

## The Special Support Centre at London Meed CP School for children with speech and language difficulties

The Special Support Centre (SSC) at London Meed School is a 9 place centre for children with Statements of Special Educational Needs (SEN) or Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) who have severe speech and language difficulties as their primary need. They may also have additional physical, medical, cognitive and social and emotional needs. They will mainly come from the local area and may also use the School Transport Service.

Children at London Meed SSC receive a curriculum differentiated and modified in pace, content and delivery, as appropriate for a child who has a speech and language disorder, within a communication friendly environment. It is delivered by specialist teachers experienced in speech and language impairments along with specialist support staff. The children access enhanced speech and language therapy with trained staff. Specialist interventions and resources are put in place to meet the needs of individual children. They will access mainstream lessons and activities, playtimes and other social aspects of school life including school clubs and trips where appropriate. Children from the SSC are fully represented in the school e.g. on the school council.

Staff work closely with parents, outside agencies, mainstream staff and peers to ensure that children's needs are met and a balance is achieved that secures the social and emotional well being of the children as well as academic progress. Parents and staff communicate via a home/school contact book as well as the usual channels of talking in person or by phone, or by email.

Children may come into the SSC at any time in their Primary Education, usually following the issue of a Statement or EHCP or following an Annual Review when it has been mutually agreed between parents and professionals that the placement would be a suitable one. A full consultation is held between the Local Authority, SSC staff, the Assistant Head teacher and/or governors of the school. Children who come into the SSC are there to access the specialist approach that is provided.

When an Annual Review is held, the suitability of placement is always reviewed. Sometimes a child might move to a mainstream placement at their local school with support, others may need to access the even more specialised environment of a special school.

The children who continue their education in the SSC to Y6 may then transfer to local secondary schools with support, secondary SSCs or Special Schools. The Local Authority provides guidance but in general this is down to parental preference. Staff work closely with parents and children to support any transition process that takes place either to or from the SSC. This includes supported visits to the SSC or the setting that the child is moving from or to, liaison with parents and key staff from the setting, attendance at Annual Reviews, the preparation of materials e.g. photos for transition booklets and transition group work with peers.

The SSC is wheelchair accessible. Staff work closely with the Sensory Needs service to make adaptations for any hearing or visually impaired pupils.