

Sandgate's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Newsletter

Our SEND [Special Educational Needs and Disability] and Inclusion Newsletter aims to provide useful information relating to SEND, links to a wide range of services and useful tips for parents/carers whose child has or may have a special need.

Upcoming Events

Join us for our Term 3 SEND Coffee Morning on Thursday 12th February @ 9:00am in our Community Room.

Mrs Shoob (SENDCo) and Mrs Hill (FLO and SENDCo Assistant) will be joined by:

- **Lauren Purdie**, the school's link Speech and Language Therapist
- **Morag Hards**, the school's link Specialist Teacher. Morag will share a video from the Autism Education Trust called "Autism – a difference not a deficit" and will also share "Can You Make It To The End?", a campaign film produced for The National Autistic Society to highlight the sensory overload experienced by autistic people.
- **Dr Rachel Campbell**, Educational Psychologist from Kent Educational Psychology Service.



Mrs Shoob and Mrs Hill look forward to welcoming you.

Please feel free to just turn up on the morning – no need to book.

Feedback from parents/carers who have attended a SEND Coffee Morning:

“Invaluable opportunity to share experiences and understand strategies for assisting and supporting my child. Being in a neurodiverse family can be isolating – it’s nice in some ways to know I am not alone.”

“The SEND coffee morning was so helpful. It’s so important to connect with other parents who have similar experiences and understand. It was also incredibly useful hearing from the STLS ladies. I really enjoyed it and look forward to more sessions in the future. Many thanks!”

“Thoroughly enjoyed the coffee morning. Excellent advice and a true safe space feeling. It is so nice to join with other parents and professionals, with zero pressure to talk, and super supportive to those who do. I value the thoughts and feelings of other non-judgemental parents/professionals so much. Many thanks for a lovely morning.”

What can I do if I think my child has SEND?

Mrs Rachel Shoob is of the school's Deputy Headteachers, the school SENDCo [Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator] and the Attendance Lead. Mrs Wendy Hill is the school's Family Liaison Officer and the SENDCo Assistant.



Rachel and Wendy both have over 20 years of experience working at Sandgate Primary School and are available if you have any concerns regarding your child.

For SEND enquiries, please contact sen@sandgate.kent.sch.uk

"SEND leadership at Sandgate is strong, reflective, and child-centred. The SENDCo provides clear direction towards strong provision for pupils and has spent time securing statutory documentation and processes are in place. Staff share high expectations for all learners and demonstrate genuine commitment to removing barriers so that every child can thrive."

(Schools Supported, Laura Page, SEND Audit November 2025)

Special educational needs, often referred to as 'SEN' or 'SEND' (Special educational needs and disabilities), is a term used to describe learning difficulties or disabilities that make it harder for a child to learn compared to children of the same age.

Many children will at some stage experience challenges with their learning and for most children, these difficulties are overcome with support from teachers and home. However, children with SEND are likely to need extra or different help to be able to learn.

How do you know if a child has SEND?

A child or young person has SEN if:

- They have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of other children and young people the same age
- They have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

A child or young person has a disability if:

- They have a physical and/or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out day-to-day activities.

Children may have difficulties in one or more of these areas:

Cognition and Learning - A child may find all learning difficult or have difficulties with specific activities such as reading or spelling. A child may have trouble understanding instructions and carrying out tasks. A child may have memory difficulties.

Communication and Interaction – A child may have difficulty in talking to others or understanding what others are saying to them. A child may have difficulty with interactions with others, such as not being able to take turns. A child who has speech and language needs will be classed as having communication and interaction needs.

Physical and Sensory – A child may have hearing or vision loss. A child may have difficulty with sensory processing, being under or over-sensitive. A child may have a medical condition which affects them physically.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health - A child may display behaviours such as having very low self-esteem or being very anxious. A child may display challenging, disruptive or distressing behaviours. A child may have underlying conditions which affect their mental health.

What additional support is available to families and children?

Partnerships for Inclusion of Neurodiversity in Schools (PINS) is a project led by NHS Kent and Medway, Kent County Council (KCC) and Medway Council. The project focuses on strengthening knowledge, skills and improving environments to better meet the needs of neurodiverse children in school.

The following workshops/webinars can be booked by parents appreporting@kent.gov.uk

26 th Feb	8pm - 9pm	Friendships Autistic Girls Network	Parents and carers	Virtual	https://forms.office.com/e/6DBvaUaE65
3 rd Mar	10am - 1pm	Understanding Sensory Processing, Interoception and Integration	Parents and carers	Hempstead House ME9 9PP	https://forms.office.com/e/aU1vtSeeUi
19 th Mar	8pm - 9.30pm	Intersectionality Autistic Girls Network	Parents and carers	Virtual	https://forms.office.com/e/fLFRu75f5M
24 th Mar	10.30am - 12.30pm	Understanding Neurodiversity NELFT NHS Trust	Parents and carers	Virtual	Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams

Lighthouse on The Marsh offers a range of SEND services to support children and families with special educational needs and disabilities. They provide guidance on accessing support, including the application process for an Education, Health & Care Plan (EHCP). Their services include practical support, emotional assistance, and collaboration with schools to ensure the best outcomes for children. For more information or to schedule an appointment, you can contact them at SENDServices@lighthouseonthemarsh.org or call 01797 367 455.

SEND Parent Drop-In Session

Looking for a friendly, low-pressure space to connect with other SEND parents and carers? Join us for our SEND Parent Drop-In—a welcoming session designed to help you feel supported and heard.

What to expect:

- * A relaxed environment to share experiences, ideas, and resources
- * Peer-to-peer support—because you're not alone
- * Learn more about the services we offer
- * Opportunity to complete referrals or book appointments
- * Optional 10-minute private chats for those who need a little extra support



When: Thursday 26th February

Time: 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM

Where: Harbour Room, Unit 12, Mountfield Road, Littlestone, TN28 8LH

Parents/carers can stay for as little or as long as they wish.

You can register your interest at: sendservices@lighthouseonthemarsh.org

Kent Therapeutic Support Service

Salus, offers emotional wellbeing support for children and young people aged four to 19, across Kent. The service helps those experiencing mild to medium emotional well-being challenges, such as:

- Anxiety, low mood or stress
- Anger or behaviour difficulties
- Friendship or family issues
- School or exam pressures
- Low self-esteem, bullying, or emerging self-harm



Support is brief, flexible and tailored. It is available 1:1 or in groups, face-to-face, online or by phone. To find out more about the service or to ask for support:

visit the **Salus website** - call ☎ 01303 667 700 - email ✉ tss@salusgroup.org.uk



Visit the SEND information hub

kent.gov.uk/sendinformationhub

SEND Information Hub

The SEND information hub, Kent's local offer is a website about all the services and support available for children from 0-25 and their families, with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) from the local area and outside the area. Linked to this website, there is the Kent local offer directory which is a database of support, services and activities available to families with SEND in their local communities.



Visit Kent Pact's website

kentpact.org.uk

Kent PACT

Kent PACT (parents and carers together) is a forum for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) with the aim to make sure services provided by education, health and care meet the standard and need for children with SEND and their families. Kent PACT is about empowering parent and carers and giving them the chance to have their voices heard.



Visit IASK's website

lask.org.uk

IASK

Information Advice and Support Kent (IASK) gives free, impartial and confidential information, advice and support about special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) for children, young people up to age 25, parents and carers. This is to help make informed choices about their education with help to communicate views and opinions confidently.



WHO WE WORK WITH



IASK



Kent PACT



NHS Kent and Medway

And many more

CONTACT US

yourvoice2@kent.gov.uk
kent.gov.uk/SEND
kent.gov.uk/sendinformationhub



SEND INFORMATION HUB

All the information about services and additional support available for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities and their families... in one place.
kent.gov.uk/sendinformationhub



LOCAL OFFER DIRECTORY

KENT.GOV.UK/SENDDIRECTORY

The Local Offer directory is where you can find hundreds of:

- organisations
- activities
- support groups
- clubs
- services

available in your local area for families of children and young people aged 0-25 with special educational needs and/or disabilities all across Kent.

You can find your nearest accessible friendly club, sports groups, events, parent groups and online education support.

OUR WEBSITE

KENT.GOV.UK/SENDINFORMATIONHUB

What to do if you think your child has special educational needs

Who to speak to if you think your child SEND and who to get support from including schools, us, and educational health and care plans (EHCP).

Contact our special educational needs and disability teams

Contact our SEND teams or one of our support services for advice and information, or find out how to raise a complaint.

Types of special educational needs

How to understand, support, and manage the different types of special educational needs and disabilities in children and young people.

Support for children under 5

Portage, education support, moving into primary school, free childcare, and children's centres.

Support for school-aged children

School options, days out, education support, school transport, year 9 support, and support for parents.

Support for young people (16 to 25)

Education, employment, money management, moving out, and getting involved in your community.

ABOUT US

The SEND information hub, also known as Kent's Local Offer, explains the information, services and additional support that Kent County Council and its partners provide for children from 0-25 with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and their families.

