



Colton Primary School

Local Offer 2025-26

Meeting the Needs Of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

We hope our Local Offer answers any questions you may have about our special educational needs practice and provision at Colton. If you have further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school on 0113 2647514.

Colton Primary school is a highly inclusive school which strives to meet the individual needs of all learners. We work in partnership with children, parents and other agencies to provide the best possible educational outcomes for all our children, including those with a range of additional and complex needs. The school's effective SEND policy and procedures ensure that high expectations, early intervention and prompt and appropriate support for all our children is in place to allow all our children to meet their full potential.

"The inclusive culture of the school ensures that every pupil feels valued and respected. Leaders are highly ambitious for pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). These pupils are fully included in all aspects of school life." OFSTED 2024

Frequently asked questions from parents/carers:

What do I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

If at any point in your child's schooling, you have a concern about their learning, a good starting point would be to make an appointment to speak to the class teacher. If after this discussion it is felt that there are additional needs to be addressed then the class teacher will meet with the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCO), Karen Weddle, and a meeting will be arranged with parents.

We will try to hold as few meetings as possible but ensure the relevant information is gathered so that concerns do not have to be continually repeated. The SENDCO will coordinate these meetings and inform both parents and class teachers of any changes to provision or further referral.

If the concerns are sufficient that the class teacher and SENDCO feel that additional advice and support is needed, school will request support from the Leeds special needs team or through the Cluster Team.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

All our children are treated as individuals, the class teacher, alongside other support staff, plan an appropriately adapted or differentiated curriculum for our children with additional needs. Children may work in a smaller group or work 1 to 1 with an adult. Additional specialised resources may also be provided.

If your child has general, specific, or complex learning needs, they may have a Support Plan and a pupil passport which will describe your child's needs, identify your child's targets, and state what support is needed to achieve them. If your child has emotional and wellbeing needs, they may have

an emotional and wellbeing Support Plan which will describe the additional support or strategies your child may need to be successful in school. The class teacher will discuss the individual targets and strategies with you, so you are fully aware of how you can support at home. After an agreed period, the class teacher will review the progress your child has made against the targets set and, if necessary, new targets can be set together. The SENDCO will liaise with class teachers and oversee Support Plans/ one-page profiles to ensure that children with Special Educational Needs are making progress.

“Staff identify pupils’ needs quickly and accurately. They provide tailored support that enables pupils with SEND to thrive.” OFSTED 2024

How will I know how well my child is doing and how will you help me support my child’s learning?

At Colton Primary School, we are committed to maintaining strong, transparent communication with parents about their child’s progress. We use a range of systems to ensure you are well-informed and involved in your child’s learning journey:

- Tapestry App: Parents have access to our secure platform where staff regularly celebrate class and individual achievements and share updates and messages.
- Target Setting Meeting: Held at the start of the academic year, these meetings provide insight into your child’s current attainment and outline how you can support their progress.
- Spring Term Parents’ Evening: A dedicated time to discuss your child’s development with their teacher.
- Summer Term Written Report: A comprehensive summary of your child’s attainment and progress across the year.
- Daily Informal Contact: Staff are available for brief chats at drop-off and pick-up times. For longer or more sensitive discussions, we’re happy to arrange a meeting after school.

For children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND), we may need additional meetings.

- Assess Plan Do Review Meetings: These will be scheduled instead of parent meetings to monitor progress and plan next steps. The SENCO and other professional working with the child will be invited to these meetings.
- Multi-Agency Coordination: Where external professionals are involved, parents will be informed in advance and given opportunities to discuss the content before and after meetings.

We ensure that parents of children with SEND feel supported and involved every step of the way.

“Pupils with SEND achieve exceptionally well. They benefit from high-quality teaching and well-planned interventions.” OFSTED 2024

What support will there be for my child's overall well-being?

At Colton Primary, we take great pride in our caring and supportive ethos. We place a strong emphasis on the emotional and social wellbeing of our children, ensuring they receive the highest level of pastoral care throughout their time with us.

To support this, we have a dedicated **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCo)** and a **Pastoral Mentor** who work closely with pupils and families. The Pastoral Mentor provides targeted support to help children overcome barriers that may affect their learning and wellbeing. These may include:

- Friendship difficulties
- Emotional challenges
- Medical concerns
- Bereavement and loss

We also work in partnership with **MindMate**, a service that offers regular support to our pupils and their families, helping to promote mental health and resilience.

Early Help Plans (EHPs)

When a family is facing complex challenges and is supported by multiple professionals, we may initiate an **Early Help Plan (EHP)**. This plan brings together a coordinated network of support focused on the needs of the child and family. Our Pastoral Mentor is trained to lead these plans, ensuring that every child receives the care and guidance they need to thrive.

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

We work in close partnership with a range of professionals who provide specialist advice and support. Where needed, we seek targeted assistance from external agencies through cluster and health services to help maximise each child's learning potential.

This support may include:

- **NHS Speech and Language Service** – In addition, we have employed Leanne Tierney, a qualified speech and language therapist, who works with us one day a week to support children requiring additional help. Leanne also holds regular meetings with parents to share strategies, offer guidance, and support the development of communication, speech, and language.
- **STARS Team** – We collaborate closely with this team to support children with Autism.
- **Occupational Health Service**
- **Educational Psychology Team**
- **CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)**
- **Behaviour Support Workers**
- **Family Outreach Workers**
- **MindMate -supporting children with mental health**
- **SENIT (Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Team)**

For children receiving support from multiple agencies, we may offer an **Early Help Plan**. This coordinated approach ensures that the child and their family receive consistent support, and it provides a structured framework for monitoring progress and facilitating positive change.

What training are the staff supporting children with SEN having/had?

All class teachers have up-to-date SEND training and continue their professional development through courses and in-house training by staff and external agencies.

If your child has 1:1 support the member of staff working with your child will be given all the relevant information and training where appropriate to ensure that they complete their role to the very best of their ability. The cluster have offered a range of courses specifically for Special Needs Assistants (SNA) to ensure that they are fully trained and supported in their role.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom?

Wherever possible, the school ensures that out of school activities are accessible to all children with additional needs. If extra support is needed while they attend a club or school trip this can be arranged by school.

How accessible is the school?

The school is fully accessible to our current pupils and their parents. We have suitable access points, ramps, a disabled toilet, and a hygiene suite. Additionally, we provide a low-stimulus intensive interaction room and a sensory room for children with sensory needs. The school collaborates effectively with relevant professionals to ensure that children with additional needs can attend. Accessibility remains a primary concern when considering any alterations to the building.

How will the school help my child to transfer to the next phase of education?

During your child's time at school there are key transitions that will be managed sensitively. Moving year groups and school can be a time of uncertainty but with carefully planning and meetings we aim to help support this process. All information that is relevant will be passed to the new class teacher and there will be opportunities for meetings at parents evening and within school for you to discuss any concerns.

On transition to high school there will be the opportunity to visit the school and meet the relevant staff. If your child has a special educational need or disability, then meetings between our school and the receiving high school will be help and further parents' meetings arranged.

If your child has been working in a small group and they are due to return to whole class teaching, then you will be informed of this change and have the opportunity to discuss this with the class teacher and SENDCO.

How are school resources allocated and matched to children's needs?

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCO) will consult with all professionals involved with the child, as well as consider the views of both the parents and the child where appropriate. The school has a notional Special Educational Needs (SEN) budget, supplemented by additional funding allocated by the local authority for pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Funding will be allocated in accordance with the specific needs of the

child. The SENDCO will distribute resources and support based on the provisions outlined in the EHCP.

How are parents involved in the school and how can I be involved?

Parents are vital partners in the child's journey through school, at Colton, we have an open- door policy and we welcome parental involvement. Parents are informed regularly about teaching and other events through the school website, regular newsletters, open evenings and open days.

The school holds information sessions to show parents our methods of teaching eg phonics. Parents are invited into the school to take part in events such as good work assemblies, performances and concerts throughout the year. The views of parents are actively sought through questionnaires, parent forums and discussions.

Where children have Education, Health and Care Plans, parents are invited to attend review meetings of their child's progress through annual reviews which may involve other professionals.

Parents are encouraged to engage in supporting learning in different ways such as supporting their child with their differentiated homework, joining in with family learning classes and using resources provided by school to help their child.

"Parents of pupils with SEND speak positively about the support their children receive and the progress they make." OFSTED 2024



Who can I contact for further information?

Karen Weddle – SENDCO / Deputy Head teacher on 0113 2647514

Helpful Websites for information and support:

Leeds SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information Advice and Support Service) What they offer: Free, impartial advice and support for parents and carers navigating SEND services, including education, health, and care plans (EHCPs), school support, and RSHE-related concerns.	Phone: 0113 378 5020 Email: leedssendiass@leeds.gov.uk Website: sendiass.leeds.gov.uk
Neurodiversity information hub What they offer: This is a one-stop information resource to support all neurodivergent (ND) children, young people and families in Leeds both WITH and WITHOUT formal diagnoses.	<u>Neurodiversity information hub - MindMate</u>
SEND parent carer monthly information drop-in What they offer: A monthly drop in for parents and carers to speak to services to receive information and advice about what is available in Leeds to support their family.	For dates see website: leedslocaloffer.org.uk

Leeds Local Offer What they offer: A central hub for information about services, activities, and support available for children and young people with SEND (ages 0–25) in Leeds.	Website: leedslocaloffer.org.uk
Leeds Community Healthcare NHS Trust – SEND Support What they offer: Speech and language therapy, communication support, and health services for children with SEND.	Website: Leeds Community Healthcare SEND
Leeds Parent Carer Forum What they offer: A parent-led group that works with local services to improve support for families with SEND children. Offers peer support and advocacy.	Website: leedsparentcarerforum.org.uk
IPSEA (Independent Provider of Special Education Advice) What they offer: Legal advice and resources for parents navigating SEND law, including school rights and RSHE concerns.	Website: ipsea.org.uk
Contact-For Families with Disabled Children What they offer: National charity offering expert advice, emotional support, and guidance on education, benefits, and health.	Free Helpline: 0808 808 3555 Website: contact.org.uk
<u>Online Resources and Guides</u> <u>Leeds for Learning – SEND Resources</u> What they offer: Guides, checklists, and videos to help parents understand EHCPs, school visits, and SEND processes.	Website: Leeds for Learning SEND Resources