



Plumcroft Primary School

Plum Lane Campus

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Vincent Road Campus

Vincent Road, Woolwich, London, SE18 6RG
Tel: 0208 317 2518

Headteacher: Mr Richard Slade

Deputy Headteacher: Mrs Annette Graney

Updated January 2023

(based on original document from April 2022 and the November 2022 update)

Dear parents and carers

"Meeting need at point of need" is a key requirement for us to deliver on for every child at Plumcroft. For the majority of children, their class teacher and the teaching teams will be able to meet need to a high standard. However; there may be times when you have concerns and feel that your child needs some extra help.

The first person to talk to about any concerns you may have is your child's class teacher as they are best placed to move things forward and will know your child well. If we feel that additional support is needed beyond what **Quality First Teaching** can provide, the class teacher will speak to the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCO) that is responsible for their specific year group.

As parents and carers you will be fully involved in all discussions and decisions about your child's learning and any additional needs. Here are the names and contact details for the SENDCO for each year group in the school:

Kelly Clifford – SENDCO for Nursery & Reception (EYFS)

email: kclifford@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk

Olivia Steadman – SENDCO for Year 1 & Year 2 (Key Stage 1)

email: kclifford@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk

James Hetherington - SENDCO for Year 3 & Year 4 (Lower Key Stage 2)

email: jhetherington@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk

Kaye Henton - SENDCO for Year 5 & Year 6 (Upper Key Stage 2)

email: khenton@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk

Richard Slade - Headteacher & SENDCO (whole school oversight)

email: rslade@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk

If you have a particular interest or want to know more about how we have expanded our SEND capacity at Plumcroft then what follows will give you all the detail you need. Your feedback would be very welcome so that we can adjust and improve our services over time. Please email me directly with any comments or suggestions at:

rslade@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk



Meeting need at point of need

The SEND Department at Plumcroft has been significantly expanded as we already have almost 1,000 children across two campuses with two full and oversubscribed nurseries. By 2024 we will have reached our 5-form entry capacity of about 1,300 children. The SEND development process has been a collaborative project led by the Headteacher. We also worked with external SEND experts who provided challenge and review. We have adjusted the detail over the last 13 months to ensure it is fit for purpose, sustainable over time and ensures we can act quickly when any pupil need emerges.

- **Early identification of need is vital.** All children in Nursery & Reception will be screened by a private **Educational Psychologist (EP)** to determine if there are any emerging needs that need further investigation.
- If there is a clear concern then the class teacher, EP and Phase SENDCO will ensure that the parents are kept informed of any concerns and are fully involved at every stage of the process to identify, investigate and then plan the learning journey for that child. External expertise will be sought in a timely manner so that we get to a point of specificity of need and action as quickly as possible. We can then all help ensure good or better progress in learning for every child from their starting point.
- For the vast majority of children, **Quality First Teaching** is the key thing we can deliver in school that will ensure they achieve their full potential whilst at our school. For those children that do not make expected progress or have been identified as having a disability and/or an additional learning need as part of the early screening processes, we have developed good 'in-house' capacity to ensure that evidence-based support and interventions are put in place quickly, reviewed regularly and adjusted as needed.
- We will provide all staff with excellent quality training in inclusive pedagogy so that they embed best practice learning methodologies that will be of benefit to all children. This rigorous graduated approach to 'meeting need at point of need' will ensure that every child fulfils their potential as they progress through the school.
- A key part of the process is ensuring that children and their parents are fully involved and aware of the various stages of how we are '**meeting need at point of need**'. The first point of contact should be the class teacher as along with the parents, they will know the children in their care best. This ensures that we always keep a focus upon 'Quality First Teaching.'
- In addition, as Headteacher I am also a SENDCO at the school. My ongoing role as a SENDCO will ensure that SEND remains at the heart of all we do and the principles of best SEND Practice will benefit all pupils. Two of the Phase SENDCOs began the National SEND Qualification in September this year (2022). The newly appointed EYFS and Key Stage 1 SENDCOs will start the same NASENCO qualification in the new year and have been receiving detailed SEND training by Ms Whytock and other

external specialists. I'd like to thank Ms Whytock for all her hard work as the Infant SENDCO. She will be seconded to the London Borough of Newham until December 2023 as they have asked her to use her expertise to be an Early Years Adviser. This is excellent career development for Ms Whytock and Plumcroft will directly benefit when Ms Whytock returns as the Assistant Head for KS1 in January 2024.

- To support and further develop the skills of all SENDCOs at Plumcroft, we secured a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with an outstanding 4-form entry Greenwich Primary School (Bannockburn) so that their Head of School (Sarah Catterall) who is a SEND expert, is in our school on a regular basis to exemplify best SEND practice, as well as coach and mentor the SENDCOs and staff as needed.
- We increased our private EP capacity and have two EPs (Rachael Burton & Fionna Shaw) with a total of at least 32 days a year of dedicated EP time. This allows us to genuinely deliver on early identification and intervention, based upon expert involvement as soon as children arrive at the school or if a concern emerges at some point in the child's learning journey between nursery and Year 6.
- As previously mentioned, high quality SEND CPD for all staff is vital and our 'in-house' capacity has been enhanced further by having a full-time **Assistant Psychologist (AP)** working in the school under the supervision of one of our private EPs. The AP started in September this year and her name is Lauren Smith. She is an outstanding professional and has already had a significant positive impact across the whole school. The role of the AP is being further developed in collaboration with our EPs so that they support the teaching teams to provide the best possible inclusive learning opportunities for all children based upon need.
- When children reach the age of 7, we add in an additional layer of screening for [dyslexia](#). This is aimed at any child that is still struggling to read despite having Quality First Teaching and the expert delivery model for reading using [Read, Write Inc.](#) Class teachers will discuss these concerns with the parents, the relevant SENDCO as well as our own 'in-house' dyslexia screening expert teacher, Bernie Glaister and the AP. Bernie or the AP then complete an initial screening assessment and if needed, move the child forward for a more in-depth screening if concerns are verified. We then get specific detail on how best to help children who need it.
- As part of the development of a full SEND Department, we have three experienced SEND staff who have been promoted to be **SEND Managers** (Jo Close, Adam Keeper & Leila Griffin). Jo and Leila are based at the Plum Lane Campus and Adam is at the Vincent Road Campus.

In addition to working with many of our children with complex needs in our Orchard and Acorn classes, the SEND Managers work with the teaching teams to ensure that we '**meet need at point of need**' and that all children can be successful members of their mainstream classes.

We are also creating Chestnut class at the Plum Lane Campus to meet the increasing number of children in Reception that have a specific and significant need. This internal provision will be in the main Nithdale building and be specifically for Reception aged SEND pupils.

- **Speech & Language Therapy (SALT)** is also a vital element of the SEND Department. We have **four experienced 'in-house' SALT Teaching Assistants** (Gemma Willis, Becky Willis, Sam Claridge-Owen & Leah Willis) who specialise in undertaking SALT assessments and screening. They also work very closely with the teaching teams and parents at both campuses to get specific Speech & Language planned interventions in place quickly. Depending on level of need, external input is also provided by the NHS.
- The final but vital element of the SEND Department is ongoing SEND Admin support provided by Oprah McDonald, who ensures that everything runs smoothly and our Provision Mapping systems keep all the relevant information up-to-date, secure but easily available to staff at point of need.

I hope the above detail and your experiences of SEND at Plumcroft over the last year, reassures all parents and carers that we will always do all we can to **'meet need at point of need'**.

Whilst it's great to hear when things are going well, it's even more important for me to know when we could be doing something better. Please email me directly if you have any concerns and we will always work with you to put them right:

rslade@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk

Regards



Richard Slade

Headteacher