parents and any new arrangements that need to be put in place are always discussed, and a written copy of review meetings will be available to parents or guardians. This type of provision will show the targets each student is working to and the support they are receiving to achieve this.



What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

At Polegate School we are committed to helping all children stay safe and healthy and enjoy their time at school, and to help them to grow into mature and caring young people who make a positive contribution to the school and the wider community.

We have a Wellbeing Champion at the school to ensure the wellbeing of both staff and pupils. In addition we run nurture groups to support children within the school. We are supported by a school nurse, family support key worker and the Education Support, Behaviour and Attendance Service. We also refer to other services for support including child protection teams and teams supporting looked after children.

In addition the children are encouraged to contribute their views on school life through pupil questionnaires and through the Student Council.

How will I be involved in discussions about, and planning for, my child's education?

Teachers will meet with you at academic and pastoral meetings to discuss your child's progress. All parents and carers of children on the special educational needs and disabilities register will also have the opportunity to discuss progress and plans with staff from the Inclusion team. Positive parental involvement in school life is always welcome and feedback sought formally through questionnaires, Think Tank meetings and more informal coffee mornings.

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

Research shows that parental involvement has a significant impact on the progress that pupils make in school.

We encourage regular communication with parents and carers. Class teachers, the Inclusion team and specialist members of staff are able to offer advice on how best to support your child's learning.

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

All students at Polegate School have access to all activities offered by the school and, where necessary, additional adult support will be available to assist your child at after school activities and on school trips. Parents will be asked to meet with school staff to plan appropriate support where necessary.

How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school, transfer to a new school or the next stage of education and life?

The staff at Polegate School work closely with secondary schools to support all children with their transition to Year 7. In addition to transition activities in school we employ a full time Transition Coordinator that divides the school year between Polegate School and Willingdon Community School to support transition from Year 7 to Year 8.

A parent information contact (PIC) is available to signpost parents to any additional advice or service they may require.

If your child has a high level of need they will have a plan which will outline their needs and effective support. This will be sent to your child's school. A summer transition programme is in place for all children moving to their new class. Any children joining the school within the academic year will be included in the 'New to School' transition programme. This is led by the Inclusion Team.

How are the school's resources allocated and matched to children's special educational needs?

Pupils will be allocated resources based on their individual need.

How will the school decide how much money is spent on my child?

The school's budget is used to provide the wide range of support outlined above. Your child will have access to this support according to their needs. Support for students with the highest level of need will be outlined in Education, Health and Care Plans and Statements, and for those with lower levels of need. Information from parents, other professionals and school staff will be used to plan support which is paid out of the school's budget.

Who can I contact for further information?

Your child's teacher is the first person to talk to. If you have a specific question or concern relating to SEND, you can contact Una Holbrook (SENCO) and Inclusion Assistant Linda Lord. Email addresses are u.holbrook@polegate-e-sussex.sch.uk and l.lord@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk who will answer your concern or pass them on to the relevant agency.

Admissions and transport

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/atoz/heading1150.aspx?forms=&acc=1&ae=1&ah=1&al=1&ar=1&aw=1>

The SEN Team

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/atoz/heading824.aspx?forms=&acc=1&ae=1&ah=1&al=1&ar=1&aw=1>

Information for families

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/atoz/heading1466.aspx?forms=&acc=1&ae=1&ah=1&al=1&ar=1&aw=1>

This offer is accurate now, but services are regularly reviewed and could change. All information will be updated as soon as possible to reflect any new service offer.

An invite for feedback

This offer is intended to give you clear, accurate and accessible information.

If you would like to comment on the content of the offer, or make suggestions to improve the information, please email u.holbrook@polegate.e-sussex.sch.uk



Learning without Limits

Polegate School
Oakleaf Drive
Polegate
East Sussex BN26 6PT

Tel: 01323 482404
Email: info@polegateschool.co.uk
www.polegateschool.co.uk



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