Preston School

A Business & Enterprise Academy

Bringing Learning to Life & Life to Learning.

SEND Information Report 2026-2027

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SEND Information Report 2026-2027

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 are committed to the principle of co-production, ensuring that the student and their family are active participants in decisions about the support we provide, rather than just recipients of information. We believe that working in partnership with parents and young people is key to helping students succeed.

Our SEND Information report

- Sets out our operational procedures for identification and management of Special educational Needs at Preston School Academy
- Explains the resourcing and staffing structure.
- Should be read in conjunction with Preston School SEND Procedure and MNSP SEND Policy.

Other documentation which has influenced and guided this report:

- Somerset Local Offer (the official local area resource for SEND provision) https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/
- School Specific link https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/applying-for-school/find-a-school/?q=Preston+school+Academy&loc=Yeovil&radius=&userlat=50.942061&userlng=-2.633308
- Special Educational Need and Disabilities Code of Practice https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5a7dcb85ed915d2ac884d995/SEND_Code_of_Practice_January_2015.pdf
- Equalities Act of 2010 https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15/contents

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:

- Cognition and 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 Heads of Year 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.

We evaluate the effectiveness of our SEND provision through regular data analysis, impact assessments of specific interventions (e.g., reading programmes), and feedback from students, parents, and staff. This evaluation feeds into our school improvement plan.

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, Head of Year 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.

Stage	What Happens	Your Role
Assess	We look at your child's progress, talk to teachers, and listen to concerns to understand their specific needs. We will conduct observations of your child in the classroom, speak to your child about their learning/engagement, Complete some assessments to understand their learning profile, Review your child's school data, such as behaviour and attendance, assessment scores.	Share your insights and anything you have noticed at home.
Plan	We agree on clear, achievable goals and decide what extra support or adjustments are needed ,based on what we have discovered in the assessment stage.	Help us set these goals and agree on the best way to support your child.
Do	We put the agreed plan into action, with teachers and support staff providing the extra help in the classroom.	Support your child with their learning at home if appropriate.
Review	We check to see if the support is working and if your child is making progress towards their goals.	Share your feedback on how your child is getting on and help us decide on the next steps.

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.

Stage Two

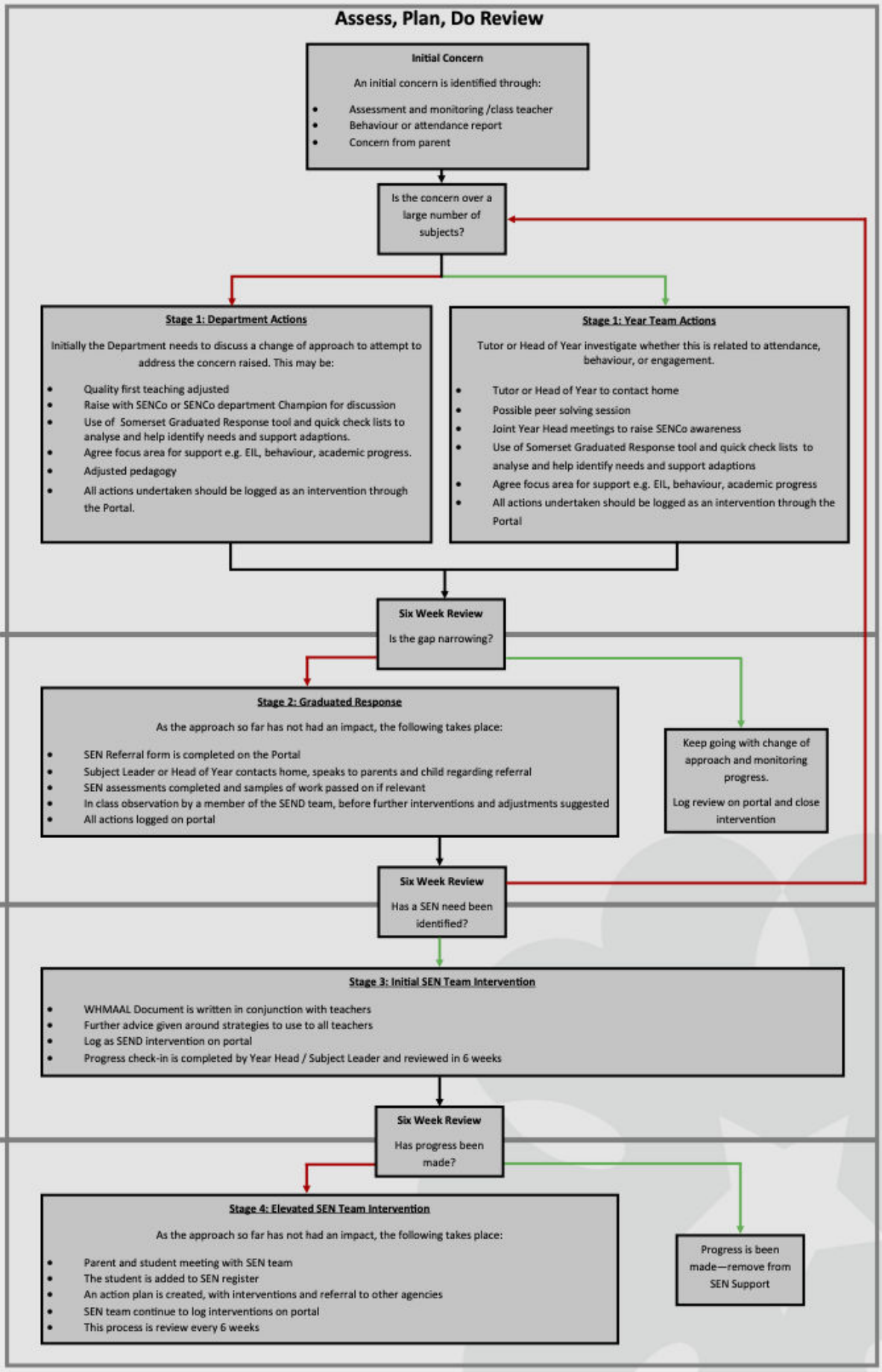
At level two, there is the start of an ongoing concern which may identify a SEND need.

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
- Teacher
- Subject Leader
- SEND Support Team
- Assistant 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
- Assistant SENCo – Daisy Cremen
- Behaviour Intervention Officers – Serena Cambridge, Lyndsey Wrigley-Sothcott, Lisa Shackleton and Louise Evans
- SEND Team Leader - Physical and Sensory Needs – Mandy Collard
- Lead for Tier 4 Reading support - Tia Symes
- SEND Support Team –Tia Symes, Lora Wood, Sally Bradley, Sue Johnson, Andrew Nuttall, , Kayliegh Fieldsend, Leah Bates, Rhyan Grana, Rebecca Coote, Shannon Laverty and Leah Thomas, Sarah Ray, Lily Harrison and Katarzyna Oleksy
- AEPC Base Lead – Catherine Saget
- AEPC Support Team – Sarah Joyce, Karen Smith, Alex Hughes, Charlotte Richardson and Will Gray

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 Designated Teacher / Safeguarding Lead and the Pastoral Team, SEND Team 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
- Family Intervention Services
- Somerset Parent Carer Forum
- Somerset SENDIAS

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 additional 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:

- 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
- Mental First Aid for Teens
- ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant) training
- Supporting students with a range of needs in the classroom
- Colourful semantics
- Social Communication training with speech and language therapist.
- 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

For more details, please see our Accessibility Plan available on our website, which outlines how we increase access to the curriculum and the physical environment for disabled students.

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 with 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 are 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 all students are monitored by their teachers and tutors 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

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 you can contact SENCo in any of the following ways

- Ring the school Front Office and request a call back 01935 471131
- Email the SENCo maggie.purton@preston.mnsp.org.uk
- You can write a letter please find the school's address on the school website.

In the first instance we would encourage parents/carers to discuss any concern or complaints with the school SENCo. If a concern remains unresolved after discussion with the SENCo, please refer to the full Academy Complaints Policy on our website for the formal escalation process.