Maiden Erlegh Trust

SEND INFORMATION REPORT

MAIDEN ERLEGH TRUST

Oak Tree School

Linked to Local Offer at Wokingham Borough Council SEND Local Offer (wokingham.gov.uk)

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Aim High Be Inclusive Work Together

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What should you know about our inclusive school?

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Oak Tree School is part of the Maiden Erlegh Trust. As an organisation we are aspirational and have ambitious expectations for all our learners.

Our values are **aim high, be inclusive and work together** to ensure all pupils, achieve to their fullest potential, and make successful transitions between phases and into adulthood.

The purpose of the SEND information report is to enable parents, carers, and pupils to understand our schools' approaches to SEND and how pupils with SEND are supported depending on their needs.

School Context

Oak Tree School is a medium sized special school that caters for children with a diagnosis of Autism. All students at Oak Tree have an EHCP. We currently cater to 96 children, ranging from year 1 to year 8. In September 2025, the school will reach its full capacity of 150 pupils. The school is based in Wokingham Local Authority, and we receive children from both Reading and Wokingham boroughs.

Our motto is 'nurturing potential, encouraging independence'. This ethos is embedded across all age phases and in all classrooms. We aspire to deliver bespoke, meaningful learning to all pupils, and to celebrate and recognise all successes. We are proud to deliver a broad therapeutic offer and a multi agency approach to supporting our young people.

Who are the key people?

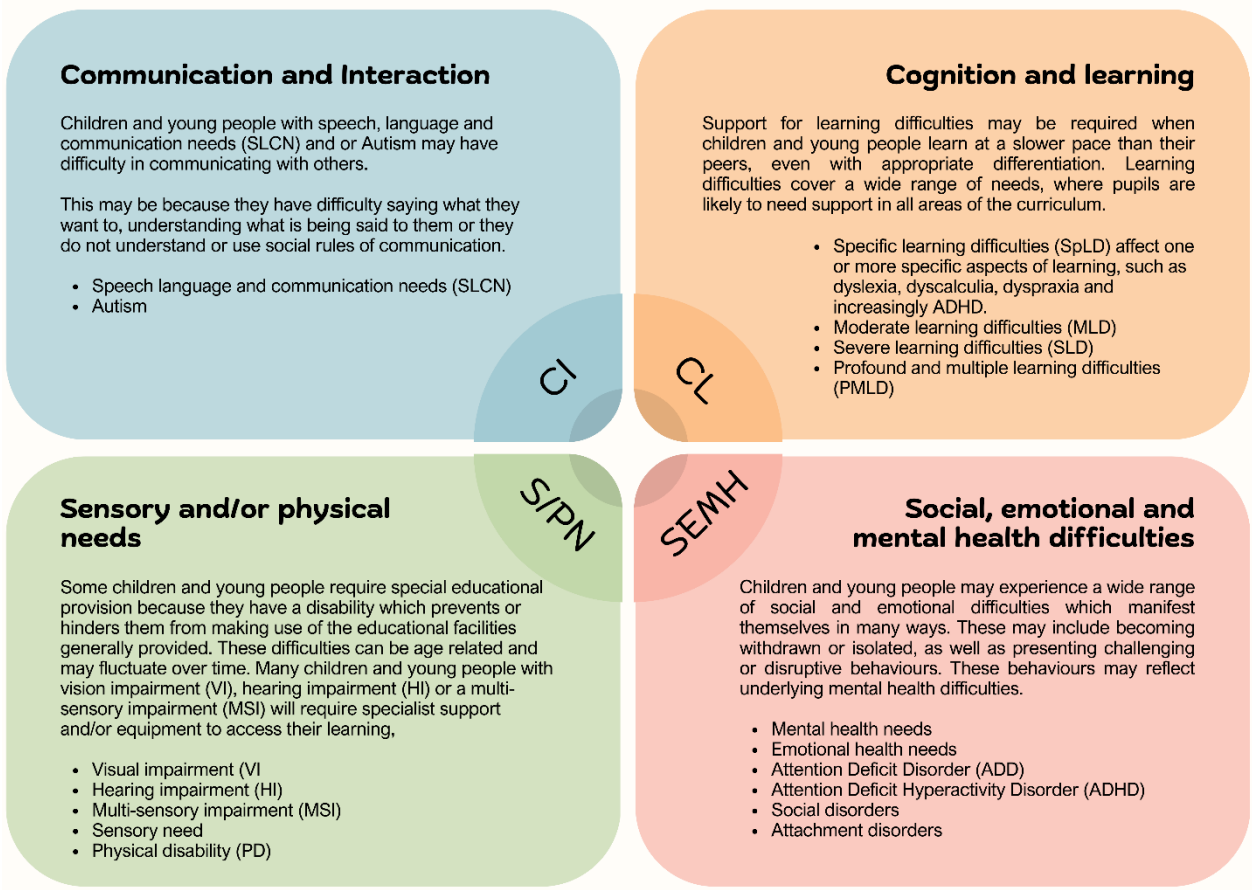
Role	Name
Headteacher	Claire Willmott
SENCo	Cassia Minette
SAB link	Mohammed Asghar
CLA Designated Teacher	Emma Starling/ Gregg Berry
School Improvement Director - SEND	**Kelly Nash** k.nash@maidenerleghtrust.org

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Director of Special Education	Neil Strain n.strain@maidenerleghtrust.org

What needs do we provide for?

At this school, we prioritise a strength-based approach to identifying needs. The Code of Practice (2015) details four broad areas of need which are detailed below and states: *'A pupil has SEN (Special Educational Needs) where their learning difficulty or disability calls for **special educational provision**, namely provision **different from or additional to** that normally available to pupils of the same age.'*



Arrangements for CLA students

Where students are 'looked after' or 'previously looked after' by the local authority we have an additional role as we are all corporate parents.

To ensure that we are responding appropriately we:

- Have a designated teacher for CLA (children looked after)
- Monitor the progress of all our looked after children

- Collaborate on PEP (personalised education plan) with the Local Authority
- Ensure close working with the specialist services who support CLA (e.g.: Social worker, Virtual school, etc.)
- Normalise life experience wherever possible
- Ensure our CLA, especially those with SEND, are fully included in the activities available.

What support is there for social and emotional development?

All staff receive training to deliver high quality pastoral care. The school adopts a whole school approach to ensuring that all learners make excellent progress, and their individual needs are catered for.

The school's staff specialises in child welfare and is the first port of call for staff, learners and their parents who require advice, support and guidance regarding wellbeing.

The main aims of pastoral work are to:

- Care for the well-being of all students
- Promote all aspects of a student's development
- Monitor personal development, behaviour, academic progress and attendance
- Help with personal and learning problems when the need arises
- Provide guidance in making choices, e.g. for GCSE options, careers etc.
- Support the delivery of Personal, Social, Moral, Spiritual and Cultural (PSMSC) program
- Celebrate student achievement and success both in and out of school

We also offer the following Wellbeing Interventions:

- Play therapy
- Art therapy
- Counselling
- Canine Therapy
- Outdoor learning
- Dance and drama sessions

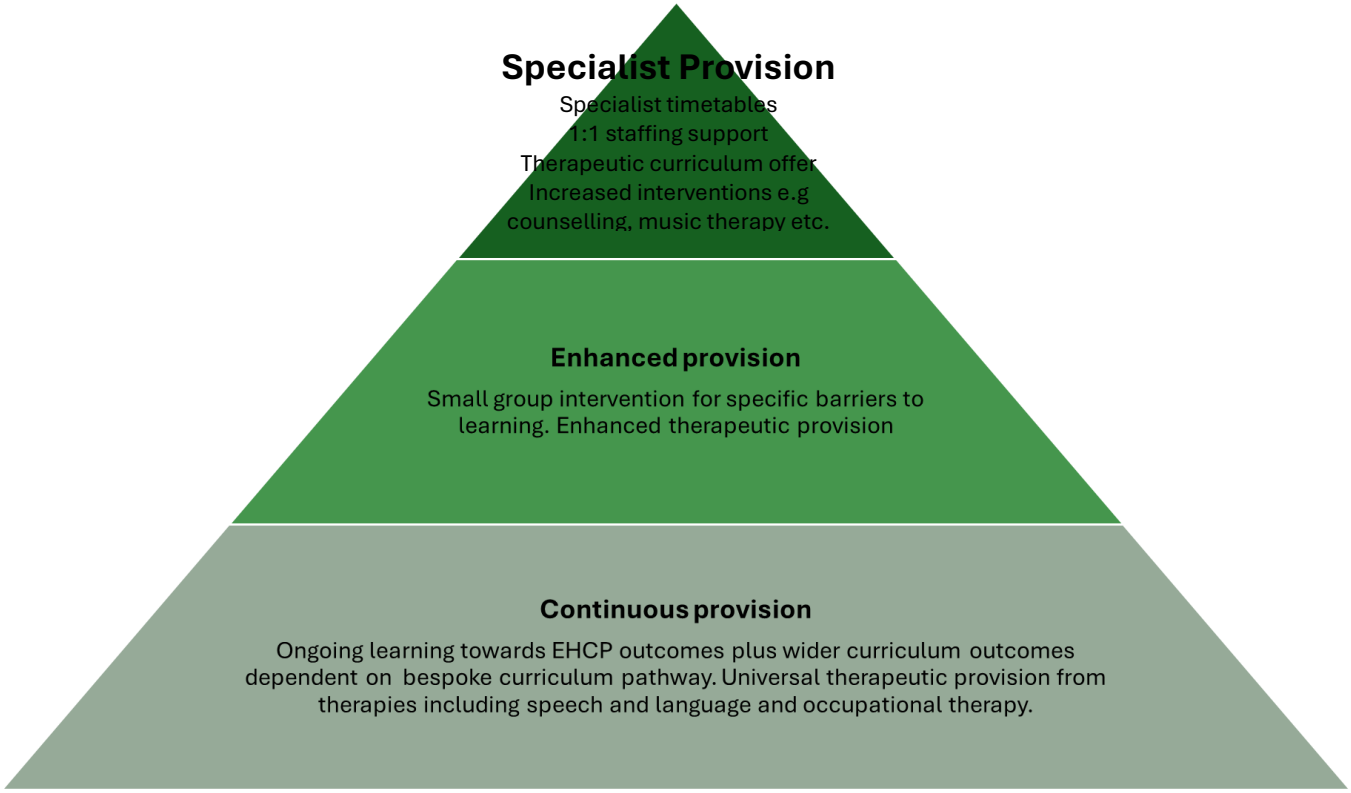
Attendance is rigorously monitored, and support put in place where needed. If attendance falls, you will be contacted by the attendance officer and, where necessary, additional support will be implemented to boost attendance.

The school also writes health care plans with parents and shares all relevant information with staff

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If your child finds lunch or break times tricky,

What levels of support are there?



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Universal Offer

All pupils should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Our curriculum is designed and sequenced specifically for pupils with Autism and associated learning difficulties. Our curriculum is bespoke to each learner, ensuing high levels of engagement and knowledge retention. Lessons are planned to reduce barriers to learn so pupils can achieve and progress. There are explicit expectations for teaching across the school to be of the highest quality.

Our overriding principle is that high quality teaching, adapted for individual students, is the first and most effective step in responding to all students and ensuring they reach their full potential.

Inclusive Quality First Teaching

Our inclusive teaching is based on the following strategies:

- Deployment of expert and dedicated teachers
- Targeted use of well-trained Teaching Assistants
- Understanding the starting points and the needs and aspirations of each student
- High quality, adapted questioning
- Adapted activities and problems/challenges
- A safe and orderly learning environment
- High levels of therapeutic intervention from SaLT and OT
- Communication friendly environments across the school
- Individualised timetables
- High level of TA support
- Exceptional differentiation strategies to ensure all learners an engage and experience all areas of school life.

SEND Support – Targeted Offer
Where pupils require additional support for learning, Oak Tree School can call on the expertise of partner provisions such as the Educational Psychology Service, the Autism Education Trust and the Primary Mental Health Teams across both Reading and Wokingham.

Arrangements for SEND Students taking Assessment and Examinations

The Joint Council for Qualifications (JCQ) publishes a comprehensive guide regarding Access Arrangements, which outlines their criteria and threshold for qualifying for concessions. For a concession to be awarded, the student must meet the stringent criteria outlined by the JCQ. The secondary School/Centre employs an assessment process in line with JCQ criteria to assess qualification. The Centre's decision is final and external professional reports can only be used as supporting evidence.

The following are some of the concessions available: Extra Time; Scribes; Readers (Including Computer Readers and Reading Pens); Word Processor; Prompter; Colour Naming; Practical Assistance; Supervised Rest Breaks; Smaller Venue.

How do we monitor progress?

"Where a child is identified as having SEN, schools should take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This SEN support should take the form of a four-part (Assess, Plan, Do, Review) cycle" (CoP 2015)

Our approach to SEND provision is focused on aspirational outcomes (appropriate to each individual student) and in line with the SEN Code of Practice.

REVIEW

Continual review of pupil's progress and effectiveness of provision, interventions, support or teaching approaches.

ASSESS

Using a variety of tools to identify pupils' strengths and needs, including the viewpoint of parents/carers, the student and staff who know the pupil well.



DO

Implement the additional support, alongside quality first teaching, to gain a better understanding of how the pupil learns and thrives.

PLAN

Use information gathered to plan the provision, interventions, support or teaching approaches.

Education does not only happen during lessons or during the school day. We strive to provide a range of extra-curricular activities which are open to all students. Subject to risk assessment, we ensure that all our students, but particularly those with SEND are included in the activities available, acknowledging that sometimes this will mean additional arrangements to allow them to take part in activities. For example, sometimes one-to-one support on trips may be provided, depending on the level of need.

Where specific access arrangements need to be made, we involve parents/carers by:

- Discussing support and risk control measures with parents/carers
- Taking advice from the place to be visited in terms of their facilities and accessibility

How do we support moving on and up?

At our school we support pupils to become life-long learners and recognise our responsibility to ensure that students develop the skills they will need for the next part of their education or employment and prepare them for adulthood. All transitions, either into our setting, moving through the school or leaving the school are based on the following key principles:

- Being pupil focussed, particularly well-being
- Sharing key information, including support plans
- Parental engagement
- Working collaboratively with key adults who know the student best including staff from their previous setting/year group
- Offering enhanced transition support where needed, this could include photos of key areas and staff or booklets with information.

Preparing students for the transition to further education, employment, and adulthood

Preparing students for adulthood involves working towards outcomes which will support independence and choice making. The PfA outcomes are employment, independent living, community inclusion and health. We provide opportunities for students to practise developmental and transferable skills which will prepare them for life as members of their community and for success in the world of work.

Some of the ways we do this are:

- Personal Development Program
- Work experience
- College visits
- Careers Advisor Meeting
- Students have access to an online careers' portal
- Students have a careers interview in Year 11
- Guidance can be given from an independent advisor at key transition times, when necessary.
- Support with applications and visits to college

What professional development is available to staff to support SEND learners?

As a Teaching School, we provide a continued programme of professional development to all our staff and have high levels of expertise across the Trust and in the school.

SEND professional development is provided for teachers through regular staff/team meetings, shared information, external speakers, and professional discussion, dependent on current needs on roll. Our SENCo / SEND Manager and Specialist TAs attend training and share this expertise with staff. To see our most recent training please read our one-page profile.

What specialist expertise and services are available?

At Oak Tree School we are committed to working with other professionals and practitioners to ensure that we maximise the impact of our interventions whilst minimising duplication and disruption for students, families, and practitioners.

To do this, we:

- Listen to parents and students about services they use and are valued by them
- Invite representatives of agencies working with students to relevant meetings and reviews
- Value the contributions from all parties

The school has access to the following support services:

- CAMHS
- Educational Psychologists
- Virtual school
- Therapy teams; Speech and Language (SALT), Occupational therapy (OT) and Physio (PT)
- Sensory Consortium (for Hearing and Visually Impaired Students)
- Local Authorities and their statutory services e.g., Children's Social Care Services and Education Welfare
- Careers Advisor

If you think your child needs support from one of the above services, please inform the SENCo who will assess and make a referral, as necessary.

How do we work collaboratively with students and parents/carers?

Students

All students are encouraged to be actively involved in their learning and support. Students review their progress on an on-going basis as part of the formative feedback-student response cycle in lessons. In addition, they can make individual appointments to review their progress towards targets.

At this School we consult all students through:

- The Student Council

Where students have SEND, we ensure that they are encouraged and supported to make their views known (e.g.: as part of their Annual Review or at Progress Evenings).

Strategies we use may include, written comments, talking to a preferred adult, friend, or mentor, drawing etc.

Any interventions or support strategies will be explained and discussed with students, so they understand their purpose and desired outcomes. Students are encouraged to monitor and judge their own progress towards those outcomes, reflecting what is important to, and for, the student.

Parents/carers

Parents/carers are key partners in their children's education. Evidence shows that children make most progress when their key adults work together.

At this School we provide progress information to all parents through regular reports and annual progress meetings.

All parents:

- They are encouraged to discuss benchmarks and targets with their child to help the student set aspiring and realistic targets.
- Can make an appointment to meet with the SENCo, or phase lead
- Are encouraged to attend parents' evening where they can make appointments online with individual subject teachers.
- Attend information evenings

We work with parents by:

- Communicating any concerns with parents/carers proactively (e.g.: through formal or informal meetings, by email, telephone or home-school books).
- Identifying any benchmarks/target outcomes with parents/carers
- Involving parents/carers in planning adjustments, interventions, and support.
- Reviewing progress against benchmarks and outcomes with parents/carers e.g., through Annual Review meetings for students with EHCPs (Education, Health, and Care Plans).
- Being open and transparent about what we can deliver.

If a parent/carer who has a disability, or their first language is not English, in addition to the main communication mechanisms, the school will endeavour to accommodate the needs of parents on an individual basis.

Contact should be made via the school reception 0118 216 0040 or the school email address: **ots@maidenerleghtrust.org** please state clearly who the communication is for and giving an indication of the nature of the query/concern.

Guidelines for parents/carers contacting the school to discuss their child:

- If the concern is subject specific - contact the class teacher
- If it is a general pastoral issue - contact the class teacher of head of phase

- If it is an attendance issue – contact our Attendance Officer.
- If the query is related to SEND, then please contact the SENDCo
- If the query is related to a Safeguarding Concern – contact the Designated Safeguarding Lead.

Unless an emergency, staff will respond within 3 working days. If the query is complex, staff will send a holding email within 3 working days confirming when the full response will be available (usually within 10 working days).

If you need further support, contact **SENDIASS** Homepage (sendiasswokingham.org.uk) for advice and guidance or the local offer website.

Compliments and complaints

The school appreciates positive feedback, as it supports us in reviewing and reflecting on our provision. Any compliments received are extended to the relevant members of staff.

We hope you and your child have a positive journey with us. However, if you wish to complain you should do it while your child is still registered at the school.

In line with the Trust Complaints Policy (which can be found on the website), you should follow these steps in order and move on to the next step if your complaint is not resolved.

1. Talk to the school's special educational needs co-ordinator (SENCO).
2. Follow the school's complaints procedure.
3. If your complaint is about an EHC plan you should contact the SEND Service in the issuing Local Authority.

Compliance

This document has been drawn up by the School Improvement Director for SEND, the Headteacher and the SENCo in collaboration with other key staff/governors.

It complies with the statutory requirements laid out in the **SEND Code of Practice (2015)** ; **The Children and Families Act (2014);** and the Equality act (2010).

It has also been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

Statutory Documents	**School Documents** Oak Tree School - Home

Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations Supporting students at school with medical conditions Keeping Children Safe in Education Teacher Standards	Admissions Arrangements Accessibility Plan Anti-Bullying Policy Behaviour, Attendance and Exclusion Policy Curriculum Statement Equality Policy Funding Agreement Supporting Students with Medical Conditions Safeguarding Policy

Glossary

ADD	Attention Deficit Disorder
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder
AHT	Assistant Head teacher
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder
CAMHS	Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CLA	Child looked after
CoP	Code of Practice
CSP	Classroom Support Plan
CYP	Children and young people
EAL	English as an Additional Language

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EHCP	Education Health and Care Plan
EWO	Education Welfare Officer
GLD	Global learning delay
HI	Hearing impairment
HLTA	Higher Level Teaching Assistant
HOY	Head of Year
IRP	Independent review panel
LA	Local authority
LO	Local offer
SEN	Special education needs
SEND	Special education needs and disabilities
SEND K	Pupils on the SEND register
CLA	Children Looked After
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulty
NSA	No Specific Assessment (e.g. student who we support but who does not have a diagnosis)
ODD	Oppositional defiance disorder
OH	Occupational Health
OT	Occupational therapist
PDA	Pathological demand avoidance
PPG	Pupil Premium Grant - Additional funding for schools to raise the attainment of disadvantaged students & close the gap between them and their peers.
PEP	Personalised education plan (for children looked after)
PMLD	Profound and multiple learning difficulties
SALT	Speech and language therapist
SDQ	Strengths and difficulties questionnaire
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health
SLCN	Speech language and communication need
SLD	Severe learning difficulty
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulties (e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia)
SPDs	Sensory processing disorder
TA	Teaching Assistant
VI	Visual Impairment

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