

Blakehill Primary School

Highfield Road, Idle, Bradford. BD10 8QN

Telephone: 01274 414355 Fax: 01274 414356

Email: office@blakehill.bradford.sch.uk



Head of School: Mrs L Keighley

Dear parents and friends,

We are hoping that this letter finds you all well. We are writing to update you on some improvements to our SEN and Pastoral Team. As Blakehill Primary School's Special Education Needs and Disability Coordinators (SENDCo), we are here to offer support and advice regarding additional needs or SEND support for your child. At Blakehill, we are proud of our 'open door' policy so please do not hesitate to get in touch, if you have any concerns or need some support. We are available for meetings on Wednesdays after school and you can sign up for one of these appointments in the office. Alternatively, you can make an appointment by telephoning or emailing the office on the details above.

Many thanks,
Mrs Gould and Mrs Pinder

What is the aim of the SEN and Pastoral Team?

To support children to develop their social, physical, emotional, language and communication needs.

To maintain an atmosphere in which children feel secure, are encouraged in their learning, growth and social development and know that they are valued within a healthy and safe



From September Mrs Gould will be one of our Assistant Head teachers leading the SEN and Pastoral team. She will also be teaching in Year 5.



Mrs Pinder is our fantastic SENCO of 14 years. She will be teaching in Reception class in September.

Meet the Team

Mrs Ingham, Mrs Head, Sean (playworker), Mrs Marsay and Miss Thornton offer SEN and pastoral support in our Hub.

The Hub offers a personalised curriculum in core learning for children with complex needs and supports social and communication skills and life skills.



My Support Plans (MSP) and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

Some children with SEND may need extra support. If this is the case, then we will arrange a meeting with parents to discuss what is needed to put together a My Support Plan (MSP). Some children with SEND may need support from professionals outside of the school setting to support them in achieving a successful learning journey. Those views will be considered in drawing up the My Support Plan. This could include:

- Parents/carers seeking medical advice about the young person.
- School requesting 0-25 Inclusive Education services involvement with the young person.
- School requesting advice from specialist disability teams.

EDUCATION HEALTH CARE PLAN (EHCP)

If a child has complex needs and requires significant additional support, school may request an education, health and care assessment with a view to securing an EHCP for the child.

Bradford Children's Services SEN department will be responsible for the EHCP and reviews will be held at least once a year to ensure the pupil's needs are being met.

Learning Mentor



We are thrilled to announce that Mrs Bottomley (previously year 4 TA) is our new school Learning Mentor after Miss Armitage secured a new job in April. Mrs Bottomley has worked at Blakehill for the last 19 years and is a well-loved and respected member of our team...and the children adore her! We know that she will be fabulous.

From September, Mrs Bottomley will be taking small groups and doing 1:1 sessions to provide support and guidance to children who are experiencing difficulties in learning due to social, emotional or behavioural difficulties or other barriers. Mrs Bottomley will be on the playground every morning or should you need to contact her, please call 01274 414355

Communication

It is important to us that we make sure we maintain strong communication links between home and school. Staff are using the Marvellous Me app, the school learning platform, emails and telephone calls to engage with parents and children.

Parents have set up their own facebook group called Blakehill SEN Parent Support Group. This is not run by school but offers friendly and supportive advice from other parents.

We do plan to have SEN parents' meetings in our Hub where parents can work alongside their child.

What strategies do our SEN and Pastoral Leaders use to remove barriers to learning?

Personalised provision for children with complex needs.

One to one mentoring sessions to identify and discuss learning barriers.

Individual or group sessions focusing on a particular barrier such as: bullying, self-esteem or regulating emotions.

Group activities such as circle time and friendship groups.

Utilisation of child's own hobbies or interests to remove barriers to learning.

Peer mentoring and buddying.

Liaise with parents and other agencies when in the best interest of the child/ family and school.

Positive Start

School anxiety is awful for children and heart wrenching for parents. It's so common, but it doesn't always look the same. Sometimes it will dress itself up as illness (headaches, tummy aches), sometimes as a tantrum or fierce defiance, and sometimes it looks exactly as you would expect. If your child has anxieties about coming into school, you may wish to send them to the Positive Start session. The children will be met at 8.30am by Mrs Ingham and Mrs Marsay (Hub Staff) at the school office and will have a calm start to the day where they can discuss any concerns and take part in relaxing activities. They will then be taken through the quiet corridors to their classroom where they will be first to arrive just before their peers enter the classroom.

If you think your child would benefit from this session, please contact Mrs Gould at office@blakehill.bradford.sch.uk



Our SEN and Pastoral Team is here to:

Listen

Offer support

Promote positive behaviour

Identify the barriers to learning

Offer encouragement and build self-esteem and confidence.

Support parents through the MSP and EHCP process.

Our Hub

Our Hub is in the middle of a makeover but here are the first pictures. Inside is a calm learning environment where children receive a personalised curriculum with a ratio of 1 adult to 3 children.

Afternoon sessions in the Hub are for children to focus on social and communication skills and essential life skills.



Lunch time provision

If your child struggles with the unstructured time at lunch time, there are a range of clubs and activities which children may be able to attend including games club, colouring club and sport activities. If your child finds lunch time a difficult time, please speak to Mrs Gould about the activities available.