

Castle Vale Nursery School

Our SEND Information Report

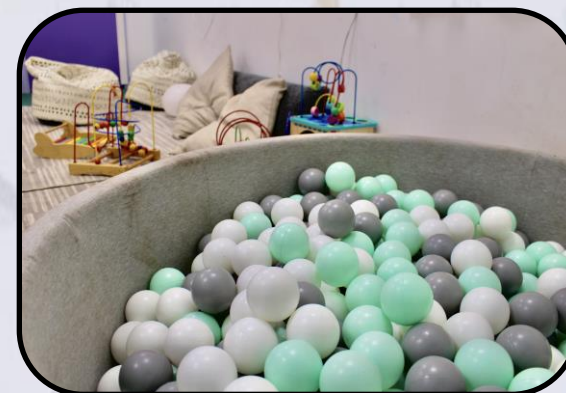
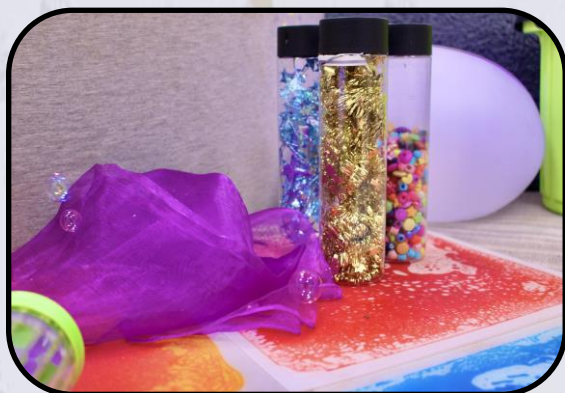
What can I expect at Castle Vale Nursery School if my child has special educational needs?

We will ensure that your child feels safe and happy.

Open and honest communication.

Appropriate and effective teaching and learning.

A Partnership Approach.



Making a difference. All of our children, all of the time.

Definition of Special Educational Needs

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them.

Children have a learning difficulty if they:

- a) Have a significantly greater difficulty learning that the majority of children of the same age.
- b) Have a disability which prevents, or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind, generally provided for children of the same age in schools within the area of the local education authority.
- c) Are under compulsory school age and fall within the definition of (a) or (b) above or would so do if special educational provision was not made for them.

What to expect from Castle Vale Nursery School if my child has SEND

We are an inclusive Nursery School and we support the needs of all children including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Such needs include:

- **Cognition and Learning**
- **Communication and Interaction**
- **Social, emotional and mental health difficulties**
- **Sensory and/or physical needs**
- **Complex medical needs**

The areas of need listed above are stated within the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 (2015 and updated 2024) which can be found using the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-code-of-practice-0-to-25>

Our child centred curriculum ensures that all children are motivated to actively engage in their learning.

All children in Nursery School have support through differentiation and our curriculum.

This means that activities are planned according to the level that the child is working at. This can include a variety of adaptations including changes to the physical environment, use of resources, changes to teaching styles as well as levels of adult support.

We are committed to supporting every child. To ensure we do this effectively our staff members have a wide range of training and regularly seek advice from outside agencies and other professionals.

What should you do if you have any concerns?

What should I do if I have concerns about my child?

If you have any concerns please speak to your child's key worker or ask to speak to Helen Brennan or Izzie Darby who are the Castle Vale Nursery School SENDCo team.

What will happen if the Nursery has concerns about my child?

We will speak to you directly and arrange a meeting with the SENDCo team to discuss any concerns. Prior to any intervention we ensure that we have given the children time to settle, feel safe and happy and build positive relationships and attachments with our staff team. We spend time getting to know each child.

What will happen next?

Our friendly SENDCo team will gather as much information as possible about your child. This will be information from you, from Nursery staff, current professionals and by completing observations. We will share information honestly and the door is always open for you to talk to us.

We will then discuss with you and agree together what will be put in place to help your child to move forward and achieve well.

Our SEND Team

Helen Brennan is the Special Educational Needs
and Disability Co-ordinator (SENDco)

Izzie Darby is the Deputy Head Teacher.

They work with children, teachers, parents and various
agencies to ensure that children with special
educational needs have their needs met.

You can ask to speak to them, contact them by phone on 0121 **675 7578** or
by email

send@castlevalenursery.co.uk

Kirstie McElroy-Stringer is our SEND Governor.

At Castle Vale, every child has a Key Worker who will support your child to ensure their
individual needs are met. You can speak to your child's Key Worker daily.

Buttercups

At Castle Vale Nursery School, in addition to our carefully planned learning environment, we also have a teaching and learning space for children with complex and significant needs.

This is called Buttercups room. It is a sensory area that allows children to access highly structured activities and resources in a quieter and distraction free space with a very high level of adult support.



Appropriate and Effective Teaching and Learning

How does Castle Vale Nursery School provide appropriate teaching and learning for children with SEND?

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, but learning opportunities are planned carefully to meet the needs of individual children who attend. We support all children through our child centred curriculum and differentiation. We ensure that all children are included through thinking carefully about our environment, how it is accessed and the resources available. All children are offered a wide range of high quality learning opportunities and experiences, accessing all areas of the Early Years Curriculum. Helen and Izzie (SENDCo Team) work alongside the staff team to facilitate effective and appropriate provision for each child. They work together to accurately assess progress in order to plan future interventions. We provide a balance of child initiated play and focussed learning time. Children work in their key groups, small group sessions and where required, 1:1 sessions. Intervention sessions are planned to support specific areas of need including language and communication groups, nurture groups, physical development groups and sensory groups.

How does Castle Vale Nursery School support emotional and social development of children?

The personal, social and emotional development of all children is weaved into all aspects of the curriculum. Children are taught to respect and value others, they learn about empathy and compassion through teacher led group sessions, our continuing work on the rights of the child and during child initiated free flow play.

Graduated Response

Castle Vale Nursery School adopts the Graduated Response which has four stages of action.

Step 1 - Assess

Assessments include:

Baseline

Observations

2 Year Development Check

Wellcomm Language Toolkit,

Schedule of Growing Skills
Toolkit

Play, Interact, Communicate
Profile

Speech and Language Profile

Tapestry - online learning
journal,

Termly assessment

Step 2 - Plan

This happens
daily and weekly,
in whole staff
planning
meetings.

Step 3 - Do

In a variety of
ways to meet
the children's
individual
needs.

Step 4 - Review

The
effectiveness of the
support and its
impact on progress
will be evaluated at
the agreed date.

How We Work

Step 1

Gather information from parents and carers

home visits/phone calls/meetings, all about me forms, parents consultations, discussions with staff from previous settings.

Step 2

Develop our knowledge of the children

Getting to know you, observations, Wellcomm Language Toolkit, baseline assessments (EYFS).

Step 3

Teaching and learning, targeted intervention

Continuous provision— access to high quality teaching through a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum, independent play, visual timetables.

Targeted support—1:1 support, language groups, all staff have symbols/photo cards, Makaton.

At Castle Vale Nursery School, we work with outside agencies who can provide a specialised service to ensure every child has their needs met. We will always talk to you if we feel that your child needs support from an outside agency and we will ask for your permission to involve them.

Working in partnership

Sometimes children need a bit more support. When this happens, we may need, with your consent, to ask other professional agencies to help us support your child further.

We will always involve you in discussions about how other professionals may be able to offer support.

We will always ask for your permission before we invite other professional agencies into school to work with your child.

Educational Psychologist (EP)

The EP supports children who have social or emotional needs or any other complex needs. They advise staff and parents.

Communication and Autism Team (CAT)

CAT supports children who are being assessed for, or already have, a diagnosis of Autism or communication difficulties.

Speech and Language Therapist (SALT)

SALT gives support for children with speech, language & communication difficulties.

Language, Learning and Strategic Support Team (LLaSS)

LLSS gives advice and support for children who have cognition and specific learning difficulties.

Occupational Therapy

Support for children or younger people with physical/sensory issues which impact on their level of independence and self-care.

Community Speech and Language Therapy

Support for children with speech, language and communication difficulties and those with difficulties swallowing, eating and drinking.

Health Visitors

Support for children with development checks, medical needs including where medication is prescribed/required.

Family support team

We have access to a team of family support workers based in the Erdington district including Castle Vale Children's Centre.

Other Services

Sensory Support Services, Neuro Development Pathway, Physical Support Service, Physiotherapy.

Parent Partnerships

How will we involve your child in decisions about their education?

From your child's first day at Nursery School, we will build positive relationships with them and getting to know their individual needs is our priority. All children are supported to think and play independently. We encourage time to 'talk' about their learning. Our child-centred approach ensures that all children make choices about their learning and are involved in developing the day to day provision.

What support do we have for you as a parent of a child with SEND and how will you be involved?

We have an open door policy and are always available to help. Parents are always welcome to contact the SEND team and we will meet regularly to discuss your child and their support. You will also be invited to regular reviews of your child's My SEN Support Plan. You will be invited to meet any professionals from outside agencies involved with your child to discuss support and progress.

Advice and support regarding Education, Health and Care Plans or SEND Support Provision Plans will be given if needed.

Details of EHCP and SSPP can be found on Birmingham's Local Offer website - www.birmingham.gov.uk/localoffer

What can I do if I am not happy with the provision for my child?

If you have concerns about the support your child is receiving, please speak to the SEND Team in the first instance. We will listen to your concerns and do all we can to resolve the issues. Our school takes complaints seriously and they are acted upon on an individual basis. We operate a complaints procedure, copies of which can be found in the policies section of our website or ask for a copy of our complaints procedure at the school office.

Staff training

Helen Brennan (SENDCo), Izzie Darby (Deputy Head teacher) and our Governing Body are responsible for ensuring that all staff at Castle Vale Nursery School regularly receive training to support children with Special Educational Needs.

All medical needs will be supported by staff in a sensitive and caring manner.

Our staff administer medicines appropriately and we store medicines safely but on hand in case of emergencies.

Annually, our staff have paediatric first aid training. They are trained to administer asthma medication using inhalers, to use Epi-pens for children who have severe allergies and to support children with epilepsy and access any other appropriate training that is needed.

All staff have had Tier 1 AET Autism Awareness training.

Helen has completed Tier 2 and 3 Autism Awareness Training.

Helen has completed ELKLAN training.

Speech and language training is ongoing from Nursery School SALT.

Staff have completed stage 1 Makaton training and some staff have completed stage 2.

Wellcomm Language Toolkit training has been completed.

The training that the Nursery team receive is based on the individual needs of the children in the current cohort.

How we support transitions

We are committed to supporting every child that attends our Nursery. We want the transition into Nursery to run as smoothly as possible and for children to feel safe and secure in our environment.

Before your child starts Nursery

We will complete home visits or phone calls to find out all about your child's needs. We also complete an all about me form.

We contact any previous settings or agencies that your child has been involved with to gather information that will help them settle.

We will always treat your child as an individual, taking into account his/her specific needs. We will give them time to settle into Nursery and build positive relationships in the process.

When moving to a Primary/Special/Resource Base School

We invite the new school's SENDCo and Class Teacher to come into Nursery to meet your child and find out all about them.

We will talk to your child about their new school, showing them photos of teachers and classrooms to help them understand the forthcoming change.

When your child starts their new setting, we will send all the relevant documentation from their file to their new setting (e.g My SEN Support Plan, SEND Support Provision Plan, Education, Health and Care Plan).

What our Parents say about us

Me, my daughter and my two sons have all attended Castle Vale Nursery school. My sons' experiences have been different as they have SEND needs. I was worried about the change of routine from home to nursery and them both being away from me. Once my sons settled in, my worries disappeared. The staff are kind, helpful, caring and have created a lovely bond with my children. I am frequently updated on Tapestry with pictures and messages, so even though my sons are non-verbal, I can see what they have been doing and how their day has been. There is a sensory room with an outdoor area for the children with SEND needs. Different activities are planned out each day that include sensory play, which my sons have loved. I recommend Castle Vale Nursery School for any child SEND needs or not, your children will love this nursery.

Castle Vale Nursery School has been incredible for my son. He has come leaps and bounds since he started thanks to his key workers and the hard work of SENCo Helen. I will forever be grateful for them.

I just want to say a massive thank you Helen, plus all of Buttercups! You are all amazing, my little boy wouldn't have come so far without you! I appreciate all you do.

Amazing team. They made myself and my son comfortable and I really trusted them. My son has improved so much with the help of everyone. I am very grateful for the support we have received.

The performance of the team was very good. We had a great experience with them. The team was very co-operative and helped us a lot in the betterment of our child in all aspects. We really appreciate them and are thankful to the team.

The team have been supportive and helpful from the very start. Very approachable and communicating with them is easy. I was always kept informed about my child's progress and development, they have always been open and transparent. All the staff are great and the nursery has access to great provision including speech and language therapists. Coming to nursery has improved my child's speech and communication massively and she's had such a positive experience.

Further advice and support

SEND Parent Link: 0121 303 8461 Email: parentllinkservice@birmingham.gov.uk

SENDIASS (Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support) : 0121 303 5004

SALT (Speech and Language Therapy) Advice Line: 0121 466 6231

OT (Occupational Therapy) Advice Line: 0121 683 2325

CASS (Children's Advice and Support Service): 0121 303 1888 Email cass@birminghamchildrenstrust.gov.uk

Early Help Hub: www.birmingham.gov.uk/love

Birmingham Children's Hospital: 0121 333 9999

For more information visit Birmingham Local Authority's Local Offer

<https://www.localofferbirmingham.co.uk>

Click below for a video about the Birmingham Local Offer website

<https://youtu.be/TcAbIK6EVQ0>

Article 29: *Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.*

Article 23: *A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life in conditions that promote dignity, independence and an active role in the community. Governments must do all they can to provide free care and assistance to children with a disability.*