

ST. PAUL'S



St Paul's Catholic Junior School SEND Newsletter

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Autumn 2025

Welcome to the Autumn Term 1 edition of our new SEND newsletter - a space where we celebrate creativity, learning and uniqueness across our school community.

Meet the SEND Team members:

Mrs O'Callaghan

SENCO (DHT)

Strategic Mental Health Lead

Mrs Jackson

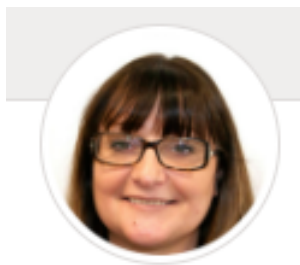
Learning Mentor

Miss Hodgkinson

Learning Mentor

Mr Doyle

Operational
Mental Health Lead



Miss Evans - Yr 5 and 6 nurture class

Our school context:

For our first edition, we thought it would be useful to give an overall idea of our school context:

No of pupils on our SEND register: **112**

SEN Support: **93 children**

EHCP: **19 children**

Primary areas of need for our school:

Autism - **52 pupils**

ADHD - **17 pupils**

Dyslexia - **9 pupils**

Moderate Learning Difficulties - **8 pupils**

The majority of our learners with SEND are supported through school **SEN support** which means those children will have school based interventions and a SEN support plan in place. Some of our children need a higher level of support and need provision beyond that usually expected from a mainstream setting and those children are supported through an **Education, Health and Care plan (EHCP)**. The process for applying to the local authority for an EHCP is a long and challenging one but we are happy to support parents to do this for those learners with multiple and complex needs that require the highest levels of support.

Spot light on: Autism (ASD or ASC)

Autism is a lifelong neurodevelopmental condition that impacts communication, social interaction, and behaviour, resulting in unique ways of experiencing the world and processing information. It's considered a "spectrum" because symptoms and their severity vary widely among individuals, affecting each person uniquely. Key characteristics include differences in social understanding, challenges with flexible thinking, and sensory sensitivities, along with focused interests and repetitive movements or behaviours.

Some of the ways to support a child with autism at home and school:

- **Visual Routines:**

Display daily routines using photos or a timetable to provide predictability and reduce anxiety.

- **Calm Spaces:**

Create a quiet area in the house or classroom with sensory-friendly items, like soft cushions or noise-cancelling headphones, for when your child feels overwhelmed.

- **Sensory Considerations:**

Be aware of your child's sensory preferences—what they like and don't like—as this can help manage their comfort and stress levels.

- **Clear, Simple Language:**

Use direct, clear, and slow speech, and avoid ambiguous phrases that could have multiple meanings.

- **Visual Support:**

Supplement verbal communication with gestures, pictures, symbols, or visual aids to help your child understand.

- **Processing Time:**

Give your child extra time to process what you've said before expecting a response, such as using a "six-second rule".

- **Positive Reinforcement:**

Praise and reward positive behaviours, like trying new foods or using new words, to encourage repetition.

- **Calm-Down Strategies:**

Instead of punishing challenging behaviour, help your child identify causes and teach them strategies to calm down, such as deep breathing or a safe space.

- **Prepare for Changes:**

For changes in routine, prepare your child in advance with tools like social stories to help them understand what to expect and reduce anxiety.

ASD Training Team Parent/Carer Coffee Afternoon

Thank you to all the parents and carers that attended the coffee afternoon hosted by the ASD training team in school. It was such a great opportunity to listen to the experiences of some of our families and share good ideas and tips.

Upcoming Events:

World Mental Health Day – Friday 10th October

For World Mental Health Day 2025 in the UK, the "#HelloYellow" campaign encourages everyone to wear yellow to raise awareness for young people's mental health, supporting YoungMinds on Friday, October 10, 2025. Children can wear an item of yellow to show support and will participate in lessons and activities which will promote ways of having good mental health.

Parents' Evening: Tuesday 21st and Wednesday 22nd October 2025

Following parents evening, if you would like a chat about any additional needs you feel your child has then please get in touch with either Mrs O'Callaghan, Mrs Jackson or Miss Hodgkinson (SEN Team) via the school office or senco@stpauls1.com

Beautiful New Beginnings Coffee Evening:

Are you supporting a child or young person who may have additional needs linked to ASD or ADHD? Join Beautiful New Beginnings CIC for a free and friendly SEND Parents Coffee Evening, designed to connect families and provide practical support.

Event: SEND Parents Coffee Evening – Focus on ASD & ADHD

Date: Tuesday 28th October 2025

Time: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Register here: [Click to learn more and reserve your space](#)

This relaxed session is open to all parents, carers, and even grandparents, whether or not your child is on a diagnostic pathway or has a formal diagnosis. It's a wonderful opportunity to meet other families, ask questions, and discover support options available in the community.

Working Together

We are committed to supporting every child so they can thrive in their learning journey. If you have concerns about your child, please speak to your child's class teacher or a member of our SEN team. Together, we can ensure the right strategies are in place to help them succeed.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

The SEN Team

Be Kind. Be Respectful. Be Resilient.