

Special Educational Needs provision and support at Westhaven is somewhat different to mainstream schools. This document explains how it works at Westhaven compared to what you may be familiar with from your child's previous school.

### **Role of the SENCo in a mainstream school**

- Is usually a teacher with class responsibility
- Can sometimes be part of the senior or middle leadership team
- Oversees implementation of the school's SEND policy, and is responsible for writing the SEND information report
- Supports teachers to identify learners with SEND
- Liaises with professionals or agencies beyond the school, and ensures advice given by professionals is incorporated into the classroom planning
- Tracks progress and sets targets for learners with SEND
- Coordinates provision for learners with SEND and manages funding, applies for extra Top Up Funding should the need arise
- Is aware of the settings responsibilities according to the SEND Code of Practice and ensures these are incorporated in the daily practice
- Completes EHCP paperwork and chairs EHCP reviews
- Be part of and contribute to a SENCo network team
- Holds or should be working towards the NASENCO qualification

A SENCo in a mainstream provision will also become an expert within the field of SEN and support fellow staff members with strategies, advice and guidance needed to meet the needs of the SEN learners in the school.

### **Role of the SENCO at Westhaven School**

The SENCo at Westhaven oversees the SEN needs of our learners school-wide, but it is the class teams who ensure the day-to-day needs of learners are met; the class team is the first point of call for concerns or queries. The SENCo role at Westhaven holds the following responsibilities:

- The SENCo is part of the Senior or Middle Leadership Team
- Has teaching responsibilities and leads a subject
- Oversees implementation of the school's SEND policy, is responsible for writing the policy and the SEND information report
- Holds an overall view of the training needs and quality of teaching and provision within class
- Works with the Head of Teaching and Learning to ensure teaching methods meet the needs of our learners
- Makes sure all learners have access to the provision their EHCP entitles them to and that they have the equipment and interventions required. In most cases the needs are met by the class team and little intervention is needed
- Oversees EHCP reviews and has regular contact with the SEN team within North Somerset
- Supports teachers to identify learners with SEND that is not currently diagnosed on their EHCP
- Oversees vulnerable groups (looked after children, previously looked after children and non-attenders)

- Links with mental health services and alternative therapies
- Tracks progress as part of the whole team responsibility
- Applies for extra Top Up Funding should the need arise – however does not manage this as a budget – this is the Headteacher's responsibility
- Plans, delivers and organises training and CPD for SEND
- Liaises with professionals or agencies beyond the school, and ensures advice given by professionals is incorporated into the classroom planning
- Oversees and tracks intervention run by the intervention team, collates information and impact
- Is aware of the settings responsibilities according to the SEND Code of Practice and ensures these are incorporated in the daily practice.
- Holds or should be working towards the NASENCO qualification
- Organises and/or attend professional/parental meetings, including SEND meetings, transition meetings etc
- Be part of and contribute to a SENCo network team

The SENCo for Primary at Westhaven is Miss Tammy Chaplin who works Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. The SENCo for secondary at Westhaven is Mrs Susan Cantello who works Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday.

### **EHCPs at Westhaven**

We work hard to ensure your child's EHCP is met fully and to help your child meet their EHCP targets as well as their academic targets. Please see our website page dedicated to EHCPs.

### **Speech and Language Therapy at Westhaven**

We believe that communication is at the core of what we all do at home, in school and in work. For children and young people, good communication skills are essential for learning and making friends. We aspire for all of our learners to become confident communicators.

*All* children need environments which support the development of speech, language and communication skills; not just those with identified speech, language or communication needs. We aim to deliver a total communication approach to all.

If you have any concerns about your child's speech and language needs you can talk to your child's tutor team or contact Miss Michelle Hamil, our consultant speech and language therapist. Michelle works on site at Westhaven on Monday and Tuesday. She can be contacted through our main reception.

### **Intervention at Westhaven**

Intervention at Westhaven is undertaken with individuals or groups of learners for various reasons. Our intervention teachers will cover Maths and English as well as a wide variety of social and emotional needs. This includes, but is not limited to, ELSA, sensory and OT needs, TACPAC, keeping safe and growth mindset. Each programme we use is tailored and planned specifically towards the learner's needs, and each year what interventions are offered depends on what our learners may require. Our intervention offer may differ in Primary and Secondary. Learners are referred for intervention by the class team, the learning mentors or the leadership team. Each referral is discussed with the therapy team and tutor team to discern the best route of progression.

### **Therapy at Westhaven**

We are very fortunate to have three therapists working at Westhaven, who we employ on a consultant basis. We have an art therapist, who works on Monday, a music therapist who works on Thursday and a play therapist who works on Friday. The referral process works the same way as intervention and anyone within school can refer a student for therapy. Therapy will not take place without parental or guardian consent and discussion.