



SEN Service: Specialist Teaching and Advisory Service

This leaflet is for parents and carers. It answers some of the questions we are often asked about our work. We hope you will find it helpful.

SEN Service Specialist Teachers and Advisors

Within the SEN Service we have a small number of specialist teachers and advisors who are able to provide advice, support and training around their area of specialism. We support schools to help address the following areas of need:

- Cognition and learning
- Communication and interaction
- Hearing impairment
- Physical and medical
- Vision impairment

Who can receive support from the SEN Service?

Your child can receive support from the SEN Service if:

- They attend a school or setting within Halton and live at a Halton address
- In the case of support for a hearing or visual impairment, they will need to have a diagnosed hearing or vision condition and are under an audiologist or ophthalmologist.

What are the roles of the Specialist Teachers/Advisors?

The Specialist Teachers/Advisors are able to provide advice and strategies around supporting children in school or setting. They all have additional qualifications in their areas of specialism which enables them to provide specialist advice and support.

They can also provide training and support to the school or setting to help them meet the needs of children with special educational needs.

How can I access the SEN Service?

The SEN Service is a school/setting based service. All referrals must come through the school/setting.

Before schools make a referral, they should have accessed the New Halton Graduated Approach and Strategy Toolkit, which is available on Halton's Local Offer. It provides advice and guidance for pupils with SEN. It is important to inform the SEN Service if any strategies have been used from the Toolkit to prevent repetition and to make advice relevant, and up to date for the pupil.

NEW Halton Graduated Approach and Strategy Toolkit

<https://localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk/schools-colleges-post16/useful-information-documents/send-halton-graduated-approach-and-strategy-toolkit/>

Access is through completion of a **Named Child Referral Form**. This can be found on our website: <https://localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk/schools/>

Your consent must be obtained before the service will accept a Named Child Referral.

What will the Specialist Teacher/ Advisor do?

- The Specialist Teacher/Advisor may conduct an observation of your child in school in order to provide targeted advice and support for your child within school.
- Provide further assessment of your child's needs depending on their area of specialism.
- Talk to your child's teachers and teaching assistants to gain a better understanding of their strengths and areas of concern.
- Talk with your child about their needs and feelings in order to provide more tailored support and recommendations.
- Provide a written report and summary of involvement.
- Where necessary complete some standardised assessments.
- May recommend external referrals or the involvement of other services including;
 - Health services such as to Woodview Child Development Centre
 - Speech and Language Therapy Service
 - Refer to outreach services such as Brookfields
- Liaise with other services.
- May attend annual reviews of children/young people with an Education Health and Care Plan in order to provide schools with further advice and recommendations.

Learning and curriculum support

This is the support available for teachers and other school staff to adapt the curriculum and environment to meet the needs of your child.

- Provide direct support and training for schools so that settings are better prepared to meet the needs of your child.
- Support schools in writing SEN Support Plans for children with additional needs to ensure that they are outcomes focused and designed to address the barriers to learning.

What will happen after the referral?

The Specialist Teacher/Advisor will produce a report along with suggested outcomes for school/setting to work on.

The school/setting should share the report following any referral with you and discuss with you how they intend to implement this advice.

In some cases children may be referred for outreach support from Brookfields. This will provide more regular contact and modelling support for the school/ setting to implement the advice.

Schools/settings can contact any of the team to discuss progress following a referral if they feel this is necessary.

Access and inclusion resources

These are the practical materials and other resources needed to support your child in school.

- Provide practical resources and support around setting up the classroom, including in some cases environmental audits to assess the suitability of a space based on your child's needs.

- Provide loans and examples of intervention materials and publications which may be useful in supporting your child.

***School based training**

This is the training support available for school staff involved in supporting your child.

In Local Authority maintained schools, specialist teachers offer:

- Whole school training to raise awareness of issues related to SEN within your child's school and provide strategies appropriate for pupils with SEN.
- Provide general whole school advice and strategies to support pupils.

*Academies and Free schools can access this support, but there may be a fee for the service. Provide targeted training for those staff directly supporting your child. This could be through:

- A specific strategy session
- Provide regular training for Teaching Assistants covering a range of SEN issues.
- Awareness raising and ideas sharing sessions at SENCO Conferences delivered six times a year.
- Attendance at a more in depth, accredited courses which are delivered regularly.

Support for Parents and Carers

The SEN Service also delivers courses for children and young people diagnosed with conditions such as autism. These courses include:

- NAS Early Bird
- NAS Teen Life
- York: Intervention and Support for Parents and Carers of Children and Young People with Autism

More information on this is available on the Halton Local Offer

<https://localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk/schools-colleges-post16/education-support-services/communication-and-interaction/>

Contact Information

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