

What are Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)?

Sometimes, people can have more difficulty learning, moving around or just doing things other people take for granted like walking. They might need special equipment or extra help. At school, we call this having additional or special needs.



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All our staff at Rickmansworth Park work very hard to make sure children in their class or groups are learning really important and interesting skills every day and are happy and healthy.



How do the teachers know if someone needs more help with their learning?

- ✚ Maybe their parents told us
- ✚ We might see them finding things difficult in class
- ✚ A doctor may have told us they may find some activities difficult.
- ✚ Or, maybe they seem sad or not quite themselves much of the time.

Not all people who find school work difficult have special needs, they might just need a bit of extra help.



What do teachers do if they think someone has special needs?

- ✚ First, they go and tell Ms Tamayo who is the Special Needs Coordinator (or SENCo for short). This means she helps children who need extra support.
- ✚ The class teacher and Ms Tamayo will then talk to them and their parents to find out what we can all do to help.



How will school help people who struggle or have special needs?

- ✚ We might give them slightly different work or they may go out and have regular extra help from one of the Teaching Assistants or Ms Tamayo.
- ✚ We may give them different equipment in the classroom so they can be more independent in their learning. This could be a writing slope, concentration cushion, pen/pencil grips or easy to use scissors.
- ✚ Your class teacher and Ms Tamayo will speak to their parents regularly, not just at Parents evenings, so they know how to help at home too!
- ✚ Sometimes people who know lots about special needs like doctors, psychologists or speech and language therapist, give us targets to work through in school too!

We do all these things to make learning or moving around for children who struggle or have special needs easier. We want everyone at Rickmansworth Park to be happy, confident and ready to learn to be the best they can be.



Do children who have special needs get to talk about their learning if they have a question or they're worried?

✚ Absolutely! It's really important that we hear what they and their parents think and if there is more Rickmansworth Park can do. This is called Pupil and Parent Voice.



How do they know how they're doing?

✚ Your class teacher or Ms Tamayo will talk to the pupil regularly about how they are doing and we will talk about what else we can do to help them.



How will their parents or carers know how they're doing in class?

✚ The teacher will speak to their parents at consultation meetings in October, February (and July in Reception).

✚ They may also get in touch through notes in the yellow Home Link Book or have meetings in school.

✚ Parents are also invited to come into school for open mornings and parent consultation evenings.

✚ In fact, parents are always welcome in school to meet with us. Whatever helps all of you will also help us.



What happens when children with special needs go to their new secondary school?

✚ Their class teacher and Ms Tamayo will speak with the teachers in the new school and tell them all about their skills and talents.

✚ We will also let them know what helps our Y6 child learn best in the classroom.

✚ They may even be able to go and meet the teachers and some of the other children joining the school before everyone else on a fun Transition day.

Everyone learns in their own way and at the own speed. It is our job to help all Rickmansworth Park children so that they can be the best they can be!