



Preston School

A Business & Enterprise Academy

**Bringing Learning to Life
& Life to Learning.**

SEND Information Report 2025-2026

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SEND Information Report 2025-2026

At Preston School, we believe in **"Excellence for All"**. Our values—**Generosity, Resilience, Endeavour, Ambition, and Teamwork**—guide everything we do. We work closely with parents and families to make sure every child has the best possible opportunities.

We value each student as an individual. We celebrate their strengths, support their learning, and encourage them to be independent and ambitious. We welcome diversity and help students explore, create, and grow.

We believe that working in partnership with parents and young people is key to helping students succeed.

Supporting Students with SEND

When students move from primary to Preston School, we make sure the transition is smooth. We talk to their previous schools and share important information about any special educational needs (SEND). This helps us plan the right support from the start.

We support students with a wide range of needs, including:

- Learning difficulties
- Communication and interaction challenges
- Physical and sensory needs
- Social, emotional, and mental health needs

More Information

Our SEND Information Report explains how we support students with SEND, based on the government's SEND Code of Practice (2014). For more details, please see our SEND Procedure, listed on our website.

How Do We Know If a Student Needs Extra Help?

At Preston School, we check every student's progress regularly. All students complete regular assessments in each subject. Tutors and Year Heads will monitor, students' behaviour, attendance and wellbeing as well as their general progress in school.

We may notice a student needs extra help if:

- Parents, carers, teachers, or the student themselves raise concerns.
- The student is not making the expected progress for their age.
- Their behaviour changes significantly over time.
- These concerns are discussed in regular student review meetings.

What Should I Do If I Think My Child Has Special Educational Needs (SEND)?

If you're worried your child may have SEND, please speak to their teachers, Tutor, Year Head or contact our SEND Coordinator (SENCo). We're here to listen and help.

What Happens Next?

- Teachers may try different ways of supporting your child in class and around school. This is part of our Assess, Plan, Do, Review process, which helps us find what works best.
- We may use the Somerset Graduated Response Tool to help understand your child's needs. This involves working together with you, your child, and school staff to plan the right support.

You can find more information here: What to expect from education (somerset.gov.uk)

[Somerset's Graduated Response Tool](#)

What Happens If My Child Still Needs Help After Support Has Been Tried?

- If your child is still not making progress after going through a full cycle of support (called *Assess, Plan, Do, Review*), their teacher can refer them to the **SEND Coordinator (SENCo)** for further checks.
- The SENCo may then ask for advice or support from outside experts, such as health or education professionals, to help understand your child's needs and find the best way to support them.

Preston School

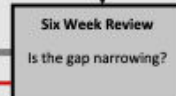
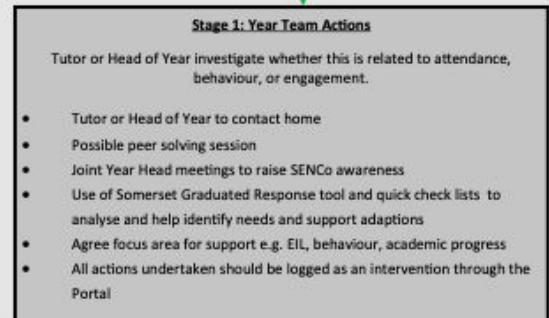
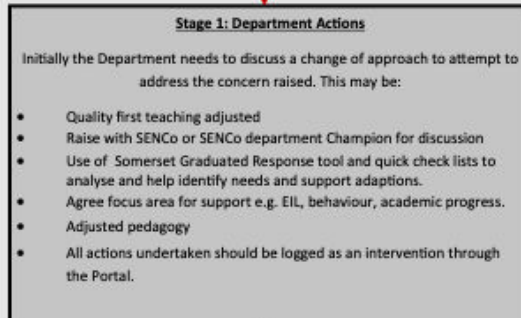
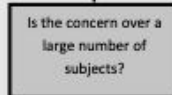
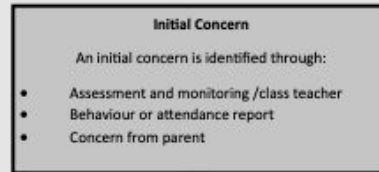
Graduated Response for SEND



Stage One

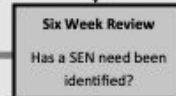
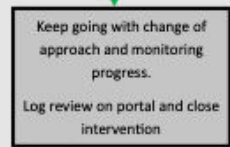
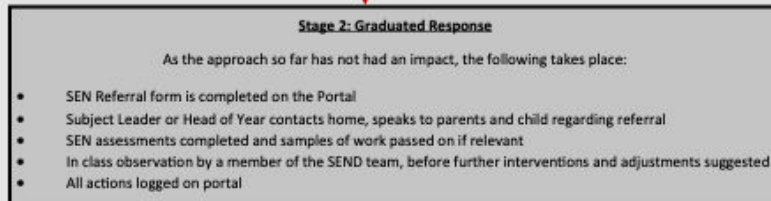
At stage one, there is the start of a concern. Timely intervention at a year team or department level is required to begin to identify a potential SEND need.

Assess, Plan, Do Review



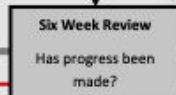
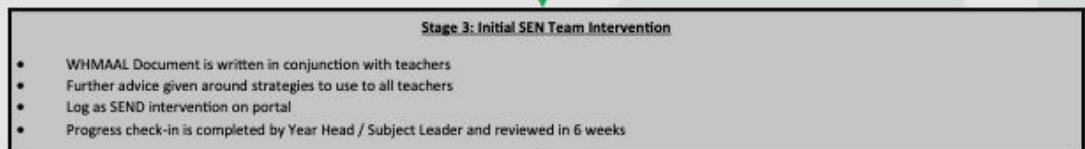
Stage Two

At level two, there is the start of an ongoing concern which may identify a SEND need.



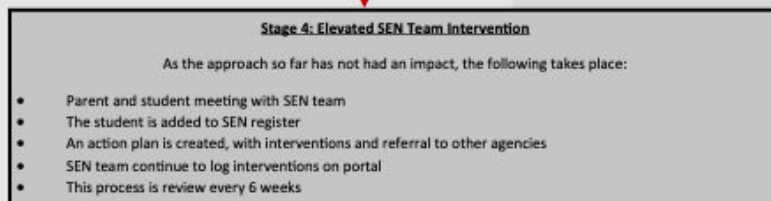
Stage Three

At level three, there is an SEND need identified and a school wide approach to this.



Stage Four

At level four there is a significant SEND need which involves specific interventions with a member of the SEND team.



Who Can I Talk to If I Have Concerns About My Child?

If you're worried about your child's progress, wellbeing, or learning needs, you can speak to:

- Their Tutor
- Head of Year
- Subject Leader
- SEND Support Team
- Deputy SENCo
- SENCo (Special Educational Needs Coordinator)

We take all concerns seriously and will follow a step-by-step approach to find the best support for your child.

If your child is going through a difficult time—such as a family loss or change at home—please talk to our **Pastoral Support Team**, **SENCo/SEMH LEAD**, or **Headteacher**. We're here to help and support your child through any challenges.

How Will Preston Staff Support My Child?

Your child's **Tutor** and **Head of Year** keep a close eye on their progress. If extra help is needed, they work with the **SENCo** and **SEND Support Team** to put support in place.

We offer a range of support programmes and activities. You can find more details in our **SEND Provision Map**, available on our website

How Will the Curriculum Be Adapted for My Child?

Preston School is inclusive. This means we make sure all students can access learning, no matter their needs or abilities.

Teachers use **adaptive teaching**—changing how lessons are taught—to help every student learn in a way that works for them.

Our curriculum is designed to:

- Show what your child will learn at each stage.
- Help them build knowledge and skills over time.
- Support them to become confident, independent learners.

Some students may need extra help or changes to their timetable. For example, in Years 7–9, some students may join our **Step-Up Curriculum**. Any changes are always discussed with parents, the SENCo, and other support staff.

How Will I Know How My Child Is Doing?

You can check your child's progress using the **Parent Portal**, which is updated daily.

We also hold **Parents' Evenings** throughout the year, where you can speak to teachers and the SENCo.

If you have specific concerns, you can:

- Speak to your child's **subject teacher**.
- If the concern is across multiple subjects, contact the **Tutor** or **Head of Year**.

If your child has an **EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)**, you'll be invited to a **Yearly Review Meeting** with the **SENCo** and other professionals involved in your child's support.

What Support Is Available for My Child's Wellbeing?

We have a strong team at Preston School to support your child's emotional, physical, and social wellbeing:

- **SENCo / Senior Mental Health Lead** – Maggie Purton
- **Student Medical and Welfare Manager** – Ann Lambert
- **Behaviour Intervention Officers** – Serena Cambridge, Lyndsey Wrigley-Sothcott, Abbie Dechna, Lisa Shackleton
- **SEND Team Leaders** for:
 - Physical and Sensory Needs – Mandy Collard
 - Social, Emotional and Mental Health – Taya Bray
- **SEND Support Team** – Jake Morgan, Tia Symes, Lora Wood, Louise Oakes, Sally Bradley, Sue Johnson, Andrew Nutall, Emma Johnson, Rosie Baker, Kayliegh Fieldsend, Sarah Smith
- **AEPC Base Lead** – Catherine Saget
- **AEPC Team Leaders** – Sarah Joyce, Daisy Cremen and Tracie Hansford.

Every student also has a **Tutor** and **Head of Year** who support their overall wellbeing and academic progress.

If your child is **Looked After by the Local Authority**, they will receive extra support from our **Welfare Team**, **SEND Team**, **Designated Safeguarding Lead**, and **SENCo**, as appropriate, who will work closely with you and the local authority to make sure your child gets the help they need.

Specialist Services Available at Preston School

Preston School works with a range of specialist services to support students with additional needs. These include:

- The Virtual School
- Educational Psychologist Service
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Occupation Therapists
- The Children with Disabilities Team

To access these services, staff may complete an **Early Help Assessment (EHA)** to make sure your child gets the right support.

As part of the **Midsomer Norton School Partnership (MNSP)**, we also have access to extra specialist help through the trust, which we can bring in to support students with SEND.

We also have expert staff and services on site, including:

- **Ann Lambert** – a qualified nurse and school counsellor
- **Mental Health Support Team (MHST)** – offers mental health support through CBT therapies.
- **School Nurse Team** – runs appointments and drop-in sessions
- **2BU** – provides advice and support for LGBTQ+ students and families

What Is the Albert Einstein Preston Centre (AEPC)?

The **AEPC** is a specialist base within the school for students with autism. Students must have an **EHCP (Education and Health Care Plan)** and a diagnosis of autism to be considered for a place. The local authority and school work together to decide if AEPC is the right fit.

Students in AEPC are part of Preston School and are supported to join regular lessons as much as possible.

Staff Training for SEND Support

Our staff receive regular and continued training to help them support students with SEND. Examples of training included:

- Safeguarding
- Adaptive teaching and differentiation
- Understanding EHCPs
- Autism awareness and communication
- Using the Graduated Response and APDR system
- Exam access arrangements
- Mental health support and emotional coaching
- Physiotherapy and moving/handling
- Intimate care
- ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training
- Supporting students with a range of needs in the classroom
- Colourful semantics
- Read Write Inc Fresh Start

Inclusion in School Activities and Trips

All students, including those with SEND, are included in school trips and activities. Staff work with the SEND team to plan ahead and make any necessary adjustments so every student can take part.

Accessibility of the School Site

Preston School is accessible for students with mobility needs. We have:

- Accessible toilets and changing areas
- A therapy suite
- Support for individual mobility needs

If a translator is needed for meetings, we will do our best to arrange one.

Support During Transitions

We support students during key transitions, such as:

- **Starting Year 7** – We work closely with primary schools to share information and plan support.
- **Moving to college or further education** – We work all local providers and our local colleges to provide careers advice and guidance.
- **Joining Preston mid-year** – You will have an admission meeting, where you can highlight any SEND needs, this will be passed to the SENCo, who will make contact with you. We contact the previous school to make sure your child's learning continues smoothly and that all records of previous support and passed on.

How Are Resources Used to Support Students with SEND?

Preston School has a dedicated **SEND budget** to support students who need extra help. This funds:

- Specialist staff
- Teaching Assistants
- Resources and interventions

We have a large **SEND and Welfare Team** of over 20 staff members who work together to support students.

How Is Support Decided for My Child?

At Preston School, we look at each student's needs carefully to decide what kind of support is right for them.

- Some students need **a little extra help** from their class teacher during the year.
- Others may need **more personalised support**, especially if they have an **Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**.
- Some students may not need extra support but are still monitored closely to make sure they're making progress.

We regularly review the type and amount of support your child receives. This is done by:

- The **SEND Coordinator (SENCo)**
- The **SEND Support Team**
- Your child's **Tutor and Head of Year**
- Their **Class Teachers**
- Your **child themselves**

If we think your child would benefit from extra help, we'll contact you in writing before anything starts.

Every student with SEND has a **"What Helps Me As A Learner"** document. This is created with input from you and your child, and it explains how they learn best and what support works for them. It's updated at least once a year and shared with all staff.

Who Can I Contact for More Information?

- Your first point of contact is your child's **Tutor or Head of Year**.
- If you're a **new or prospective parent**, you can book an appointment with the **SENCo** and **SEND Support Team** by calling reception on **01935 471131**.
- You can also find more details in our **SEND Procedure** on the school website.

What If I Have a Complaint?

If you're unhappy with the support your child is receiving, please contact the **Headteacher, Mr Doble**, in the first instance. We take all concerns seriously and want to work with you to resolve them.