

Hillshott Infant School and Nursery SEND Information **Report 2026**

At Hillshott Infant School and Nursery, we are committed to an inclusive approach where all children are supported to achieve their full potential and feel valued, safe and happy.

This SEND Information Report explains how we identify, assess and provide for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). It is reviewed annually and updated as required in line with statutory guidance.

Key Contacts

- **Headteacher:** Mrs Melissa Peacock
- **SENCo:** Mrs Alison Farr
- **SEND Governor:** Mrs Anne Stephenson
- **Family Support Liaison:** Sarah Murdoch

☎ **01462 670398**

✉ **admin@Hillshott.herts.sch.uk**

What do we mean by SEND?

A child has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision to be made for them.

SEND is identified within four broad areas:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs

Abbreviations

SEND – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

SENCo – Special Educational Needs Coordinator

IEP – Individual Education Plan

EHCP – Education, Health and Care Plan

PSHE – Personal, Social and Health Education

1. How do we identify pupils with SEND?

We identify SEND through a graduated approach that includes:

- Ongoing teacher assessment and observation
- Termly pupil progress meetings
- Discussions with parents/carers
- Information from early years settings or previous schools
- Advice from external professionals where appropriate

If a pupil is not making expected progress, **reasonable adjustments** are put in place and reviewed. Where concerns persist, the pupil may be identified as requiring **SEN Support** and added to the SEND register.

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

- Speak to your child's **class teacher** in the first instance
- Contact the **SENCo** via the school office if concerns continue
- Share any relevant medical or professional reports

We value parent partnership and welcome early discussion.

3. How do we support pupils with SEND?

All pupils benefit from **Quality First Teaching**, supported by Hertfordshire's guidance on **Ordinarily Available Provision**.

Tier 1 – Quality First Teaching

This includes:

- Adapted teaching strategies
- Clear routines and visual supports
- Flexible grouping
- Additional resources or scaffolding
- Differentiated tasks and outcomes

Tier 2 – Targeted Support

Some pupils may benefit from:

- Short-term, targeted interventions
- Small group or individual sessions
- Support delivered by trained staff
Progress is monitored and reviewed regularly.

Tier 3 – SEN Support and Specialist Advice

For pupils with more complex needs:

- Individual Education Plans (IEPs) are used
- Targets are reviewed termly with parents
- Advice may be sought from external agencies (with consent)

The **Assess–Plan–Do–Review** cycle underpins all SEND provision.

4. Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs)

EHCPs are for pupils with significant, long-term needs that cannot be met through SEN Support alone.

- Requests for assessment can be made by parents or the school
 - The process is managed by the local authority
 - EHCPs are reviewed annually
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5. How do we involve parents and pupils?

- Parents are involved at every stage of decision-making
- Termly meetings and IEP reviews
- SENCo available to attend meetings on request

We gather **pupil voice** in age-appropriate ways, including discussions with staff, pupil profiles and contributions to review meetings where appropriate.

6. How do we measure progress?

Progress is monitored through:

- Teacher assessment
- Pupil progress meetings
- IEP reviews
- Provision mapping

Support is adjusted as needed to ensure pupils make progress from their individual starting points.

7. How do we support wellbeing and behaviour?

We support emotional wellbeing through:

- A therapeutic approach to behaviour
- Weekly PSHE lessons
- Assemblies and whole-school approaches
- Trained wellbeing staff
- A therapeutic approach to behaviour

We follow statutory guidance for pupils with medical needs and create individual Healthcare Plans where required.

8. What specialist services do we work with?

We may work with:

- North Herts Primary Support Service
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Occupational and Physiotherapy
- Specialist advisory teachers
- Health services
- Family Centres or Letchworth Family support Service

Parental consent is always sought before referrals.

9. What training do staff receive?

- Regular SEND updates and training for all staff
 - Specialist training (e.g. autism, speech and language, wellbeing)
 - Ongoing safeguarding training
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10. How accessible is the school?

- Ramps available where required
 - Flexible classroom layouts
 - The school building is not purpose-built for accessibility, which can present physical challenges in some areas; however, access needs are considered on an individual basis and reasonable adjustments are made wherever possible
 - Accessibility Plan in place (available on the website)
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11. Admissions and preventing discrimination

- Disabled pupils are admitted in line with the school's admissions policy
 - We take active steps to prevent pupils with disabilities from being treated less favourably
 - Reasonable adjustments ensure access to learning, trips and enrichment activities
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12. How do we support transitions?

- Additional transition visits where needed
 - Social stories and visual supports
 - Individual transition plans for some pupils
 - Close liaison with receiving schools
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13. How are SEND resources allocated?

- Support is funded through the school's notional SEND budget
 - Additional funding may be requested through High Needs Funding where appropriate
 - Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) may receive additional funding from the local authority to support the provision specified in their plan. This funding is used to secure the agreed outcomes and is reviewed regularly.
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14. How can concerns or complaints be raised?

Concerns should be discussed with the class teacher or SENCo. Formal complaints follow the school's Complaints Policy (available on the website).

15. Where can I find the Local Offer?

Hertfordshire Local Offer:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/local-offer/the-hertfordshire-local-offer.aspx>

We value strong partnerships with parents and carers and believe that working together is key to supporting children with SEND. If you have any questions about this report or concerns about your child's needs, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We are always happy to listen and work with you to ensure every child is supported to thrive at Hillshott Infant School and Nursery.