



SEN INFORMATION REPORT FOR PARENTS 2020 - 2021

Special Needs Coordinator: Tamsin Corline
(tcorline@olota.uk or 01803 613095)

SEN Governor: Angie Baldwin (contact via
office 01803 613095)

What support does Our Lady of the Angels offer for our children's well-being?

We have adopted the Thrive approach at Our Lady's, through which we assess, develop and review children's emotional well-being. Sometimes children with similar needs work in a small group (postponed due to COVID) sometimes they work 1:1 with our Thrive practitioner.

We are also an Attachment Aware school and have two trained practitioners who specialise in dealing with issues arising from Attachment disorders.

We are supported by our Educational Psychologist as well as Behavioural Support from Chestnut Outreach, the school nurse team and CAMHs (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Team).

We have a new outdoor sensory zone that the children can use at break times. We usually offer a lunch club for children who struggle in the playground, this is temporarily postponed due to the risk of cross infection from COVID.

What specialist services and expertise are accessed by Our Lady of the Angels?

Educational Psychologist

SEN Advisory Team

Chestnut behaviour outreach

Eden Park ASC outreach

Speech and Language Therapy

Child & Adolescent Mental Health(CAMHs)

Visual & Hearing Impairment Advisory Teachers

What training have the staff at Our Lady of the Angels had to support your child?

We work closely with specialists who train, guide and advise us, so we can deliver the best support for children with SEND.

Recent training includes:

- Whole school Attachment Awareness
- Supporting children with slow processing and working memory
- Delivering precision teaching
- Scaffolding support for SEN children and encouraging independence (delivered by Educational Psychologist)
- Speech & Language levels training and colourful semantics
- Makaton trained staff member
- Epilepsy Awareness
- Two fully trained Thrive and Attachment Aware members of staff

SEN Core Progression Steps

At Our Lady's we recognise that children with SEN may need to take small steps in their learning, and this can sometimes appear as if they are making no progress compared to their peers.

We aim to ensure that the children with SEN do not have gaps in their learning but rather build upon skills in a methodical way.

We have created a 'functional skills' type programme which focusses on Speech and Language, Reading, Writing and Maths. We have broken down the curriculum in these areas into small steps, focusing on what the children will need to learn to gain the life skills they will need for success in the future.

How accessible is Our Lady of the Angels?

The outdoor space is accessible with our pathway down to the playing field just replaced to make safer for wheel chair access.

The school is spread over two floors, however there is a lift with plenty of space for a large wheelchair.

There are stairs to the main hall accessed by wheelchair users using the stair lift.

How are parents involved in the education of their child?

All parents are encouraged to be involved in their child's education. Working in partnership always has the greatest impact on a child's progress.

If required, teachers may set up a home/school communication book and ask for support in hearing your child read and completing homework or specific work towards individual targets.

Parents of children who have an Education Health Care Plan meet with the SENCO each term to discuss their child's needs and next steps and children on the SEN register have the opportunity to meet with the SENCO as well as their child's teacher on parents' evenings.

How are your child's views taken into account?

- Our Lady's has a Learning Council made up of children who have a particular learning need, they are able to share their own issues and those of others (currently postponed to prevent cross infection - children being asked individually)
- Children are involved in target setting and reviewing the success of their work. Teachers give verbal feedback and have pupil/teacher conferencing so that children are aware of what they need to do to move on in their learning.
- Children with EHC plans are involved in setting targets and invited to attend annual reviews to discuss their learning.

What steps should be taken if you have concerns about your child's provision?

If you are concerned about your child's provision, please talk to us directly. Talk to your child's teacher in the first instance, they may direct you to the SENCO.

Most issues can be dealt with appropriately with good communication but should you wish to make a complaint please see the complaints policy on the website.

The SEN Governor is Angie Baldwin, who can be contacted via the school office.

Where can I get further information?

The Local Authority provides information for parents who have a child with additional needs here:

Torbay SEN <https://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/send/>

If you feel your child requires extra support in school and you and/ or the school wish to apply for an Education Health Care Plan you will find guidance criteria here:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/send/statutory-assessments/>

SENDIASS provide information, advice and support for young people & parents/carers of children with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 0-25. <http://sendiasstorbay.org.uk/>

How will Our Lady of the Angels prepare and support your child join the school or transfer to a new school?

When a child starts in reception class we arrange to meet with you so that you have the opportunity to tell us all we need to know. If need be your child will be added to the SEN register and an Individual Learning Plan will be drawn up during the first half term if they do not have one already from their pre-school setting.

In Key Stage 2 if your child needs a specialist school or has an EHCP we start planning for that in Year 5 so that the transition is as smooth as possible.

We liaise closely with both pre-school and secondary school settings.

If a child joins us mid-way through their school career we do our best to get as much information as possible from the previous setting so that no time is wasted in setting up the correct provision for your child.

What is the Torbay Local Offer?

The local authority are required by the Government to set out and publish a 'Local Offer'. It provides clear accessible information about services available in the area, for parents and young people.

The local offer:

- Provides information on provision from birth to 25 across education, health and social care
- Makes clear the options that are available at a community level right through to specialist and targeted services for children and young people with more complex needs.

If you would like further information go to:

<https://www.torbay.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/send/local-offer/>