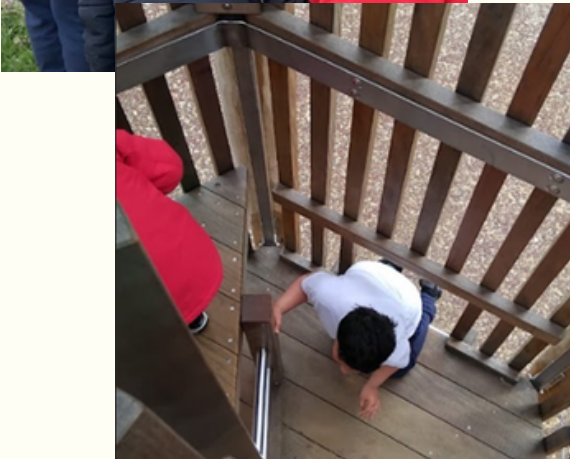


FOCUS ON SEND



Health and happiness are key considerations for all children but have a particular poignance for children with special, educational needs. The Trust has held special educational needs, SEND, as a key focus from its formation with designated staff for SEND as part of the central team.

If the education we provide is to empower children to be healthy and happy we must seek to meet all their educational needs. These needs may be special or may not be, by special we simply mean additional or different needs. Many children experience this and nationally 40% are formally recorded as having a special educational need over the course of their school career.

Aim- Promote and celebrate equality, diversity and inclusivity for all.

This is achieved through:

- The SEND team across the Trust and its schools working closely together to develop practice and support each other through the work of the SEND Group
- A full program of SEND CPD including Autism Education Trust, Team Teach and CPD for early careers teachers
- Working in partnership with other schools, Trusts and organisations as part of our wider commitment to the development of the education sector

'Staff, children and parents said they had an amazing day. Thanks so much for organising it.'

Curwen's SENCo/AHT- from the Hainult Trip

Our SEND Group consists of the school's SENCOs, the Trust's specialist teacher Alice Thomas and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Officer Helen Harris. Meeting regularly throughout the year the group responds to the current changes, climate and challenges within SEND. They work together on projects to support practice, for instance they developed a tool for class teachers to empower them to write SMARTer outcomes for the children in their classes.

The SEND group has worked closely with the Trust's finance teams ensuring strong, joined-up communications with the local authorities SEND and finance teams. This has enabled the Trust to mitigate against the impact of a challenging landscape for local authorities regarding their funding in recent years.

Through the Training Hub, Helen has overseen a package of SEND CPD for staff. Nationally accredited courses form the backbone of a comprehensive offer to staff. Senior staff from all of the schools are involved as trainers, meaning expertise is available on-site in schools. A high proportion of teaching and support staff have received training in autism and positive handling with all early careers teachers receiving SEND sessions as part of their CPD.

Working with the Sports Hub, Helen coordinated an educational visit to Hainault Forest for children from all four schools with a high level of need. Other 'Spirit in Motion' events are organised by Paul Belcher throughout the year and he attends the SEND Group as a visitor at least once a year to liaise on these projects which include Panathlon events and swimming.

We believe in a holistic experience for our children, this is about an ethos that holds each individual as whole, complete and of equal worth. Viewing children's need as just that, a need, and not as an attribute that is a broken or missing part of the whole human being. Rather it is a part of their story or part of who they are. To this end we take a built in not bolt on approach to inclusive practice where all teachers and leaders are teachers and leaders of SEND.



What would you describe as key strengths of the course? 'The detailed explanations and knowledge of the subject when questions are asked. Also the practical training was very well explained'

Course Participant from the Team Teach Training