



SEND Information Report 2023-2024

Introduction

Abbot's Hill School includes Abbot's Hill Nursery, Abbot's Hill Prep School, a day School for pupils aged 4 - 11 and Abbot's Hill Senior School, a day School for pupils aged 11 - 16. The SEND information report outlines how we implement our SEND Policy.

How does the Code of Practice (2015) define SEND?

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. In accordance with the SEN Code of Practice (2015), a child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions

What kinds of SEND are provided for at Abbot's Hill School?

Abbot's Hill School accepts pupils who have an identified SEND on the basis that the pupil's needs can met within the framework of reasonable adjustments. Abbot's Hill School can support pupils who have a Specific Learning Difficulty such as Dyslexia, Dyscalculia or Dyspraxia and those who may have other needs including ADHD or ASD (Level 1).

Abbot's Hill School is not a special school and does not have any Specialist Resourced Provision and therefore it can only offer a limited level of support. Suitability of the structure of school buildings and their limitations for each pupil have to be considered in this context. Abbot's Hill School is on a large site which is not uniformly flat and recognises that any child with impaired mobility will face difficulties in moving around the grounds. While reasonable adjustments will always be made, the site is not suitable for children with severe physical impairments or disabilities.

At present facilities include:

- Ramps and wheelchair access to buildings where possible
- A lift between floors in the Dickinson Building and the Junior Block
- Adapted toilets for users with disabilities
- A hearing loop in the theatre and in St Nicholas' Hall
- Some ceilings adapted for acoustics

What should I do if I think my child may have a Special Educational Need or Disability?

If you have concerns that your child may have learning difficulties, please contact the relevant SENDCO in the first instance.

How does Abbot's Hill School know if a pupil needs extra help?

All pupils sit an entrance exam before joining Abbot's Hill School and these results are age standardised. Entrance exams may highlight areas of weakness. Abbot's Hill School will also gather information regarding any SEND through the application process.

Class teachers regularly assess pupils within their subject area and this will help to identify pupils who are making less than expected progress. In deciding whether a pupil has SEND, information is gathered on pupil progress from baseline assessment and standardised screening or assessment, as well as information from parents, teachers and the pupil.

How will Abbot's Hill School prepare and support my child to join the school?

Moving through Prep: Transition events are held for each year group in the Prep School as they move up each year. Pupils will be given the opportunity to meet their new teachers, work in their new classroom and try out their new playground. The Prep SENDCO will discuss any further transition support required with pupils and parents as necessary.

Joining Year 7: We liaise closely with feeder schools and provide additional transition support. An induction day is held in June each year where pupils have taster lessons to try out each subject. An induction afternoon is held at the beginning of the academic year which is supported by our Year 11 prefects. Additional visits to the school can be arranged when required. The Senior SENDCO will make contact with all parents within the first four weeks of Year 7 to discuss the settling in period.

In-Year admissions: Pupils starting at other entry points will have two days in school for assessment and taster purposes.

How will Abbot's Hill School support my child?

Where a pupil is identified as having SEND, action is taken to remove the barriers to learning as far as reasonably possible. High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEND. Teachers have high expectations of all pupils, including those with SEND. All teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from The Rose Bud or Rose Garden.

The Rose facilities (Rose Bud, Prep and Rose Garden, Senior) are designated and fully equipped learning support bases. The Rose facilities can lend specialist equipment to pupils such as wobble cushions/ stools, writing slopes or pen grips and reading rulers.

Individual needs are highlighted to all staff through the sharing of the SEN Inventory. Each student on the SEN Inventory has a SEND alert on School Base (the school's MIS) and a Learning Passport. The Learning Passports are created with an emphasis on pupil voice and can include input from parents. The key areas included on the Learning Passports are:

- A description of the pupil's SEND, pastoral needs and/or medical needs
- Strengths in the pupil's learning/What the pupil finds difficult in lessons
- Strategies staff can use to support pupils in lessons

- Named member of staff
- Links to further information, for example, an Educational Psychologist's report

Pupils can attend subject clinics for extra support and they can also come to the Rose Bud or Rose Garden with any concerns at lunch time. There are a range of interventions that take place before school and also online packages that can be accessed at home. On occasion, some pupils may need some in class support from a Learning Support Assistant or they may require an adjusted curriculum where they study one Modern Foreign Language instead of two in Year 8 and 9.

Pupils with a recognised need may also have support in the form of access arrangements for tests and formal exams. Access arrangements are awarded in line with the regulations set by the Joint Council for Qualifications.

All pupils have pastoral support through their Form Tutors and Head of Year.

What happens if my child requires more specialised support?

The SENDCOs access a range of external services including Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Educational Psychology Service, Speech and Language Service, Hearing Impairment Advisory Service and other professionals where necessary. Should any referral be required, parents will be fully involved in the process and consulted at all points.

What qualifications do the SENDCOs have and how I contact them?

Miss Claire Bradley is the Senior School SENDCO and is responsible for managing the provision for children and young people with SEND at Abbot's Hill Senior School. Miss Bradley has the following qualifications BA (Hons), QTS, MA Ed, NASENCO, Certificate in Psychometric Testing Assessment and Access Arrangements (Level 7), DSL (Level 3) and is a qualified Youth Mental Health First Aider.

Contact details – cbradley@abbotshill.herts.sch.uk 01442 839141 (Rose Garden)

Mrs R Enock is the Prep School SENDCO and is responsible for managing the provision for children and young people with SEND at Abbot's Hill in the Prep and Pre-Prep Schools. Mrs Enock has a BA (Hons) in primary education, a Masters in inclusive education, level 5 diploma in SpLD and is currently working towards her Level 7 qualification in Cognitive Assessment.

Contact details – renock@abbotshill.herts.sch.uk 01442 240333 (Rose Bud)

What training do subject teachers have to help them support SEND pupils?

All new staff, trainee teachers and Early Career Teachers have SEND training as part of their induction process. School staff can drop into the Rose Garden or Rose Bud to seek advice from our experienced staff. There are various books that can be borrowed from the Rose Garden as well as online resources that are shared regularly. Observations of pupils in class can be requested and advice given to the teachers as appropriate. The SENDCOs update staff weekly regarding day-to-day matters in the school briefings. Occasionally, specialised training will be necessary to support the needs of a particular pupil. This will be provided to those staff most directly involved with the pupil.

How will I know that my child is making progress?

Subject Teachers will make contact with you to share successes and also discuss any concerns that may have arisen, this may be via a phone call, pupil planners or email. You will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teachers at Progress Evenings and regular reports and Grade Cards will be sent to you at various points during the academic year. The relevant SENDCO will monitor the progress of pupils on the SEND Inventory after each report cycle and will make contact with you to discuss any praise or concerns. When concerns are raised about a pupil's progress a four-stage process is implemented: Assess, Plan, Do and Review. This process helps to identify the next stages of support that may be required.

Pupils who have an EHCP will have their support and progress evaluated as part of the statutory Annual Review process.

If you have any concerns regarding progress, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance.

What support is available for improving the social, emotional and mental health of pupils with SEND?

Abbot's Hill School is known as a happy, supportive environment where difference is celebrated as a strength. In this environment, high standards and healthy relationships breed confidence and respect and ensure that people feel happy and valued and can achieve their goals. The promotion of mental health and wellbeing sustains our community and enables our pupils to flourish and fulfil their potential. There is a range of support available to pupils who require help with the social, emotional or mental health needs. A list of non-exhaustive examples include:

- Quiet areas and benches around the school for pupils who prefer a quieter and calmer environment
- A range of extra-curricular clubs at lunch time and after school which provide opportunities to develop social skills
- The Rose facilities offer pupil drop-in at lunch and break time with the SEND Team
- The Gordon Building offers pupil drop-in at lunch or break time with the Head of Years and Pastoral Team
- Assemblies to raise awareness of SEND and how pupils can support each other
- Abbot's Hill School counselling service allows pupils to seek individual expert support when they are experiencing difficulties with issues that are more complex. External referrals may be made for pupils who need further support beyond our counselling service.
- Access to Tootoot App which makes it simple for pupils to report anything from bullying to a mental health concern.
- Signposting to outside support such as Kooth, Childline and Shout
- Abbot's Hill School is also working towards the Carnegie Mental Health Award

Are all extra-curricular activities available to pupils with SEND alongside pupils who do not have SEND?

A broad range of academic and co-curricular clubs are available at Abbot's Hill School. They are open to all pupils, including those with SEND. The co-curricular timetable is available on My School Portal/ SOCS The timetable is shared with pupils electronically and printed timetables can be found in tutor bases. .

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom, including school trips?

All pupils in the school are encouraged to take part in activities at break time, lunch time and afterschool. Day and residential trips are open to all pupils and your child's specific needs can be discussed if they wish to join such a trip.

How will the Senior School prepare my child for the next stage of education?

A Pathways Fair and Information Evening is held to help pupils transition to their post 16 education. The Pathways Fair, held each September, allows pupils and their parents/guardians to make initial contact with a range of schools, colleges and other institutions available to them.

Unifrog, the market-leading online careers and education advice platform is embedded into the PDE programme which allows all stakeholder to. A range of suitable careers advice will be given to pupils as part of the PDE programme and we are continually updating our knowledge regarding the suitability of courses and providers for post-16 education. We have excellent links with a wide range of local schools and colleges.

At the end of Year 10 pupils complete a period of work experience which helps them to explore potential career paths. All pupils have a practise interview with the Head of the Senior School, Director of Pathways or the Head of Year 11 in order to help prepare them for academic and employment interviews.

How does Abbot's Hill School evaluate the effectiveness of its provision for SEND pupils?

Reviewing a pupil's academic progress, well-being and the impact of any interventions forms the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the SEND provision. Pupils can also share their views when they complete their Learning Passports. More widely, The School Council gathers views and feedback from all pupils. Parents are encouraged to share their views with the relevant SENDCO. The Implementation of the SEND Policy is reviewed by the Governors' Education Committee. We have a designated SEND Governor.

Who should I contact if I have a complaint?

Parents who have concerns about any aspect of their child's SEND provision should contact either Miss Bradley (SENDCO, Senior) or Mrs Enock (SENDCO, Prep) in the first instance. If this issue is not resolved, parents should follow the school complaints policy.

Are there any other services that can support me in the local area?

Hertfordshire Local Offer - The Local Offer lets parents and young people know what SEND services are available in Hertfordshire and who can access them:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/the-hertfordshire-local-offer.aspx>

SENDIASS - Hertfordshire SENDIASS is an impartial Special Educational Needs and Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS). SENDIASS support children, young people with special educational needs and/or disability (SEND) aged 0 to 25 years and their parents on issues relating to SEND.

<https://www.hertssendiass.org.uk/about-us.aspx>

HPCI – Hertfordshire Parent and Carer Involvement is an independent parent carer led organisation which aims to improve services for children and young people aged 0-25 years who have special educational needs and/or disabilities. HPCI do this by ensuring that family voices are heard by service planners and decision makers.

<https://www.hertsparentcarers.org.uk/>