



Four Acres Academy

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Information Report

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?

At Four Acres Academy we use a range of indicators to help identify children with special educational needs. This includes:

- The SEND Code of Practice.
- Ongoing in class assessment for learning through questioning, observing and marking work.
- Pupils identified as working well below age related expectations.
- Meetings with staff, the child (where appropriate), parents/carers and other agency support.

If a parent/carer is concerned about their child please come in and talk to us. Your first point of contact is your child's class teacher who will discuss concerns with the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) alternatively you can arrange to meet with the SENCo directly.

How will the setting support my child?

At Four Acres we will endeavour to support your child in the best way and according to their individual needs. This could be through personalised targets written on an individual education plan (IEP), intervention programmes such as Direct Phonics, Numicon, RWI Get Writing, Springboard Maths, social and emotional support through 1:1 work, play therapy or Nurture group, Circle of Friends, social skills groups, additional adult support in class as well as for playtimes and/or school trips, acting on advice from outside agencies (Educational Psychologists, Speech and Language Therapist, Not Just Behaviour, Physiotherapist, Occupational Therapist) or adaptation of the curriculum/setting to make it accessible.

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

At Four Acres Academy all lessons are differentiated to meet the needs of all pupils. Clear guidance and staff expectations are used to support the needs and achievement of all. When necessary we provide personalised planning.

How will both you and I know how my child is doing and how will you help me to support my child's learning?

At Four Acres your child's progress will be closely monitored on a daily basis by their class teacher, termly by the SENCo and three times a year by senior leaders. Your child's progress will be shared with you through two reports to parents/carers, parents evenings, meetings with the SENCo, informal conversations, target setting

through your child's IEP, test outcomes and annual review where required. Class teachers and the SENCo are happy to meet with parents when it is requested.

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

Four Acres is an inclusive Academy. We welcome and celebrate diversity. We have a caring and nurturing staff who endeavour to support and understand all pupils. Four Acres Academy's pupils are very happy to come to school and our parents/carers have acknowledged that their children feel safe here. Our pupils are confident and enthusiastic learners, however, we understand that at times children can have social or emotional needs. In these circumstances support will be offered from an experienced member of our staff.

Class teachers and teaching assistants support pupils on a day-to-day basis. For parents/carers who are concerned about their child's wellbeing please contact your child's class teacher. If further advice is needed they will liaise with the appropriate member of staff; this may include Mrs Verity Wilson the SENCo or Mrs Lesley Perry the Family Support Manager. On occasions advice may be sought from outside agencies; parents/carers will always be consulted in such cases.

We also have a very successful nurture group within Academy which supports pupils with social, emotional and mental health concerns. In October 2013 we achieved the Nurture Award, we were the first school in Bristol to receive such an award.

At Four Acres Academy the strategies we use to support the wellbeing of its pupils include social skills groups, introducing a circle of friends, alternative provision for playtimes and lunchtimes, play therapy, home-school diaries. All of these strategies are used alongside PHSE education and the Core Learning Skills curriculum. The safeguarding of all pupils at Four Acres is our utmost concern and is taken very seriously.

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

Four Acres Academy works collaboratively with a range of external agencies. When appropriate we work with the school nurse, Not Just Behaviour, NHS Physiotherapists, NHS Occupational Therapists, NHS Speech and Language Therapist, Educational Psychologists, NHS Specialist Nurses (Diabetes, Osteogenesis Imperfecta), Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) and Bristol Autism Team (BAT).

What training have the staff supporting children with SEND had?

Mrs Verity Wilson has completed The National Award for SENCOs at Bath Spa University in January 2014. Staff are trained to meet the specific needs of the children they are working with. Throughout the school we have staff trained in: ASD, Social Stories, 5 Point Scale, Play Therapy, Administration of Medicines, Speech and Language Support, Reading Programmes, Positive Handling, Manual Handling,

Direct phonics, Behaviour Management as well as specific intervention programmes such as A-Z of Reading.

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

At Four Acres we strive to ensure that all pupils are included in all aspects of learning, this includes activities outside of the classroom and school trips. We encourage independence and provide specialist equipment, where necessary, to support this. In some circumstances the assistance of an adult is needed to support the individual pupil and when appropriate this is implemented.

All activities outside of the classroom are planned with the needs of the pupils at the centre. Activities are adjusted to ensure that they are accessible to all.

Arrangements for pupils with very specific needs such as the use of a wheelchair, will be dealt with on an individual basis when they arise.

Risk assessments are carried out prior to any off site visit/activity to ensure everyone's health and safety is not compromised.

How accessible is the school?

Regrettably Four Acres site is not accessible to wheelchair users. We are based on two floors with many additional areas being accessed via small flights of stairs. There is no lift access. A disabled toilet is available as well as changing facilities for younger pupils. We have shower facilities should they be required. Blue Badge holders can have access to the school car park.

How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school and transfer to a new school?

New pupils to Four Acres Academy are actively encouraged to visit prior to joining. For pupils with SEND additional visits would be arranged. For pupils with SEND who are transferring from another setting staff from Four Acres would endeavour to visit them in their current setting to meet the pupils and staff to ensure a smooth transition. When a pupil with SEND needs to change school, staff from Four acres will attend all transfer meetings. This would usually be the SENCo and the Family Support Worker but occasionally the class teacher or a known teaching assistant may be appropriate. Parental involvement is essential, as it enables parental questions to be answered, concerns clarified and needs identified as well as providing the school with a complete picture of the child.

If your child has complex needs or an Education Health Care Plan a meeting will be held to plan transition with staff from both settings and any outside agencies along with the pupil and parents/carers. Additional visits will be arranged for pupils.

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

All classes at Four Acres have the support of a teaching assistant. Additional resources and support is audited on a year by year basis. Any interventions that are implemented to support the individuals needs are managed by the SENCo working alongside the class teacher and teaching assistant. All resources are evaluated for impact and changes are made when needed.

How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child will receive?

Ongoing discussion between parents/carers, class teachers and the SENCo will take place to ensure that all parties are aware of the support provided. Individual pupils may require different levels of support in order to achieve age related expectations. In some cases where pupils may have complex needs advice is sought from outside agencies and then acted upon.

How are parents involved in the school? How can I be involved?

Parents are actively encouraged to liaise with staff at Four Acres and discuss their child's needs, progress, concerns and achievements. Regular meetings are arranged to review progress and set new targets where necessary. We have a parent on the governing body who is responsible for ensuring appropriate SEND provision as well as regularly meeting with the SENCo.

Who can I contact for further information?

Mrs Verity Wilson is the SENCo for the school and Mrs Sandra Cranch is the SENCo in the Children's Centre. If you wish to discuss your child's needs and/or arrange a visit please contact the school office on 0117 9030474 or the Children's Centre on 0117 9030460.

Further information please see the following website:

<http://www.findabilitybristol.org.uk/pages/education-city-wide-offer>