

Cheddar Valley Schools

The Cheddar Valley Schools recognise the benefits of working together to develop systems for meeting students' needs. We are working together to make transitions between schools and sharing information easier. You will notice from September on each school's website a new page that sets out the school's 'offer' relating to SEN support. Many aspects will be common to all schools, but there will be differences because of the age of students and the particular schools' circumstances. The Cheddar Valley Schools' special needs offers then feed into a much more general document created by the local authority called the 'Local Offer' Link.

We will inform you regarding specific changes that affect your child at the earliest opportunity in September. Thank you for your support whilst we implement the Government's new ideas.

If you feel you would like more information regarding the changes, please contact your school's SENCO:

Cheddar Valley SENCOs and Contact Details

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The Kings of Wessex Academy

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Information for Families

New Special Educational Needs Code

Cheddar Valley 2014



Working together for your children

Cheddar Valley Schools

Axbridge First School Academy
Cheddar First School
Draycott & Rodney Stoke First School
East Brent First School
Lympsham First School
Mark First School
Shipham First School
Weare First School Academy
Wedmore First School Academy
Fairlands Middle School
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The Kings of Wessex Academy

Special Educational Needs Code (SEN) 2014

The Government has introduced SEN reforms to schools that come into effect in September 2014 (Children and Families Bill). The reforms aim to streamline support for children and young people aged 0-25 and focus on delivering positive outcomes for them.

You will notice some changes, which will include the terms used to refer to children with special needs and also to some of the records that are kept in schools. Schools in the Cheddar Valley are committed to supporting the progress of all students and to working in partnership with families.

Definition of SEN and the Highlighted Needs Register

The Government's definition of SEN in the new SEN Code of Practice is:

‘A child has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for ‘special educational provision’ to be made for them and they have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age.’

As a result you may find that students who were previously classed on the school's SEN register as having ‘Special Educational Needs’ will now be referred to by Cheddar Valley Schools as being on the **Highlighted Needs** Register. They may still take part in additional interventions, but these may not be ‘special educational provision’. If this is the case for your child, please be reassured that staff will still be required to ensure that lessons meet their needs and that effective ‘personalised’ provision is made for them. This is called ‘Quality First Teaching’ and is the most effective way for the vast majority of students to access their learning.

SEN Support

A smaller number of students will remain on the SEN register and all these pupils will now be referred to as requiring ‘SEN support’. The interventions to meet their needs will be more specialised and will require the advice and supervision of the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO). The progress they make on these interventions and in their education as a whole will be reviewed termly with parents.

Education, Health and Care Plans

Some students with very complex needs will have Education Health and Care Plans. This is the term for the documents that will replace statements. The government hopes to encourage Health, Social Care and Local Authority agencies to work together to meet the needs of these students. More information regarding these arrangements can be found on the Local Authority website.