

The Buzz

Issue 7 –
Summer 2026



The Bolsover School SEND information report and SEND policy contain information about how the school aims to support all young people with additional needs and ensure that their educational journey is not affected by any conditions they may have. For more information visit: <https://www.thebolsoverschool.org/page/?title=SEND&pid=35>



The annual parental survey was sent to all parents who have children on the SEND register. Thank you to those parents who have taken the time to share their views regarding SEND provision. There is still time to share your views - log in to your class charts and follow the link sent by Mr Topley via the announcements section. The annual survey allows us to review the way we work to ensure that the relationship between home and school is as cohesive as possible.

As the summer holiday grows increasingly closer, it is time to reflect on another excellent year within SEND at The Bolsover School.

When we returned in September, we knew that OFSTED were due but not fully aware of when. After taking the decision to invite OFSTED in, we were tremendously proud of the comments made regarding SEND and inclusion. We will continue to build upon this and strive tirelessly to ensure that all of our SEND learners are able to achieve to their absolute best potential.

We could not do this without the support of each and every one of you.

From all of the SEND team, have a wonderful summer and see you in September.



The Derbyshire local offer is a service which helps and supports children and young people with special educational needs to be more confident in their communities and live independently. For more information, visit: <https://www.localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk/home.aspx>



Our sensory garden continues to take shape. As well as our new shed and furniture, we will soon have a new patio and landscaped areas thanks to the generosity of the local community and many friends of the school..

If you feel you are able to help in any way, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Topley at the school.



From September, we will be moving from SIMS to Arbor and this will replace a number of other systems over time. We are very excited with the functionality it will offer and how we will be able to use it support all of our SEND students, as well as keeping parents informed regarding all SEND matters.

A further update regarding Arbor and how it can help will follow in September



We were hoping to hold a coffee morning for parents and carers of children with special educational needs and disabilities during the summer term. This will now be held in the autumn term. More details will follow.



SEND Information A Guide for Parents

If you believe your child has difficulty with words or processing information, we are able to screen them in school for dyslexia. This will tell us the propensity for dyslexia. Whilst this is not a formal diagnosis, it may prompt you to seek a private diagnosis which can cost in the region of £300 - £500

Is my child dyslexic?

I think my child has autism or ADHD. What are my options

We are able to start the referral in school for this. We are required to complete a referral form and further information from a member of staff who knows them best. There is also a parent form which we can send you. The waiting time is currently over 24 months. It may be faster to seek a referral via the GP through the "right to choose" pathway which currently has a shorter wait. Please speak to your GP about this.

An EHCP support children and young adults up to the age of 25 where their needs cannot be met in school based upon the ordinarily available provision that the school provides. If you feel that this may be needed. Please speak to the SENDCO in school. A referral process can be instigated by the school or by parents via the Derbyshire local offer:
<https://www.localoffer.derbyshire.gov.uk/apply-for-an-assessment/ehc-plan/ehc-plan.aspx>

Does my child need an education and healthcare plan (EHCP)?

What support can my child have in exams?

This can only be requested by teaching staff and must be the child's normal way of working in lessons. The following steps will then be taken:

1. Staff build evidence of potential access arrangement needed.
2. Staff trial an access arrangement, completing a normal way of working form.
3. Official JCQ paperwork (section 1) is completed by SENDCO.
4. If formal assessment is needed, qualified assessor completes assessments.
5. EAA's confirmed with students.
7. SENDCO tracks use of EAA's in mocks. If arrangement is not used, it is withdrawn due to not being normal way of working.

All children on the SEND register have an allocated learning support worker (LSW). The primary role is to be their "safe" adult in school and to work with both the child and parents on the learning plan and pupil passport. The LSW will co-produce the documents with pupils and parents and share these with staff, 3 times per year.

What is the role of the learning support worker?

AND Finally...

If you would like any further information or would like to see anything including in future publications of The Buzz, please do not hesitate to get in touch.