

Who are the other people providing services to children with SEND in this school?

- Teacher led groups
- Teaching assistants
- Pastoral team

At Mersey Park we have a number of links to outside agencies who may help with the children at Mersey Park and their families.

School nurse

Our school nurse works closely with pupils, parents, carers and teachers, offering support and advice on a range of issues. She plays a vital role in children's development, carrying out screening programmes, managing medical conditions and acting as a point of contact on child protection issues.

Educational Psychologist

Our educational psychologist helps children who are experiencing problems within school with the aim of enhancing their learning. Challenges may include social or emotional problems or learning difficulties. Work is with individual children or groups, advising teachers, parents, social workers and other professionals.

Work involves an assessment of the child using observation, interviews and test materials. Educational psychologists offer a wide range of appropriate interventions, such as learning programmes and collaborative work with teachers or parents. They also provide in-service training for teachers and other professionals on issues such as behaviour and stress management

SENAAT (Special Educational Needs Assessment Advice Team)

Our member of the SENAAT team is trained to undertake a wide range of diagnostic tests to support our school in the identification of children with special educational needs. And consequent decisions about their support and provision (including staff training). She carries out 1:1 assessments.

Speech Therapy

Speech and language therapists (SALTs) work closely with children who have various levels of speech, language and communication problems, and with those who have swallowing, drinking or eating difficulties. Therapists assess a child's needs before developing individual treatment programmes to enable each child to improve as much as possible. Treatment plans often involve other people with whom the child has a close relationship, e.g. family, carers or teachers.

SLTs usually work as part of a multidisciplinary team, alongside other health professionals such as doctors, nurses, psychologists, physiotherapists and occupational therapists. They may also liaise with professionals in education and social services.

Vision and Hearing Support

Wirral Council's Sensory Service aims to ensure that deaf and visually impaired children and young people (0-19 years) receive an appropriate inclusive education that enables them to fulfil their potential and develop into independent adults.

The core work of the Sensory Service is to provide training, advice and support for school staff to:

- enable students to develop specialist skills eg Braille, to help them access the curriculum independently
- monitor progress of pupils to ensure that student's individual needs are met, in accordance with the Disability Discrimination Act
- undertake specialist assessments (hearing assessment and functional vision assessments)
- maintain records and provide reports as necessary
- undertake specialist assessments of language and literacy development which monitor progress, inform planning and IEPs, and facilitate successful transition
- provide advice on alternative methods of communication
- provide advice on the differentiation and adaptation of teaching materials
- liaise with Paediatric and Orthoptic departments to ensure an effective exchange of pupil information
- liaise with other agencies across Children's services, including health and voluntary agencies
- advise on technology which can improve access to the curriculum or the environment and deliver training for its use eg magnification software and radio aid systems etc
- develop visually impaired pupils' mobility and rehabilitation skills to ensure safe access to the school and outside environment
- modification of Braille or large print materials where needed
- provide advice, support and information to parents and carers which promote principles of good practice
- promote a positive image of deafness and visual impairment and encourage self advocacy skills.

MEAS

MEAS staff work in Primary and Secondary schools throughout Wirral.

The service aims to raise achievement, remove language barriers, provide access to the curriculum, raise self-esteem and encourage social integration.

MEAS staff:

- assess pupils learning English as an Additional Language (EAL) from Foundation Stage to Year 11
- act as consultants within schools to enable staff to meet the needs of pupils effectively
- provide direct teaching support for prioritised pupils
- work with parents and the wider community
- provide training centrally and school based on: Race Equality, Community Cohesion and EAL. To see details of the central training offered for the current academic year, please refer to INSET Directory

- support the admission of new arrivals including refugee, Gypsy Roma and Irish traveller pupils
- give advice on embedding race equality through the curriculum and advise on materials that promote a greater understanding of ethnic diversity and racial equality

Gilbrook Outreach Team

The Gilbrook Outreach Team work with colleagues in primary schools to support the management of children with challenging behaviour within their own schools. To enable pupils with emotional and behavioural difficulties to be supported within their mainstream schools. Gilbrook Outreach is committed to focusing on preventative work to ensure that needs are identified as quickly as possible and that early action is taken to meet those needs. Developing approaches that embed co-operative multi-disciplinary working between all agencies.

Typical work activities include:

- Consulting and advising school staff
- Promoting an understanding of the context and environment which influence a child's well-being
- Observing children in the contexts in which they play and learn
- Assessments/interviews with children to gain understanding as to why the problem behaviours are being exhibited
- Developing and supporting strategies to improve behaviour - providing 'in class' modelling and support when required
- Writing recommendations on action to be taken and contributing professional advice
- Attending meetings involving multi-disciplinary teams, and parents/carers, on how to best meet the social, emotional and behavioural needs of the child.

Orrets Meadow Outreach

Orrets provide the mentoring of a teaching assistant and oversee four pupils. The teaching assistant is a member of the school staff. They will spend approximately three half hour sessions with each pupil each week. The OMS Numeracy Teacher will spend at least 2 hours each week in the school. Pupils are chosen through the school's own screening procedures. Pupil's attendance, support at home, and general attitude to learning are generally considered. The OMS teacher with the teaching assistant will carry out an initial assessment. The teacher will then write targets for each child. A meeting will be held to discuss the OMS Numeracy programme with the pupil's parents. Copies of targets will be given to the parents, SENCo teaching assistant, and class teacher.

Social Communication Team

- To advise and support schools staff on specific and appropriate targets and strategies for pupils with diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Asperger Syndrome or with Social and Communication Difficulties
- To liaise with professionals/parents/carers
- To monitor/review progress (Review and Individual Pupil Funding meetings)
- Support transitions, especially KS2 to KS3
- Provision of recommendations regarding future placements and support

Occupational Therapy

The role of the Occupational Therapist (OT) is to work with children who have difficulties with the practical and social skills necessary for their everyday life. An Occupational Therapist will aim to enable the child to be as physically, psychologically and socially independent as possible.

Doctors / paediatricians

Paediatricians are doctors who look at specific health issues, diseases and disorders related to stages of growth and development. This is an area of medicine where the doctor works closely with the patient and their family.

Hospital schools / Wirral home education

The hospital school provides an education service for children who are referred from schools, the health service, community paediatricians and CAMHS with the supporting request of their schools, due to a physical or psychological illness and who are unable to access mainstream education and/or require specialist support. The Home Education Service is a central service that is managed by the Head teacher of Wirral Hospitals' School on behalf of the Local Authority. It is not a part of Wirral Hospitals' School but works closely and in partnership with it.

The number of students taught within the Home Education Service varies depending upon demand. Many of these students are taught within their own homes. Where students are well enough, or it is in their best interests of their mental or emotional wellbeing, they may be educated in dedicated rooms at JPC, in local facilities such as Libraries or in their mainstream school in one to one settings.

Rock Ferry Children's Centre

Rock Ferry Children's Centre provides many activities and courses in local venues such as church halls and schools and organises regular fun events in the local community. The Centre's Family Support and Outreach Team provide support for families as required and work in partnership with other agencies including health workers, domestic violence support, Jobcentre Plus and housing.

Activities and services:

- Family Support
- Outreach and home visiting
- Breast Feeding Support
- Play & Learning Opportunities
- Access to Good Quality Play
- Family Learning
- Parenting Courses

- Speech & Language
- Adult Education & Employment Support

Portage/Portex

Wirral Portage Service provides support and guidance to parents primarily in their own homes. It serves the youngest, most disabled children on the Wirral and provides individualised programmes of learning. Portage workers can support children into school/settings with transition plans and offer advice to parents re a variety of issues to support the process. Wirral Portage Service takes place in the child's home in partnership with the parents who are recognised as their children's primary educators and facilitators of their overall development. It is part of the SESS team and close partnerships are forged with all those working in the early years' sector. As part of the 1st 4 Families virtual team, we are committed to the delivery of a high quality service to the youngest most disabled children and families in Wirral.

CAMHS

Are a team of specially trained workers whose job it is to improve the mental health of children and young people by helping them with the things that make them worried, upset or angry. They can help when a child's behaviour, thoughts and feelings become difficult for them to cope with.

Beanstalk reading volunteers

Beanstalk is a national charity that provides one-to-one literacy support to children struggling with their reading through a network of trained Beanstalk reading helpers.

Beanstalk reading helpers work with children on a one-to-one basis, giving them their full attention and support to:

- improve reading levels
- increase overall confidence
- inspire a lifelong love of reading

Catholic Children's Society

A dedicated team of experienced staff and volunteers, with excellent knowledge of local services and support network deliver our Family Support Service. They work together in partnership to provide a multi-agency approach.

Our team will work with you to make sure you have all the support you need, delivered in a way that best suits your family situation. We are non-judgemental and will challenge, support and provide a service that best meets the needs of you and your family.

The benefits to you and your family include: improved self esteem, better communication of feelings and thoughts of knowing how to look for compromise and keep each other safe, increased confidence in dealing with difficult and risky situations, seeing your children and young people happy, motivated and achieving, feeling better – both mentally and physically and less reliance on outside services – but the awareness of how and when to access them.