



HARLESTON SANCROFT
ACADEMY

A Children's Guide to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

At Harleston Sancroft Academy, we all work together to make our school a happy place, where everyone is safe and cared for, and we can all learn and grow.



We are all special and unique.

Our brains are all slightly different and we learn in different ways. It is important to remember that school is not just about learning to read and write. We love to celebrate your strengths in all areas of the curriculum such as P.E, Maths and Science, as well as your personal qualities, like being creative, helping others and being a good friend. We value everybody trying their best and we know that everyone is different.

At Harleston Sancroft Academy, it's OK to be different!

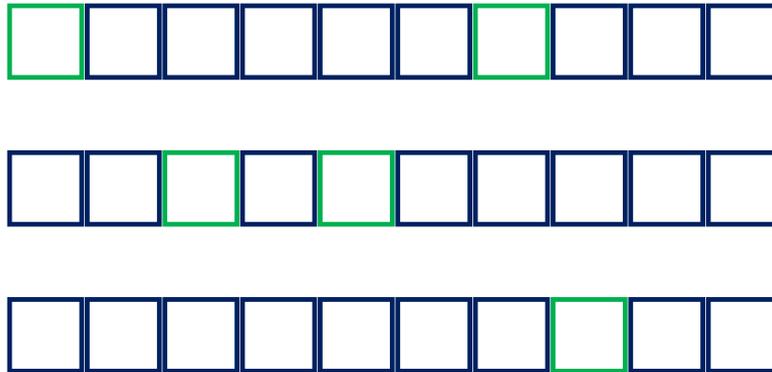
All children have things that
Sometimes this is just in one
lots of lessons. Remember,
point, even adults!



they find hard to do or hard to learn.
lesson or sometimes it happens in
everyone finds things hard at some

Some children have a specific learning difficulty, like dyslexia or dyscalculia, or a condition like ASD or ADHD, which make some parts of school and learning hard for them. When this happens, it means that things need to be changed for them in school. This may be extra support in class, special equipment, different ways of working or different activities. When this happens, we call it having a **Special Educational Need or Disability or **SEND** for short.**

Lots of children have SEND. In fact, in the UK, in January 2019, **1,318,300** children had SEND. That's about **five children in every class**.



Having SEND does NOT mean that a person doesn't try hard or isn't clever.

Often children with SEND work even harder than their classmates to keep up in lessons which can be exhausting. They can also feel worried and embarrassed about finding things difficult. Children with SEND need their friends and classmates to be supportive and understanding.



We all work together and support each other at Harleston Sancroft Academy

There are lots of famous and successful people who have SEND, including:



Danielle
Radcliffe



Keira
Knightley



Greta
Thunberg



Jamie
Oliver



Justin
Timberlake

The SEND Code of Practice



The government created a law to make sure that all schools can help children who find learning hard. This law is explained in a big document called the **SEND Code of Practice**. It is very long – it has 292 pages! It's a bit like a list of rules that the school must follow. This is so that children who have difficulties in school get the same chance as everyone else to make friends, feel part of the school and learn the skills they need to get a job they feel proud of in the future.

Schools must also make sure that everyone gets the same chances to join in with clubs, trips and special activities. If someone has a disability, like being deaf or having ASD, it is against the law for other people to be unfair to them because of their disability.

Treating everyone fairly means giving everyone the right support they need to succeed.

Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

Some children have an Education, Health and Care Plan or EHCP. It is like a **special written promise** for children with SEND. The EHCP explains all the things that the child is good at, as well as the things that they find difficult. It includes what the child thinks about school and learning, as well as what their parents or carers think. It also has ideas from special experts and the important thing is, it has what everyone has promised to do to help.



What do we do to help children with SEND?

The first thing we do to help children who find learning difficult, is to make our teachers the best they can be. Your teacher helps everyone by giving you work and explaining things in a way that suits you and what you need to learn. This is called **differentiation**.

Next we try to identify what the **barriers to learning** might be. This means trying to work out the things that are making learning hard. This might be something like finding it hard to concentrate, difficulty remembering things or problems learning to read or spell in the usual way. Once we have worked out what the barriers are, we can work out how to overcome or introduce strategies to support them. For some children extra equipment, like bead strings or a writing slope, can make learning easier and for others it may be extra support from adults, like a TA, in the classroom. Often, we give children some quiet learning time away from the rest of the class to practise the things they are finding hard. This sometimes happens every day or sometimes once or twice a week. We call these **interventions**. This could be to help children with reading, writing, maths, keeping calm, making friends, speaking, language or something else. Lots of children do interventions to help them with a particular area – not just children with SEND.

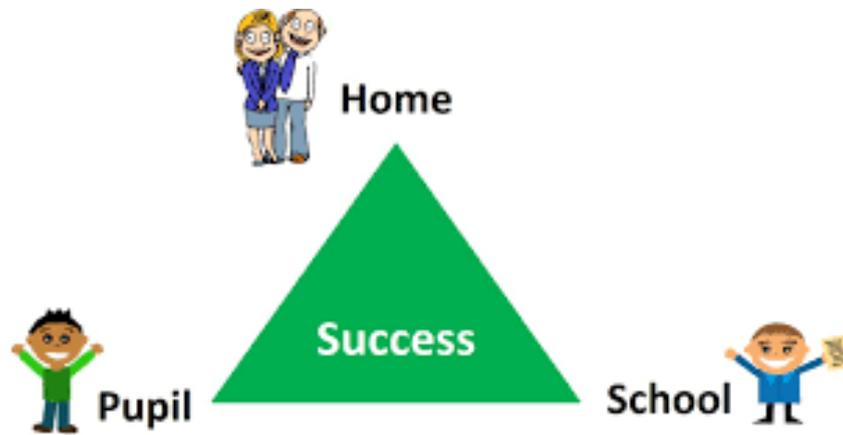
The SENDCo

Sometimes even when the teachers change things in class, children still find learning hard and so, the teacher can talk to Mrs Botwright for some more ideas. She has a special name for her job. It is called a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator or SENDCo for short.



Mrs Botwright - SENDCo

Mrs Botwright will work out the extra support that some children need that is 'additional to or different from' what the other children in the class are getting. Sometimes she might ask experts to come in and meet children. They will write down new ideas for the teachers and TAs to use. We also talk to parents or carers to find out what helps at home and we will talk to the child themselves about what they think will help too. We know it is really important for everyone to work together.



We work together to provide the best possible support we can.

Who to talk to if you don't understand?

This is quite long and if there is any of it that you don't understand, or you have any questions about SEND, then your teacher or TA can help you. Mrs Botwright and Mr Carlyle can also help answer your questions or help you to understand. Remember we are all here to help you.

At Harleston Sancroft Academy:

- It's OK to be different (In fact, we know it's good to be different!);
- We help children who find learning hard;
- We work together and support each other.

We want you all to be happy and successful learners.