



White Court Early Years

Local Offer for Parents

Our Ethos

Our Early Years Team believe that all young children should be able to make the best possible progress at our setting. Our friendly, experienced staff are committed to ensuring that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has Special Educational Needs or Disabilities [SEND]. We support pupils with SEND to be included in all aspects of life in Early Years.

Early Years Nursery Manager

Mrs R Hounsell

Early Years Deputy Nursery Manager

Mrs K Ranger- Green

Early Years Team

Mrs T Still Mrs J Burley

Mrs Edwards Mrs L Bull

Special Educational Needs / Disabilities Team

Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO): Mrs S Shambrook

Governor Responsible for SEN: Mr John Reilly

Special Educational Needs and Disability can be considered as falling under four broad areas:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- Sensory and / or physical needs

It is vital that we work closely with yourselves as parents and carers to make sure we are providing the best support we can for your child.

How our setting knows if young children need extra help and what our parents/carers should do if they think their child may have SEND

Children are identified as needing support in different ways. The earlier staff are given information about a child the sooner appropriate support can be put into place. The Early Year's Manager is often made aware of children who may need extra help before they start at White Court Nursery. This happens in various ways as listed below.

- When a child has been identified by the Preschool Health Team as needing some additional support the child will be referred to the Preschool Specialist Teacher Team who will contact us before the child starts school.
- When a child has been referred to the Speech and Language Therapy Team or Occupational Therapy Team paperwork is copied to us once we have been identified as the setting where the child will attend.
- During visits to White Court School to look around the Early Years setting, members of the Senior Leadership including the SENCO, are available to discuss any concerns parents may have about their child.
- Previous Preschool settings contact the SENCO at White Court School to share any concerns they have about a child. The SENCO will then visit the child at their preschool and discuss any strategies that have been used.
- Before every child starts in our Early Years setting, transition meetings are put in place where parents can share any concerns with the Early Years Manager and SENCO.

As we get to know your child we will share with you any concerns we may have. We will then work in partnership with you to ensure your child gets the appropriate level of support.

How we support children with SEND in our Early Years setting

Each child in the setting has access to a range of learning and development opportunities. Some children need some extra support that is 'additional to and different from' that which is offered. Following discussions and observations with the SENCO the children may be placed on SEN support.

Strategies will then be put in place to support your child. The effectiveness of these strategies are closely monitored and the information is shared with parents/carers.

For some children, who need further support, a request is made to access the support of a Preschool Specialist Teacher. The Specialist Teacher would visit White Court Early Years and observe the child in our setting. Following their advice, if appropriate, a request is made for Preschool Premium Funding. This allows us to employ additional staff to support the child in the nursery. A 'One Plan' will be produced which highlights the support and this is shared with parents and all staff in the setting. The Plan is reviewed each term to discuss what works well and consider any further support.

How our setting creates learning and development opportunities for individual children with SEND

During each session a range of activities are available for all the children to experience. These include child and adult led activities. All the members of staff work closely with your children, however a specific member of staff will be their key worker. The key worker completes observations of your child within the setting which builds up into an assessment that forms a baseline. Your child's key worker will use this information to ensure that we are able to respond individually to our learner's choices, preferences and needs and are able to get to know your child well.

Any additional support for a child with SEND will be provided during the sessions.

How our setting works in partnership with parents/carers

Before your child starts at White Court Early Years Nursery you will be invited to a meeting by the Early Years Manager. This meeting will give you information about how the sessions are organised and the type of experiences your child will have to extend their learning and development.

Before every child starts in our Early Years setting there is an opportunity for you and your child to join the nursery for a 'Stay and Play' Session. Staff are available during this session so you can share any concerns you may have about your child. These concerns are then shared with the Early Years Manager and SENCO.

Whilst your child attends White Court Early Years they will be met by members of staff at the beginning and end of each session. Parents/carers will be able to raise any concerns at these times either verbally or written in Home School books which each child is given when they start. The Home/School books are read at the beginning of every session so any concerns can be shared.

Parents are invited to record 'Star Moments', recognising achievements of their children which can be shared with the Early Years team. The Stars are then included in the child's Learning Journal. The Learning Journal includes pictures and observations of the range of activities your child experiences each day. This gives an insight of how children are progressing towards the Early Learning Goals.

During the Autumn Term formal meetings are arranged for parents to meet with the Early Years Manager and Deputy Manager to discuss how your child has settled in. It is also an opportunity to share any concerns and discuss any strategies which have been successful. During these meetings your child's Learning Journal is shared.

In the Summer Term you will receive a written report about how your child has progressed throughout their time at White Court Early Years.

Additional meetings with the Early Years Manager and SENCO can be arranged when necessary to discuss any concerns.

How our setting supports the wellbeing of young children with SEND

The Early Years setting is assessed within the Health and Safety procedures of White Court School to ensure all children's safety.

The setting delivers the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage and adapts these according to individual needs. We work with a key skills approach focussing on teaching learners the skills they need for lifelong learning and independence.

Following initial meetings with parents of children with SEND close consideration is given to any specific needs. Health Care Plans are written alongside parents and shared with all members of staff.

Staff training and experience in supporting young children with SEND

Mrs Hounsell, the Early Years Manager has a NNEB qualification and has had Safeguarding training. She completed a Special Educational Needs (NCC) Course Level 3 (January 2016). She also has had Paediatric Emergency first aid training. Staff have also achieved Level 3 NVQ in Child Care. All members of the Early Years Team are first aid trained and have had training in the use of EpiPens and Jextpens. Staff have also achieved Level 2 in Food Safety.

Staff at White Court Early Years are trained in aspects of SEN and are experienced in supporting children with a wide range of needs. They are dedicated to the wellbeing and progress of each child within the setting.

Specialist services and expertise accessed by our setting

From time to time, our setting will call on other professionals such as Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists or Physiotherapist, Social Workers, Educational Psychologists or members of the Specialist Teacher Team to enable us to support your child further. You will always be asked for your consent to allow these professionals to work with your child.

'Team around the Child' Meetings are arranged at school when appropriate. Following visits any reports that are written are shared with parents and staff in the Early Years setting.

How our setting includes young children with SEND in community based activities and outings

As the Early Years class is based upon the larger site of White Court School the children benefit from accessing a range of different facilities and environments. The children use the Food Technology room once a week. Within the outside classrooms the children can use the school field and play grounds, Forest School area, nature area, the adventure playground and music area.

Our accessible environment

The White Court School Single Equality Scheme covers the Early Years setting. The whole site is wheelchair accessible. Within the Early Years Classroom there are three toilets and wash basins.

Within the school there is a fully accessible toilet with changing facilities which include an adjustable wall mounted changing table.

How our setting prepares and supports young children with SEND when joining the setting and when transferring to another setting or school

Before your child starts at White Court Early Years Nursery you will be invited to a meeting by the Early Years Manager. This meeting will give you information about how the sessions are organised and the type of experiences your child will have to extend their learning and development.

You will also be invited with your child to join the nursery for a 'Stay and Play' Session. Staff are available during this session so you can share any concerns you may have about your child. These concerns are then shared with the Early Years Manager and SENCO.

Visits are also made to previous preschool settings that your child may have attended. These visits enable your child to recognise a friendly face on their first day in Early Years

Staff work hard to ensure that there is a smooth transition and support each child with their individual requirements.

When a child leaves White Court Early Years staff ensure information is passed on to their new setting.

How our setting organises its resources to meet the needs of young children with SEND

Our setting is fully inclusive and we ensure there is appropriate levels of support for children with SEND to ensure they can access all the activities.

How we decide on appropriate support for young children with SEND

Once we feel a child has additional needs we share our concerns with parents and discuss any appropriate support that needs to be put in place.

Who to contact for further information

If you have any concerns please share these with the Mrs Hounsell, the Early Years Nursery Manager.

Our policies and provision

A range of our school policies are available on our website or we can provide copies on request. This includes our SEN policy and Complaints Procedure.

Local Offer

This information should be read alongside the information provided by the local authority which can be found at www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk

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