

Ankermoor Primary Academy

SEND Newsletter

Issue 2 – October 2023



Welcome to our half termly SEND newsletter - Addressing all things related to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities!

My name is Natalie Horlor, and I am the SENDCO at Ankermoor and Anker Valley Primary Academy. I am based at Ankermoor every Tuesday, however, can be contacted by email at SEND@Ankermoor.org on the other days of the week.

In this issue of the newsletter, find out about interventions going on in the school and about the new Sensory Room at Ankermoor Primary. There is also a reminder about Individual Learning Plans and what you can do if you have any concerns about your child.

Support Offered at Ankermoor

At Ankermoor Primary Academy, our children are at the centre of everything we do. We aim to identify the needs of all pupils as early as possible. This is part of our graduated approach, in which we Assess, Plan, Do, Review. This ongoing cycle ensures that effective provision is put in place and also removes barriers to learning.

We have a range of interventions taking place daily in our school to meet the needs of all of our children. We believe in inclusivity for all and strive to make this a reality for all our pupils.

<u>Speech and Language</u> This can take place in 1:1, small group sessions with a therapist or with a class adult following direction of a therapist. Referrals for Speech and Language support are made by Mrs Horlor in partnership with parents.	<u>Hope</u> Talking therapy that can help children to cope with difficult issues in life such as friendship problems, bereavement, worries at school, physical illness, etc. Run by Mrs Bryan in the Haven.	<u>Play Therapy</u> Used to support children's mental health, turn taking and speech and language skills. Provided by an external therapist from Two Rivers. <u>Referrals for this service can be made through Mrs Horlor.</u>	<u>Forest School</u> An outdoor experience learning about nature and teamwork to promote mental health and wellbeing.
<u>Rainbow Room</u> A therapeutic provision provided by staff at Two Rivers based at Anker Valley Primary to support sensory needs. Referrals for this service are made through the Tamworth SEND Hub by Mrs Horlor.	<u>Sensory Circuits</u> Working closely with the Rainbow Room, we now have our own Sensory Circuit at Ankermoor. This is where children can take part in a sequence of activities that help to focus learning back in the classroom. (See below)	<u>Sandbox</u> An NHS-funded service to support children and young people with their mental health and well-being. Referrals for this service can be made through Mrs Bryan or Mrs Horlor.	<u>Lego Therapy</u> Used to support children's mental health, turn taking and speech and language skills. Provided by an external therapist from Two Rivers. Referrals for this service can be made through Mrs Horlor.
<u>Occupational Therapy</u> This can take place in 1:1, small group sessions with a therapist or with a class adult following direction of a therapist. Referrals for OT assessments are made by the SENDCO in partnership with parents. Referrals for this service can be made through Mrs Horlor.	<u>Family Support</u> Mrs Bryan provides Family Support at Ankermoor and can help with challenges faced by parents outside of school including behaviour, grief, sleep, etc. She can also signpost to other external agencies including Malachi.	<u>Lightning Squad</u> A tutoring programme led by Mrs Elbro which improves reading skills for identified pupils in Years 1-6. Daily sessions last for 30 minutes in small groups and are reviewed after 6 weeks.	<u>Little Wandle Keep Up</u> 1:1 phonics support (primarily in EYFS and Key Stage 1) delivered by adults in the classroom, revisiting sounds, segmenting and blending personalised to each individual child.

What is a Sensory Circuit?

A sensory circuit involves a sequence of physical activities designed to **alert**, **organise** and **calm**. The sensory circuit helps children regulate and organise their senses in order to achieve the 'just right' or optimum level of alertness required for effective learning. The circuit should be an active, physical and fun activity that children enjoy doing. Sensory circuits are ideally be completed at school, first thing in the morning (and after lunch too, where possible), but can be done at home too. They are a great way to both energise and settle so children can focus and engage better in the classroom.

Sensory circuits are designed to start with **alerting** activities, move to an **organising** phase and then finally to a **calming** phase. Doing the activities in the recommended order is vital.

The right order results in a well-regulated, happy child.



SEND Individual Learning Plans

For pupils at Ankermoor who require additional support and are recorded on our SEND Register, Individual Learning Plans are in place. These plans will have focused and achievable targets which are personal to each individual child, enabling gaps to be closed and progress to be made. Sometimes, these targets may be linked to actions that have been set by professionals e.g., Educational Psychologist or Speech and Language.

When are the targets set and reviewed?

Targets will be reviewed, and new ones set at 3 points in the academic year:

Week ending 1st December 2023

Week ending 15th March 2024

Week ending 5th July 2024

It is important that you as parents and the children are involved in this process, therefore you will be invited to meet with your child's class teacher at these points in the year to be part of the review process. If your child is on the SEND register and you have not yet received a copy of their current Individual Learning plan, please contact your child's class teacher.

I am worried about my child – what can I do?

If you have any concerns about your child, please share these with the class teacher in the first instance, as they may be able to put support in place. Where teachers share your concerns and support in place has not had impact, a Teacher Referral form to the SENDCO, can be completed leading to further observations and referrals to relevant professionals.

A Parent Referral Form is also available for you to complete and forward to SEND@Ankermoor.org (a copy is included below).

Did you know?

Staffordshire Local Offer provides information in one place for children and young people aged 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, their parent/carers and professionals.

The Local Offer includes information on local services to help children, young people, parents and carers make choices about the support they receive.

Access the Local Staffordshire Offer here:

[Staffordshire Connects](#)



Parent Cause for Concern

Child's Name: **D.O.B:** **Class:**

Child's strengths and achievements:

Concerns at home:

Concerns at school:

Parent/Carer information:

A description of all available information about your child.

Areas of concern:

- | | | |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Visual | <input type="checkbox"/> Auditory | <input type="checkbox"/> Communication/Speech |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Emotional | <input type="checkbox"/> Behaviour | <input type="checkbox"/> Attendance |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Physical | <input type="checkbox"/> Medical | <input type="checkbox"/> Punctuality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Social | <input type="checkbox"/> Eating | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please state): |

Signed: **Date:**

Please email to SEND@Ankermoor.org to return to Mrs Horlor, SENDCO

Autumn Term Parental SEND Survey

1. I feel that my child is making good progress at school.

- Agree
 Partly agree
 Disagree
 Don't Know
 Other (please specify) _____

2. I know how my child is supported in school.

- Agree
 Partly agree
 Disagree
 Don't Know
 Other (please specify) _____

3. I am concerned that my child is not getting enough support.

- Agree
 Partly agree
 Disagree
 Don't Know
 Other (please specify) _____

4. I feel that I have sufficient information and communication about my child's progress.

- Agree
 Partly agree
 Disagree
 Don't Know
 Other (please specify) _____

5. I know which stage of the SEN Code of Practice my child is on (eg School SEN support, EHC Plan).

- Agree
 Partly agree
 Disagree
 Don't Know
 Other (please specify) _____

6. I have been offered the opportunity to share my child's targets and Individual Learning Plan with their class teacher.

- Agree
 Partly agree
 Disagree
 Don't Know
 Other (please specify) _____

7. I feel that the staff at Ankermoor have given me suggestions of ways to support my child at home.

- Agree
- Partly agree
- Disagree
- Don't Know
- Other (please specify) _____

8. I am able to approach staff about any concerns that I have regarding my child.

- Agree
- Partly agree
- Disagree
- Don't Know
- Other (please specify) _____

9. I have confidence in the leadership of SEN provision and interventions within the school.

- Agree
- Partly agree
- Disagree
- Don't Know
- Other (please specify) _____

Do you have any other comments or suggestions you would like to make?

Many thanks for taking the time to complete this questionnaire and help us continue working towards a strong parent/carer and school partnership.

Mrs. Natalie Horlor

SENDCO

Please return your completed survey by Friday 27th October 2023