

February 2025

Welcome

We have had a very busy start to the year! Our amazing staff team have been fully embracing our recent adaptive teaching strategies; responding to children's needs in lessons and trialing different approaches and resources. A few of our staff have recently participated in Team Teach training which focuses on supporting children in crisis with de-escalation strategies. This is training that will be rolled out across the year. As well as this, all staff have been trained on Sensory Circuits and how these can be used with the whole class to support children in being alert and in the right frame of mind for learning. We look forward to using these in class everyday to benefit all of our learners.

Any queries or questions related to SEND can always be sent to office@las.dsat.education or message Miss Sabin through Dojo.

Miss Sabin and the Laughton All Saints' team

Sensory Circuits

A Sensory Circuit is a **short plan** of **physical activities** that enables children to achieve an optimal level of alertness. It lasts around 5-10 minutes and consists of 3 sections: **Alerting** Activities, **Organising** Activities and **Calming** Activities. It is vital that the activities are done in this order and that sessions are structured.

- **Alerting**- exercises to raise the heart rate and switch the brain on
- **Organising** - activities that involve brain-body co-ordination or balance
- **Calming** - heaving lifting or stretching to lower the heart rate and prepare for going into class.

Children may need sensory circuits if they show these signs:

- ▶ Fidgeting and changing position a lot in class
- ▶ Slow to start work and missing verbal cues (needs alerting)
- ▶ Difficulty organising themselves
- ▶ Lethargic (needs alerting)
- ▶ Poor coordination & balance
- ▶ Known sensory processing difficulties (requires help with regulating these)
- ▶ Rocking
- ▶ Poor attention and concentration
- ▶ Over-alert and appear hyper (needs calming)

There are many informative videos about Sensory Circuits on YouTube and Instagram.



What are... Educational Health and Care Plans?

An Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) is a legal document for an individual child or young person aged 0-25 years with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), which sets out a description of their educational, health and social care needs and the provision that must be implemented in order to help them achieve key life outcomes. EHCPs bring together practitioners from different agencies to contribute to an assessment and plan for the child or young person.

The majority of children and young people with SEND can have their needs met within their local mainstream school through the setting's existing resources without the need for an EHCP. If a setting has taken every possible action available to identify, assess and meet the child or young person's needs but they are still not making expected progress, it may be appropriate to consider requesting an EHC assessment. EHCP requests are often made by the SENCo. However, parents can make their own EHCP referral for their child.

An EHCP outlines targets and provision for the child that is above what a mainstream could provide without additional funding and resources. An EHCP **does not** mean that children will receive 1:1 support. Often provision is delivered in small groups and whole-class settings so children do not become dependent.

Upcoming events

Thursday 17th April 2025 - Dress To Express Day

April is Autism Awareness Month. To celebrate our unique qualities, we would like to hold a Dress to Express Day where children can wear an outfit that shows their interests, qualities and how they like to dress! We are asking for a £1 donation please, and this money will be donated to Rotherham Parent Carer Forum. RPCF is a registered charity run by and for families of children and young people (aged 0-25) who have Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND).

Useful SEND contacts

SENDIASS: Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service
www.rotherhamsendiass.org.uk

Rotherham Local Offer website
www.rotherhamsendlocaloffer.org.uk

Autism information and advice service (post-diagnosis)
<https://www.autisminformationservice.org.uk/>

Rotherham Parent and Carers Forum - get linked up with other SEND parents. RPCF host lots of events!

Who supports us in school?

Dr Nick Fletcher

Nick Fletcher supports our school as our Educational Psychologist. We ask for his advice in supporting our pupils. This can take form as a meeting or a formal report. Nick may meet with you to discuss your child's needs and also, he may be present in annual review meetings if your child has a SEND plan or EHCP.

Makaton Sign of the Half-Term

Makaton is a language support system used by many children and adults with additional needs. It is closely linked to British Sign Language, although it aims to support rather than replace language.



"Supporting my child's needs can be a struggle. I have attended the parent support groups in the past and have appreciated the support." - Parent Survey 2024