



SEND and EAL: Contact and Support

At Blackminster Middle School, our students with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) and English as an Additional Language (EAL) are supported by a friendly and skilled team of specially trained staff. Their knowledge and experiences span a wide range of needs, and these staff are likely to encounter students on a regular basis both within lessons and interventions and around the academy.

SENDco & Inclusion Lead

Mental Health Lead / English as an Additional Language (EAL) Lead / Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo)

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Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead / Lead for Looked After Children and Previously Looked After Children

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EAL

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Student Welfare

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Social, Emotional, Mental Health

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**START
HERE**

Initial Parental Concern

If you have a concern about your child, or believe they have an unmet need, please contact your child's form tutor. We have staff trained to identify and support students with a wide range of needs. Form tutors will refer as appropriate to the SENDCo and SEND team.

Investigation and Identification of Need

Once you flag an initial concern, our SEND team will investigate what support may be required. This may include meeting your child, observations, testing (for Social, Emotional and Mental Health, Medical, Cognition or Speech needs) and questionnaires sent to their teachers.

External Agencies Referrals

If your child requires additional support or testing which is not offered within the academy, we may refer to an external agency. **This includes:** Occupational health, School Nurses, Vision and Hearing Impairment, Speech and Language Therapy, Learning Support or Children's and Adolescents Mental Health.

SEND Register & Second Wave Support

If a need is identified through observations and testing, you will be contacted by the SENDCo and your child may be added to the SEND register. This is within a month of your initial concern. Your child may be provided with additional interventions to support their need, such as small group work or in class support.

Education Health Care Plans & Educational Psychology

If your child presents with multiple or significant needs, the school may recommend applying for an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) to provide funding and support. This process can take up to and over a year and your child will meet with an Educational Psychologist, to support in identifying their needs.

External Assessments & Diagnosis

There are a number of needs we as a school cannot diagnose but may identify traits of. This includes needs such as dyslexia, ADHD, autism, anxiety or depression and vision or hearing impairments. If you are concerned about needs we cannot diagnose, we may recommend you book a GP appointment or refer you to a specialist.