

Commonly asked questions by parents of students needing SEN support

1. How does Preston know if children/young people need extra help and what should I do if I think my child/young person may have special educational needs (SEN)?

All students' progress and attainment is monitored and reviewed 6 weekly.

If a student fails to make expected progress they will be raised at Pupil Progress review meetings and may be referred to the SENCO for assessment.

Parents can contact the students Learning Manager or SENCO with any concerns that they have.

2. How will Preston staff support my child/young person?

Learning Managers oversee all students' progress and achievement. Learning Managers work collaboratively with the SENCO when a student is identified as needing SEN support.

Preston School provides a range of interventions; please see [SEN Support Provision Overview](#) for more information.

3. How will the curriculum be matched to my child's / young person's needs?

Preston school is a fully inclusive school where all staff will differentiate to ensure all students needs and abilities are addressed. This enables all students to make at least nationally expected progress.

For some students with a High Level of SEN support it is appropriate that these students have a modified curriculum provision. Any curriculum modifications are made as a result of consultation with SENCO, Learning Manager, Professional Support Services and Parents.

4. How will I know how my child/young person is doing and how will you help me to support my child's /young person's learning?

Parents receive 6 weekly progress reports to update them on their son/daughters learning. In addition to this a number of parents evenings are held throughout the year.

If parents have specific concerns about their son/daughters progress in a subject area they are invited to make an appointment to discuss this with the subject teacher. Where the concerns are across 2 or more subjects the parents initial point of contact should be the Learning Manager.

Annual Review meetings take place for all students in receipt of 'top up funding'.

The SENCO is available at all parents evenings to meet with parents.

5. What support will there be for my child's/young person's overall wellbeing?

The support staffing structure at Preston School includes:-

- SENCO – Mrs Helen Cullen
- Student Medical and Welfare Manager – Mrs Ann Lambert
- Student Support Officers – Mrs Phillips, Mrs Van Hagen
- Behaviour and Inclusion Support Worker – Mrs Clements

In addition to this all students have an Academic Mentor and Learning Manager who support their emotional, social and academic wellbeing.

6. What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

Preston School will access the specialist Support Services provided by the Local Authority.

In addition to this and to support our commitment to ensuring students with SEN support are making good progress we employ a private Educational Psychologist and Speech and Language Therapist to increase the capacity available to meet the needs of our students.

Specialist services on site also include:-

Ann Lambert, who is a qualified nurse, Clare Wilson our Parent Family Support Advisor and 2 school counsellors.

7. What training have the staff supporting children and young people either SEN and disabilities had or are having?

SEN training is at the heart of the schools ongoing professional development programme. This includes in-house training and training run by external providers

2013/14 workshops included:-

Safeguarding
How to support Basic Physics and Biology Practicals – for TAs & LSAs
Making the Most of your Teaching Assistants
How to support Basic Chemistry Practicals – for TAs & LSAs
Behaviour Management & Practical Tips on dealing with our high tariff students
Catering for Students with Hearing & Visual Impairments
SEN, Differentiation, Attendance and Links with Home
Student Specific training
e-safety training
Making the Most of your Teaching Assistants & how to cater for EAL students.
Moderating KS3 work at P Scales & NC Levels 1-3 in English
Nessy Training for TAs – Spelling Programme Training
Dyslexia Friendly Teaching
Vital Exams Information & Administration for Subject Leaders
Strategies to support students with Autism/on the Spectrum
Attachment Workshop
Working Memory Workshop

8. How will my child/young person be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

All students are included in all activities and offered equal opportunities to engage in school trips.

Students with SEN support will have appropriate planning and support in place to ensure they can access trips.

9. How accessible is the school environment?

Preston is considered an accessible school site. We have 3 wheelchair users (2013/14). The site provides disabled toilet facilities and changing.

Where translators are needed for meetings, Preston will endeavour to facilitate this.

10. How will the school prepare and support my child/young person to join the school, transfer to a new school or the next stage of education and life?

Careers South West provide independent individual careers advice and guidance for all students. They work with students in small groups and on a 1:1 basis.

The SENCO ensures there is appropriate transition planning and liaison when students move from Preston to the next stage in their education.

11. How are the schools resources allocated and matched to children's/young people's special educational needs?

Preston Schools SEN budget provides resources for students who are identified as needing SEN support. This budget facilitates staffing and other resources. To support students' progress and learning in Maths and English an additional Maths and English teacher has been deployed to overstaff classes with a large number of students needing SEN support.

12. How is the decision made about what type and how much support my child/young person will receive?

Students' level of support and what type of support and provision they require is reviewed 6 weekly aligned to both their progress and achievement. This decision process involves key stake holders including:-

- SENCO
- Learning Manager
- Class Teacher

If it is felt that a student would benefit from additional support parents will be consulted in writing prior to the intervention starting.

Parents will receive notification when support and /or intervention is changing and a rationale behind this.

13. Who can I contact for further information?

Your son/daughters Learning Manager is your first point of contact.

If you are a prospective parent please make an appointment with the SENCO through reception on 01935 471131.

