

SEND Information Report 2025-2026

Introduction

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

Policy: [Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disabilities-Policy-MHEG-March-2025.pdf](#)

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

Link:

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

Abbot's Hill accepts students who have an identified SEND on the basis that the student's needs can met within the framework of reasonable adjustments. Abbot's Hill can support students who have a Specific Learning Difficulty such as Dyslexia, Dyscalculia or Dyspraxia and those who may have other needs including ADHD or Autism.

Abbot's Hill 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 student have to be considered in this context. Abbot's Hill 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 a number of classrooms
- 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 know if a student needs extra help?

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

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

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. Students 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 students 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 students have taster lessons. 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: Students 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 student 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 students is the first step in responding to students who have or may have SEND. Teachers have high expectations of all students, including those with SEND. All teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the students in their class, including where students access support from the Prep Learning Hub or Rose Garden.

The Prep Learning Hub and Rose Garden are designated and fully equipped learning support bases. The Learning Support facilities can lend specialist equipment to students such as wobble cushions/ stools, writing slopes or pen grips and reading rulers. Research-driven interventions are also available to support pupil interventions e.g. Alpha to Omega, Reading between the lines.

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 Pupil Passport. The Pupil Passports are created with an emphasis on student voice and can include input from parents. The key areas included on the Pupil Passports are:

- A description of the student's SEND and if relevant, Pastoral and Medical needs
- What the student enjoys in lessons and their strengths
- What the student finds difficult in lessons
- Strategies staff can use to support students in lessons

In the Senior School, students can attend subject clinics for extra learning support. These take place during lunch time or after school. Students can also come to the Rose Garden for support at break or lunch time.

In the prep school, the Learning Hub is available to students during break time for a sensory break. The Learning Hub also hosts Learning Support drop-in sessions during lunchtimes and an after-school learning club each week.

There are interventions that take place before school and also online packages that can be accessed at home. On occasion, some students may need some in class support from a Learning Support Assistant or they may require an adjusted curriculum.

Students 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 students 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), 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.

We support parents through the process of accessing other external professional support and advice, such as Educational Psychology and Speech and Language Services. We can support and accommodate external professionals that are working with students by providing suitable teaching spaces and curriculum allowance.

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

Mrs E Masters is the **Senior School SENDCO** and is responsible for managing the provision for children and young people with SEND at Abbot's Hill in the Senior School. Mrs Masters has the following qualifications: BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA Ed, NASENCO.

Contact details: emasters@abbotshill.herts.sch.uk 01442 240333 (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 the following qualifications: BA (Hons) and MA Ed, Level 5 specialist teacher with a Certificate of Competence in Educational Testing (CCET) and a Level 7 dyslexia assessor accredited with PATOSS and the British Psychological Society (BPS).

Contact details – renock@abbotshill.herts.sch.uk 01442 240333 (Prep Learning hub)

Mrs C King is the Assistant Headteacher (Pastoral). Part of her role is overseeing the SEND provision and managing **Access Arrangements**. Mrs King has the following qualifications BA (Hons), QTS, MA Ed, NASENCO, Certificate in Psychometric Testing Assessment and Access Arrangements (Level 7) and DSL (Level 3).

Contact details – cking@abbotshill.herts.sch.uk 01442 240333 (Pastoral Hub)

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

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 Prep Learning Hub to seek advice from our experienced staff. There are various books that can be borrowed from the Rose Garden and Hub as well as online resources that are shared regularly. Observations of students 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 student. This will be provided to those staff most directly involved with the student.

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, student 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 students 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 student'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.

Students 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 students 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 students to flourish and fulfil their potential. There is a range of support available to students 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 students 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 Learning Support facilities offer student drop-in at lunch and break time with the SEND Team
- The Gordon Building (Pastoral Hub) offers student drop-in at lunch or break time with the Head of Years and Pastoral Team
- Assemblies to raise awareness of SEND and how students can support each other
- Abbot's Hill counselling service allows students to seek individual expert support when they are experiencing difficulties with issues that are more complex. External referrals may be made for students who need further support beyond our counselling service
- Signposting to outside support such as Kooth, Childline and Shout
- [Mental Health Support Teams \(MHST\)](#) Early Intervention, one day a week to support students with worries, low mood, panic management

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

A broad range of academic and extra-curricular clubs are available at Abbot's Hill. They are open to all students, including those with SEND. The timetable is shared with students electronically.

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

All students 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 students 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 is held each September so students can look at the range of schools, colleges and other institutions available to them. Throughout their time at Abbots Hill, students will have access to a range of guest speakers, higher education providers, visits, trips and more to ensure students know all about the range of pathways available to them. Every year we celebrate Green Careers Week, National Apprenticeship Week and National Careers Week to help them with their future pathways and choices. All students will also meet with Mrs Evans in Year 10 to discuss their next steps. More information about the programme can be found on the school website.

A range of suitable careers advice will be given to students 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.

Mrs Evans is dedicated to helping not only students with these choices but also is available to help parents/carers as well. If you have any questions about the careers education programme you can contact her on fevans@abbotshill.herts.sch.uk

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

Reviewing a student's academic progress, well-being and the impact of any interventions forms the basis for evaluating the effectiveness of the SEND provision. Students can also share their views when they complete their Pupil Passports. More widely, The School Council gathers views and feedback from all students. Parents are encouraged to share their views with the relevant SENDCO. The Implementation of the SEND Policy is reviewed by the Governors' Education Committee. [Our Governors and Executives | Mill Hill Education Group](#)

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 Mrs Masters (SENDCO, Senior) or Mrs Enock (SENDCO, Prep) in the first instance.

If this issue is not resolved, parents should follow the school complaints policy. This is available upon request from enquiries@abbotshill.herts.sch.uk

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/>