



Highfield Inclusion News



Dear parents and carers,



I would like to introduce myself. My name is Mrs Lucy Dalgliesh and I am the new SENCO at Highfield Primary School (from 8th January 2024). I am really looking forward to working as part of the Highfield community and look forward to meeting with you all.

Let me tell you a little bit about myself. I have been teaching for 18 years across Bradford and Leeds and have taught across Early Years, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. I am very passionate about the education of children and young people, especially those children who have additional needs. I have been a SENCO since 2016, and completed the SENCO qualification in 2017. For the last 3 years, I have been a SENCO at a Primary School that has a Resource Provision for children with complex communication needs.

My role as a SENCO is to ensure that children and their families receive the best level of support to ensure the best outcomes for the child - this means my responsibilities include working with children, families and all staff. I will provide the best support that I can to your child and to yourselves. I will work with my colleagues at Highfield to ensure that they are confident at delivering the best education to your child. I will make connections with professionals where appropriate to ensure that your child receives the best support from the Local Authority.

My SEN days at Highfield are Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. You can contact me between 8:30am and 4pm on these days on the school contact number or my email: senco@highfield.leeds.sch.uk. If I am unavailable, I will endeavour to get back to you by the end of my next SEN working day.

During this first half term, I will be focusing on getting to know your children, yourselves and the staff who work with them. I will do this by spending time in classrooms, talking to pupils individually and spending time with children at breaktimes. I will endeavour to make individual contact with you during this time. In the meantime, I would very much appreciate it if you could complete a parent/ carer questionnaire for me (see attached) and return this to school by Friday 26th January.

This half term, I will be holding a coffee morning on Tuesday 30th January which I would love for you to attend if you are able to. It is an open invitation for parents and carers to come along and meet with me. More details about this will be sent out to you ahead of the event. In the next half term starting Monday 19th February, there will be individual SEN meetings held in school which you will be invited to attend. Invitations will be sent out closer to the time.

At the start of every term, I will send out an Inclusion Newsletter which will provide some up to date information about how you can further support your child with their individual needs, where you can go for further support from across the Local Authority and other pieces of information which you may find useful. As this is the first of my newsletters, I have included some examples of websites which may provide a starting point for you all, please note this is not an exhaustive list.

I look forward to working with you all. If you have any further questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me.

Kind regards,

Mrs L. Dalgliesh

Supporting children with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN):

Speech, language and communication is quickly becoming the highest area of SEN need across the country. There is a wealth of information and support out there to help children and young people. Across Leeds, many schools work closely with NHS Speech and Language therapists. We have 2 members of staff who work closely with these therapists to provide further support for children who find SLCN challenging. Many of the resources that are used can be found here <https://www.leedscommunityhealthcare.nhs.uk/our-services-a-z/child-speech-and-language-therapy/speech-and-language-therapy-toolkit/> You may find it useful to explore this site for yourselves, to find some games and activities which could be used at home to provide further support.

Supporting Autistic children (ASC):

<https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/> This is the website for the Autism Education Trust which provides a wealth of information and guidance to support children and young people with autism, and their families. <https://www.zigzagautismservices.co.uk/> Zig Zag Autism Group is a local group in Leeds that supports autistic children and their families across the city. It amazes me what fantastic work this group does for people in Leeds, there are always lots of activities going ahead for children and young people to access, along with support groups for parents and carers.

Supporting children with learning difficulties (MLD or SpLD):

<https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/> For further support around supporting children with dyslexia, the British Dyslexia Association provides a wealth of information and support.

For children who are struggling to read, I find Barrington Stokes reading books fantastic. Their website can be found here <https://www.bdadyslexia.org.uk/>

There are also lots of apps and websites to support children with their maths and English.

Supporting children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH):

Here are some websites which you may find useful to support your child's social, emotional and mental health. This is not an exhaustive list.

<https://www.nhs.uk/every-mind-matters/supporting-others/childrens-mental-health/>

<https://www.youngminds.org.uk/>

Sensory circuits can sometimes help children to regulate their emotions. You can find further information about sensory circuits here, which is provided by the STARS team which is a local group in Leeds

<http://www.starsteam.org.uk/media/Example%20sensory%20circuit%20info%20and%20ideas%20for%20home.pdf>

The Leeds Local Offer

It is a legal requirement that every Local Authority in the country provides a Local Offer which indicates the support available for children and families with special educational needs. Here is the website for The Leeds Local Offer <https://leedslocaloffer.org.uk/#!/directory> .

It is also a legal requirement that every school publishes their SEND Policy and SEND Information Report on their website. You can access these here <https://highfield-primary.co.uk/key-information/send/>