

Buckingham Nursery Local Offer

What is the local offer?

The local offer was introduced in the new Special Education Code of Practice 2014. Its aim is to support children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and their families by providing detailed information on the services available in Buckinghamshire and more specifically in individual settings

Our Ethos

At Buckingham Nursery, we believe that every child has a right to access a full and enriching curriculum, no matter what their ability or background. We are committed to providing equal opportunities for all, regardless of race, faith, gender, or capability. We promote self and mutual respect and a caring, non-judgemental attitude throughout the Nursery.

What is a special educational need?

Approximately one in five children will need extra support at some time during their school lives. A child has special education needs if they have learning difficulties and/or physical disabilities which make it significantly harder for them to learn than most children of the same age.

There are 4 broad categories of SEND:

- Communication and interaction – including autism spectrum and language disorders.
- Cognition and learning – including learning difficulties, development delay and Specific Learning Difficulties eg Dyslexia, and Dyscalculia.
- Social, emotional, and mental health – including ADHD, mental or emotional health difficulties.
- Physical and sensory – including hearing and visual impairments.

At Buckingham Nursery, we have children in all these categories. The numbers of children with SEND is below the national average, and children learn alongside their peers.

We have high expectations of all our children.

Identifying if a child needs support

At Buckingham Nursery every child has a key worker. Their role is to develop trusting sensitive relationships with parents and children to enable respectful sharing of information. Ongoing observational assessments are made of all children and are linked to the Early Years Outcomes and characteristics of learning. In some cases this will identify additional needs.

How will Buckingham Nursery support a child with SEN?

If it is decided to provide a child with SEN support, parents will be notified if not already involved. The key worker and the SENCo, in consultation with the parents, will agree the support to be put in place, as well as the expected impact on progress and a clear review date. This information, and how the child can be supported at home, is recorded on an Individual Education Plan and/or SEND Support Plan.

How will the curriculum for the setting be matched to a child with SEND needs?

The key worker will oversee all targets on the support plan. They use a Learning Journey containing observations, photographs and work to monitor progress and development. The SENCo will support the teacher in any further assessments and advising on additional or alternative support. Our aim is for all children to be learning to their full potential and alongside their peers.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Our open door policy allows for easy informal updates between parent and key worker. In addition to this, the effectiveness of support will be reviewed at a date agreed and at least three times a year. The impact of support should be evaluated along with the views of the children and parents. This is reviewed against the child's progress and development and, in consultation with parents and any other professionals, new targets may be set or the decision to remove SEN support may be made if appropriate.

What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school?

Although the Nursery SEN team are skilled at identifying special educational needs, we do not offer diagnoses. The school uses the following outside agencies to help identify and support children with SEN; Educational Psychology, Occupational Therapy, Paediatrics, School nurses and health visitors, Early Years Inclusion Teams, Speech and Language therapy. Parents can also contact their GP if they have concerns about their child.

What support will there be for my child's overall well-being?

Our practitioners are welcoming and friendly, providing an inclusive, sensitive and positive attitude to your child's well-being. Key workers monitor specific children to ensure consistent day-to-day care. Parents/carers are encouraged to share any concerns that might impact on the well-being of their child with the designated keyworker.

Children with disabilities

Buckingham Nursery is inclusive and disability friendly, ensuring that children with disabilities enjoy the same advantages as their peers. We aim to teach in a way that will support children with disabilities. All of our children have full access to the learning, and we recognise achievement and expertise in all areas. We endeavour to make the physical environment accessible to all.

Children with medical needs

Children with medical conditions are properly supported so that they have full access to their learning. All staff are made aware of children with medical conditions and how this may impact on the child. The Nursery ensures that appropriate training relating to specific medical conditions is undertaken by all staff that have access to the child.

How will a child with SEND be included in activities outside the setting?

All children are welcome to attend trips. We will endeavour to include parents/ carers in the planning of the visit to identify the needs of your child. If necessary, we can prepare a photo book for your child so they know what to expect on the visit, and invite all parents to join us on our trip. A risk assessment would be carried out prior to the visit. We would also take along any aids or medication, along with consent forms, that your child may need.

How will the staff prepare and support a child with SEND to join the setting or transfer to a new setting/school?

We understand how difficult it can be for children and parents as they move to a new setting and we work with the individual needs of the child to make such transitions as easy as possible. These may include

- Assigning a key worker before your child joins us
- Additional meetings with staff
- Additional visits to the Nursery
- Other arrangements to suit the child's individual needs

What should I do if I think my child has special educational needs?

The key worker is the initial point of contact for responding to parental concerns. You can also contact the Special Educational Needs Coordinator, Mrs Sarah Gammon or the Nursery Manager, Mrs Sam Gravestock.