

**Dream Believe Achieve**

# **The Grange School**

## **SEND Information report**

**2021 to 2022**

### **The kinds of Special Educational Needs which are provided for in our school :**

The SEND Code of Practice states that children have special educational needs and disability (SEND) if they have a learning difficulty which calls for a special education provision to be made for them. Provision which is additional to, or different from the support given to children of the same age.

The Grange School supports children with a variety of SEND, within each of the four broad areas of need, these are :

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Physical and / or sensory needs

Support for children with SEND is implemented with “waves of intervention”, Quality First Teaching as the first wave, followed by the second wave of small group intensive intervention led by a qualified teacher or HLTA and a third wave of intervention which draws on specialist additional support, involving the support of external agencies.

In admitting pupils with special educational needs we would expect to have informative discussions with both the pupil's family and the local authority to ascertain the suitability of our provision. We understand that it is initially our responsibility to make provision for a pupil with special educational needs through the school's devolved SEN budget. Thereafter we are aware of the process of applying for High Needs Funding if the pupil's and the school's needs make that a necessity. As a mainstream school, it would clearly be difficult for us to make provision for pupils whose needs and/or demands are significant, severe or profound – to the extent that it could be argued that they would be most appropriately placed in a special school. However, we do not rule this out and would make a careful assessment of the needs of each pupil in constructive conversation with other agencies.

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

- Our school's policies for identifying children and young people with SEND and assessing their needs
- Our school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing children and young people's progress towards outcomes.
- Our approach to teaching children and young people with SEND
- How adaptations are made to the curriculum and learning environment of children and young people with SEN
- How our school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for children and young people with SEN.

In agreeing our 'waves of intervention', the school has taken into account the following statements and definitions :

*"Defining achievement in terms of the number of targets on an individual education plan achieved across a given time rarely ensured rigorous evaluation of provision or pupils' progress. What made the difference to higher outcomes was effective target-setting within the curriculum or personalised programme as part of a whole-school policy on assessment."*

***'Inclusion: does it matter where pupils are taught?' (Ofsted, 2006a)***

*"High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will meet the individual needs of the majority of children and young people. Some children and young people need educational provision that is additional to or different from this. This is special educational provision under Section 21 of the Children and Families Act 2014. "*

***SEN Code Of Practice (2014 : Para 1.24)***

*This is not necessarily "more literacy" or "more maths" but would be interventions which address the underlying learning needs of the pupil in order to improve his or her access to the curriculum."*

***"Achievement for All" (National Strategies : 2009)***

*Across all the education providers visited, the keys to good outcomes were good teaching and learning, close tracking, rigorous monitoring of progress with intervention quickly put in place, and a thorough evaluation of the impact of additional provision.*

***Ofsted SEN Review 2010***

*"Ensuring that schools are clear about their provision that is normally available for all children, including targeted help routinely provided for those falling behind and the additional provision they make for those with SEN, should simplify the process of planning the right help at school level" (p68)*

***SEN Code of Practice 2014***

## Wave 1 intervention

Well-differentiated, quality first teaching, including, where appropriate, the use of small group interventions. All vulnerable learners to be included on a whole-school provision map.

- All learners will have access to quality first teaching.
- Some vulnerable learners will have access to carefully differentiated activities or approaches directly related to the school curriculum which are part of our good practice in making teaching and learning accessible to pupils learning at different rates. These will probably be pupils who are underachieving and have been identified by the school as needing to make accelerated progress but will not necessarily be pupils with special educational needs. This is considered to be a differentiation of the usual school curriculum – not a special intervention for pupils with SEN.
- All vulnerable learners will be included on a detailed whole-school provision map which outlines and monitors all additional intervention across the school following a graduated, ‘assess, plan, do and review’ cycle. The whole school provision map enables the school to:
  - Plan strategically to meet pupils’ identified needs and track their provision.
  - Audit how well provision matches need
  - Recognise gaps in provision
  - Highlight repetitive or ineffective use of resources
  - Cost provision effectively
  - Demonstrate accountability for financial efficiency
  - Demonstrate to all staff how support is deployed
  - Inform parents, LEA, external agencies and Ofsted about resource deployment
  - Focus attention on whole-school issues of learning and teaching as well as individual needs, providing an important tool for self-evaluation.

## Identification and Assessment at Wave 1

Children’s needs should be identified and met as early as possible through :

- the analysis of data including entry profiles, Foundation Stage Profile scores, “A Language in Common” assessment, reading ages, other whole-school pupil progress data
- classroom-based assessment and monitoring arrangements. (Cycle of planning, action and review.)
- following up parental concerns
- tracking individual children’s progress over time,
- liaison with feeder nurseries on transfer
- information from previous schools
- information from other services
- maintaining a provision map for all vulnerable learners but which clearly identifies pupils receiving additional SEN Support from the school’s devolved budget or in receipt of High Needs funding. This provision map is updated termly through meetings between the teachers and SENCO.
- Undertaking, when necessary, a more in depth individual assessment - this may include a range of commercially available assessments, carefully chosen to deliver appropriate, useful information on a pupil’s needs. It may include a bilingual assessment where English is not the first language.
- Involving an external agency where it is suspected that a special educational need is significant.

## Curriculum Access and Provision for vulnerable learners

Where children are underachieving and/or identified as having special educational needs, the school provides for these additional needs in a variety of ways and might use a combination of these approaches to address targets identified for individual pupils.

- teachers differentiate work as part of quality first teaching
- small group withdrawal time (limited and carefully monitored to ensure curriculum entitlement is not compromised)
- individual class support / individual withdrawal
- bilingual support/access to materials in translation
- further differentiation of resources,
- study buddies/cross age tutors
- homework/learning support club
- ILP tutorials

## Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of our provision for vulnerable learners is carried out in the following ways:

- classroom observation by the SENCO, ELSA and/or senior leaders.
- ongoing assessment of progress made by intervention groups
- work sampling on a termly basis.
- scrutiny of planning.
- teacher interviews with the SENDCO
- informal feedback from all staff.
- pupil interviews when setting new IEP targets or reviewing existing targets
- pupil progress tracking using assessment data (whole-school processes)
- monitoring ILPs and ILP targets, evaluating the impact of ILPs on pupils' progress.
- attendance records and liaison with the Education Entitlement Service.
- regular meetings about pupils' progress between the SENCO and the Headteacher
- Headteacher's report to parents and governors

## Wave 2 intervention

### Additional SEN Support

- Pupils will be offered additional SEN support when it is clear that their needs require intervention which is "additional to" or "different from" the well-differentiated curriculum offered for all pupils in the school i.e. they have a special educational need as defined by the SEN Code of Practice 2014.
- Underachieving pupils and pupils with EAL who do not have SEN will **not** be placed on the list of pupils being offered additional SEN support (but will be on the school's provision map).
- In keeping with all vulnerable learners, intervention for pupils on the SEN list will be identified and tracked using the whole-school provision map.

- It may be decided that a very small number (but not all) of the pupils on the SEND register will require additional High Needs funding, for which an application needs to be made to the Local Authority, to ensure their underlying special educational need is being addressed. This may particularly be the case where outside agencies have been involved in assessing the pupil or contributing to their provision. Where the school can evidence that more than £6,000 above the Average Weighted Pupil Unit has, or will need to be, spent on a pupil within any one financial year, in order to meet his or her special educational needs, an application will be made to the Local Authority, with particular regard to the success criteria and SEN Descriptors published as part of the Local Offer.
- Where a pupil has a significant, severe and sustained need, it may be necessary to enter a multi-disciplinary assessment process with health and social care in order to consider the need for an Education Health and Care Plan.
- Where a pupil is in receipt of High Needs Funding and/or an Education Health and Care Plan, a decision will be made as to whether a short-term Individual Education Plan is required.
- Our approach to ILPs, which we recognise are no longer prescribed in the SEN Code of Practice 2014, is as follows:
  - Our ILPs are a planning, teaching and reviewing tool which enables us to focus on particular areas of development for pupils with special educational needs. They are seen as working documents which can be constantly refined and amended.
  - Our ILPs will only record that which is *additional to* or *different from* the differentiated curriculum plan which is in place as part of provision for all children. Targets will address the underlying reasons why a pupil is having difficulty with learning – they will not simply be “more literacy” or “more maths”.
  - Our ILPs will be accessible to all those involved in their implementation – pupils should have an understanding and “ownership of the targets”.
  - Our ILPs will be based on informed assessment and will include the input of outside agencies.
  - Our ILPs have been devised so that they are manageable and easily monitored and therefore will be monitored and evaluated regularly.
  - Our ILPs will be time-limited – at (at least) termly review, there will be an agreed “where to next?”
  - Our ILPs will have a maximum of three short / medium term SMART targets set for or by the pupil.
  - Our ILPs will specify how often the target(s) will be covered
  - Our ILPs will state what the learner is going to learn – not what the teacher is going to teach and will be clear about what the pupil should be able to do at the end of the given period.
  - Targets for an ILP will be arrived at through :
    - Discussion between teacher and SENCO
    - Discussion, wherever possible, with parents/carers and pupil
    - Discussion with another professional
 (after long discussion it has been decided not to prescribe an order of events - the precise order for this will vary from pupil to pupil).
  - Our ILPs will be reviewed at least termly by class teachers in consultation with the SENCO.

### Wave 3 Intervention

#### Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan

- Pupils with a statement of educational needs (pre September 2014) or an Education Health and Care Plan (post September 2014) will have access to all arrangements for pupils on the SEN list (above) and, in addition to this, will have an Annual Review of their statement/plan.
- Our school will comply with all local arrangements and procedures when applying for
  - High Needs Block Funding
  - An Education Health and Care Planand will ensure that all prerequisites for application have been met through ambitious and pro-active additional SEN Support using our devolved budget at an earlier stage.
- Our review procedures fully comply with those recommended in Section 6.15 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and with local NCC policy and guidance - particularly with regard to the timescales set out within the process.

### Roles and Responsibilities

#### Headteacher

- The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of all pupils and for making strategic decisions which will maximise their opportunity to learn
- The Headteacher and the governing body will delegate the day to day implementation of this policy to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)
- The Headteacher will be informed of the progress of all vulnerable learners and any issues with regard to the school's provision in this regard through:
  - analysis of the whole-school pupil progress tracking system
  - maintenance and analysis of a whole-school provision map for vulnerable learners (could be devolved to another member of the SLT and SENCO)
  - pupil progress meetings with individual teachers
  - regular meetings with the SENCO
  - discussions and consultations with pupils and parents

#### Special Educational Needs Coordinator

The Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENDCO) has designated responsibility for coordinating all of the support for children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND)

The school SENDCO is Mrs Laura Phillips and can be contacted via the school office: Tel: 01327 705785 or via email: [mrs.phillips@thegrangeschooldaventry.net](mailto:mrs.phillips@thegrangeschooldaventry.net).

The designated Inclusion Governor is Dr Gina Rippon and she can be contacted via email: [drg.rippon@thegrangeschooldaventry.net](mailto:drg.rippon@thegrangeschooldaventry.net)

In line with the recommendations in the SEN Code of Practice 2014, the SENDCO will oversee the day-to-day operation of this policy in the following ways:

- Maintenance and analysis of whole-school provision map for vulnerable learners
- Identifying on the school's provision map a staged list of pupils with special educational needs – those in receipt of additional SEN support from the schools devolved budget, those in receipt of High Needs funding and those with statements of Special Educational Need or Education Health and Care plans
- Coordinating provision for children with special educational needs
- Liaising with and advising teachers
- Managing other classroom staff involved in supporting vulnerable learners
- Overseeing the records on all children with Special Educational Needs
- Contributing to the in-service training of staff
- Implementing a programme of Annual Review for all pupils with a statement of special educational need, complying with requests from an Education Health and Care Plan Coordinator to participate in a review.
- Carrying out referral procedures to the Local Authority to request High Needs funding and/or an Education Health and Care Plan when it is suspected, on strong evidence arising from previous intervention (additional SEN support from devolved budget), that a pupil may have a special educational need which will require significant support
- Overseeing the smooth running of transition arrangements and transfer of information for Year 6 pupils on the vulnerable learners' provision map
- Monitoring the school's system for ensuring that Individual Learning Plans, where it is agreed they will be useful for a pupil with special educational needs, have a high profile in the classroom and with pupils (see section below on Individual Learning Plans)
- Evaluating regularly the impact and effectiveness of all additional interventions for all vulnerable learners (including those with special educational needs)
- Meeting **at least** termly with each teacher to review and revise learning objectives for all vulnerable learners in their class who are being tracked on the school's provision map (school managers will guarantee planning and preparation time for teachers and SENDCO to ensure that these meetings occur).
- Liaising and consulting sensitively with parents and families of pupils on the SEN register, keeping them informed of progress and listening to their views of progress, in conjunction with class teachers
- Attending area SENCO network meetings and training as appropriate.
- Liaising with the school's Inclusion Governor, keeping him/her informed of current issues regarding provision for vulnerable learners, including those with Special Educational Needs (nationally, locally and within school)
- Liaising closely with a range of outside agencies to support vulnerable learners.

### **Class teacher**

- Liaising with the SENDCO to agree :
  - o which pupils in the class are vulnerable learners
  - o which pupils are underachieving and need to have their additional interventions monitored on a vulnerable learners' provision map – but do not have special educational needs.
  - o which pupils (also on the provision map) require additional support because of a special educational need and need to go on the school's SEN list. Some of these pupils may require advice/support from an outside professional and, therefore, an Individual Education Plan to address a special educational need (this would include pupils with statements/EHC Plans)
- Securing good provision and good outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners by :
  - o providing differentiated teaching and learning opportunities, including differentiated work for EAL pupils which reduces linguistic difficulty whilst maintaining cognitive challenge



- o ensuring there is adequate opportunity for pupils with special educational needs to work on agreed targets which are genuinely “additional to” or “different from” those normally provided as part of the differentiated curriculum offer and strategies”. (SEN Code of Practice 2013)
- Ensuring effective deployment of resources – including teaching assistant support - to maximise outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners.

### **Assessing and Reviewing pupils’ progress and the effectiveness of our educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs**

- Depending upon the wave of support as outlined above, the progress of our pupils will be assessed and reviewed through
  - o The school’s generic processes for tracking the progress of all pupils, this includes pupil progress meeting 3 times a year with school leaders and class teachers
  - o Half termly evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions on the provision map (in relation to the progress of each pupil)
  - o At least half termly evaluation of whether pupils in receipt of High Needs Funding and/or with Education Health and Care Plans are meeting their individual targets which have been written to address their underlying special educational need.
  - o Annual review of Statements/Education Health and Care Plans are prescribed in the SEND Code of Practice (September 2014)

### **SEN INFORMATION REPORT**

How children and young people with SEN are enabled to engage in activities available with children and young people in the school who do not have SEN

- As an inclusive school, we do everything we can to ensure that pupils of all abilities and needs are fully included in the life of the school.
- Where appropriate and legitimate, we endeavour to provide different ways for all learners to access the same learning experience. In some cases, in order to meet the child’s needs, we may deliver the curriculum in a range of different ways to ensure that all pupils make appropriate progress.
- Our deployment of additional staffing and resources funded from our devolved additional needs budget through the Local Offer, ensure that all curriculum experiences are available to all pupils in the school (eg educational visits, extra-curricular activities), particularly where a voluntary financial contribution from parents is required for the activity to run. This is in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.
- All lesson planning seeks to address the learning needs of all pupils in the class. Teachers receive regular training and support to ensure they are skilled in differentiating the curriculum for vulnerable learners. When subject coordinators monitor planning, work and progress data and when they or senior leaders carry out observations of teaching and learning in classrooms, particular attention is given to whether the ongoing learning offer is inclusive.
- Pupils are encouraged to analyse how they themselves learn and there is an ongoing dialogue about this in our classroom. Pupils are given the opportunity and support to develop self-help strategies to ensure their full access to the curriculum.



## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

Support for improving emotional and social development, including extra pastoral arrangements for listening to the views of children and young people with SEN and measures to prevent bullying

The school employs a full time Wellbeing Manager (Janice Hennessy) and a full time Emotional Literacy Support Assistant - ELSA (Nicole Jenner) who provide support to both pupils and parents. All pupils, including those with Special Educational Needs, have access to a wide range of pastoral care arrangements, including: access to the schools PSHE programme, Bereavement counselling, Time to talk, Drawing and Talking, Meet & Greet and 'Please can I talk to you cards.' Additional arrangements are put in place as and when needed.

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and about how specialist expertise will be secured.

In accordance with Section 6 of the SEN Code of Practice 2014, if appointed after September 2008, our Special Educational Needs Coordinator will be a qualified teacher working at our school and will have statutory accreditation. If a new SENCO is appointed, he/she will gain statutory accreditation within three years of appointment.

- All staff will be trained in how to best support all vulnerable learners in order to maximise their achievement as part of the school development plan and annual schedule of continuous professional development. Specific training needs will be identified and met through the appraisal/performance management process.
- Specialist advice and expertise in relation to assessment and support of individual pupils will be commissioned by the school from the open market, accessing, as far as possible, services available as part of the Local Offer. Service level agreements and quality assurance criteria will be put in place at the point of commissioning and the headteacher and senior leaders will be responsible for reporting to governors on the efficacy of these arrangements (including value for money). Our school will, wherever possible, join with other schools in joint commissioning and quality assurance arrangements.
- All staffing appointments to support vulnerable learners will be carried out in accordance with equal opportunities legislation, employment law, safer recruitment policy and best practice. All vacancies will be competitively advertised to ensure our school employs staff of the highest calibre.

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured.

- When specialist equipment or a high level of staffing support is required to support a pupil with special educational needs, our school will fund this as additional SEN support up to £6,000 per annum for each individual pupil. Thereafter, if the cost is higher and the provision of these facilities is likely to be prolonged, the school will apply to the Local Authority for High Needs Block Funding.
- Specialist equipment and expertise in relation to its use will be purchased/hired/ commissioned by the school from the open market, subject to the usual guarantees, service level agreements and quality assurance criteria. Our school will, wherever possible, join with other schools in joint purchasing/hire of equipment.
- All staffing appointments to support vulnerable learners will be carried out in accordance with equal opportunities legislation, employment law, safer recruitment policy and best practice. All vacancies will be competitively advertised and recruited.

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

Arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs and involving them in their child's education

Arrangements for consulting young people with SEN and involving them in their education

## Partnership with Parents/Carers

The school aims to work in partnership with parents and carers. We do so by:

- Working effectively with all other agencies supporting children and their parents
- Giving parents and carers opportunities to play an active and valued role in their child's education
- making parents and carers feel welcome
- Encouraging parents and carers to inform school of any difficulties they perceive their child may be having or other needs the child may have which need addressing
- Instilling confidence that the school will listen and act appropriately
- Focusing on the child's strengths as well as areas of additional need
- Allowing parents and carers opportunities to discuss ways in which they and the school can help their child
- Agreeing targets for all pupils, in particular, those not making expected progress and, for some pupils identified as having special educational needs, involving parents in the drawing-up and monitoring progress against these targets
- Keeping parents and carers informed and giving support during assessment and any related decision-making process
- Making parents and carers aware of the Parent Partnership services available as part of the Local Offer.
- Providing all information in an accessible way, including, where necessary, translated information for parents with English as an Additional Language.

## Involvement of Pupils

We recognise that all pupils have the right to be involved in making decisions and exercising choice. In most lessons, all pupils are involved in monitoring and reviewing their progress through the use of layered targets. We endeavour to fully involve all pupils by encouraging them to:

- State their views and wishes about their education and learning
- Identify their own needs and learn about learning
- Share in individual target setting across the curriculum **so that they know what their targets are and why they have them,**
- Self-review their progress and set new targets

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

How our school involves other bodies, including health and social care bodies, local authority support services and voluntary sector organisations in meeting children and young people's special educational needs and supporting their families

- Our school will identify sources of support as they develop and evolve as the Local Offer is defined through Education, Health and Social Care (including the establishment of joint commissioning arrangements).
- We seek to respond quickly to emerging need and work closely with other agencies including :
  - o Early Help team
  - o CAMHS
  - o Educational Psychology Service
  - o Northamptonshire Parent Partnership Service
  - o NCC Sensory Impairment team
  - o Local NHS services
  - o Targeted Prevention Team
  - o Educational Inclusion Partnership Team (EIPT)
  - o Early Years SEN support service (Inc Portage team)
  - o Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub
- In accordance with the SEND Code of practice 2014 we invite all relevant agencies to annual review meetings, transition meetings and specific provision planning meetings involving pupils with special educational needs in our school. For pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans, we comply fully with requests from independent facilitators to provide information and cooperate fully with other agencies.
- Often at the request of families, we liaise with voluntary bodies in order to be as familiar as possible with best practice when the special educational needs of a pupil are very specific (eg autism, visual impairment etc).
- We have a clear point of contact within the school who will coordinate the support from outside agencies for each pupil. Most often this will be the SENDCo or Designated Teacher for LAC, but in some cases it can be another member of staff who we have identified as a key worker.

## **SEN INFORMATION REPORT**

Arrangements for supporting children and young people in moving between phases of education and preparing for adulthood (effective transition)

- We will ensure a smooth transition into our school from the previous phase of education and from our school into the next phase of education.
- We will ensure early and timely planning for transfer to a pupil's next phase of education and, in the year before the year in which they leave, will offer transition meetings to all pupils in receipt of Additional SEN support and all those with statements of Special Educational Needs. Pupils with Education Health and Care Plans will have next phase destinations and transition arrangements discussed at plan review meetings convened by the plan coordinator.
- A transition timeline will be produced, with specific responsibilities identified.
- Support for the pupil in coming to terms with moving on will be carefully planned and will include familiarisation visits and counselling. Pupils will be included in all "class transition days" to the next phase but may also be offered additional transition visits.
- Pupils and parents will be encouraged to consider all options for the next phase of education and the school will involve outside agencies, as appropriate, to ensure information is comprehensive but easily accessible and understandable. Accompanied visits to other providers may be arranged as appropriate.
- Parents will be given a reliable named contact at the next phase provider with whom the SENCo will liaise i.e. primary to secondary phase.

## **Admission Arrangements**

No child will be refused admission to school on the basis of his or her special educational need, ethnicity or language need. In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we will not discriminate against disabled children and we will take all reasonable steps to provide effective educational provision (*see Admission policy for the school, as agreed with the Local Authority*)

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

Arrangements made by the governing body or the proprietor relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school.

## Complaints

If there are any complaints relating to the provision for children with SEN, these will be dealt with in the first instance by the class teacher and SENDCO, then, if unresolved, by the Headteacher. The governor with specific responsibility for SEN/inclusion may be involved if necessary. In the case of an unresolved complaint the issue should be taken through the general Governors complaints procedure (see separate Complaints Policy)

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs, including those for arrangements made in accordance with clause 32.

*(Please refer to our school's Safeguarding Policy for details of how we access the CAF team and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub)*

## Links with Other Services

Effective working links will also be maintained with:

Educational Psychology Service

[Northamptonshire Educational Psychology Service \(EPS\) updates - Coronavirus](#)

Educational Inclusion & Partnership Team (EIP)

[Educational Inclusion & Partnership Team \(EIP\) - Children, families and education](#)

Information Advice Support Service (IASS)

<https://www.iassnorthants.co.uk/Pages/home.aspx>

Virtual School for Looked After Children : Contact number : 01604 365912

<https://www.westnorthants.gov.uk/virtual-school>

## SEN INFORMATION REPORT

Information on where the local authority's local offer is published.

[Local Offer](#)

## Inclusion of pupils who are Looked After in Local Authority Care

Our school recognises that :

- Children who are looked after in local authority care have the same rights as all children but may have additional needs due to attachment issues, early neglect, separation and loss, trauma and many placement moves. These barriers to learning can affect their educational outcomes and their personal, social and emotional development.
- There are commonly understood reasons (Social Exclusion Unit Report :2003] why children who are looked after in local authority care often fail to make expected progress at school :
  - o Placement instability
  - o Unsatisfactory educational experiences of many carers
  - o Too much time out of school
  - o Insufficient help if they fall behind
  - o Unmet needs - emotional, mental, physical

There is a statutory requirement for all schools to have a Designated Teacher (DT) for looked after children. The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children is Laura Phillips. The responsibilities of our Designated Teacher include:

- Monitoring the progress of children who are 'looked after' to ensure that they have the best life chances possible and access to the full range of opportunities in school
- Ensuring that children who are 'looked after' have access to the appropriate network of support
- Checking that the statutory Personal Education Plan (PEP) has been arranged and that it is regularly reviewed, at least every six months
- Ensuring that information concerning the education of children who are 'looked after' is transferred between agencies and individuals
- Preparing a report on the child's educational progress to contribute towards the statutory review. (These are usually held at six monthly intervals or more frequently if there is a concern)
- Discussing feedback from the statutory review (chaired by the Independent Reviewing Officer) with social workers and, where necessary, the carers and a member of the Virtual School team.
- Liaising with the child's social worker to ensure that there is effective communication at all times
- Celebrating the child's successes and acknowledging the progress they are making.

Our school will work closely with the West Northamptonshire's Virtual School (VS) for Children, which promotes the educational needs of Looked After Children and monitors admissions, PEP completion, attendance & exclusions.