

# The Graduated Response File

## A guide for SENCOs – Improving Practice and Staff Training

### We don't have sufficient knowledge and skills to provide support for children with SEND in our school.

Early years providers, schools and colleges are responsible for deciding what external support to seek and for setting their own priorities for the continuous professional development of their staff.

SEND Support can be delivered most effectively in education settings which adopt structured approaches to engaging parents and children, tracking and measuring progress of pupils with SEN, and where there is a good level of knowledge across all staff of different types of SEN and suitable teaching approaches and interventions.

Where a setting has a SENCO, they should play an important role in advising on and contributing to the broader support provided by schools and the professional development of other teachers and staff.

### Where can I get advice, support and training for me and my staff?

#### National Organisations

A range of organisations offer support and training to schools on overall identification and teaching approaches for pupils with SEN as well as on specific conditions.

- **NASEN** provides a SEN Gateway that enables access to a broad range of materials and support services across the range of SEN ([www.sendgateway.org.uk](http://www.sendgateway.org.uk)).
- **The Excellence gateway** provides access to resources to support professional development in the FE and Skills sector ([www.excellencegateway.org.uk](http://www.excellencegateway.org.uk)).
- **Early Support** provides a range of information materials to families and professionals [www.ncb.org.uk/earllysupport](http://www.ncb.org.uk/earllysupport).

The following organisations provide advice, information and training on specific impairments:

- The **Autism Education Trust** for children and young people on the Autism Spectrum ([www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk](http://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk))
- The **Communications Trust** for speech, language and communication difficulties ([www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk](http://www.thecommunicationtrust.org.uk))
- The **Dyslexia SpLD Trust** on dyslexia and literacy difficulties ([www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk](http://www.thedyslexia-spldtrust.org.uk))
- The **National Sensory Impairment Partnership** for vision impairment, hearing impairment and multi-sensory impairment ([www.natsip.org.uk](http://www.natsip.org.uk))
- **MindEd** ([www.minded.org.uk](http://www.minded.org.uk)) is an e-learning portal aimed at supporting all adults working with children and young people. It provides simple, clear guidance on children and young people's mental health, wellbeing and development

#### The Specialist Teaching and Psychology Service

The Specialist Teaching and Educational Psychology Service (STePS) provide centre based training for school staff, professionals, parents and early years settings to help them to include children with additional needs. In addition STePS staff will provide training and awareness raising within the school/ setting context to help settings include a particular child and bespoke training for schools on request.

Information on centre based training is available on the Schools Information Portal. See here <https://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk/steps/upcoming-training/>

STePS also provide useful information sheets and resources for SENCOs on line and links to other useful websites and resources. See here <https://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk/steps/resources/>

Information about the Specialist Teaching and Psychology Service and the support provided by staff is all available on the schools information portal. See here <https://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk/steps/>

#### The Social Communication and Autism Outreach Service

The Social Communication and Autism Outreach Service (SCAOS) comprises a team of professionally trained and highly qualified specialist teachers, support staff and advisors who have a wealth of experience working with

children and young people with social communication and autism needs. The support is tailored to the individual needs of the CYP. Outreach staff work with schools to ensure students are fully included socially and as learners.

The SCAOS comprises staff from the following schools/ services:

- Springfield Enhanced Resource School
- St Martins Special School
- The Specialist Teaching and Psychology Service - Social Communication and Autism Team

For information about the SCAOS see here

<https://schoolsportal.derby.gov.uk/sold-services/sold-services-brochure/ss-catalogue/stepssocialcommunicationandautismoutreachservice/>

### **Teaching Schools**

Teaching schools are good or outstanding schools that play an important role in a school-led system, working with others to provide high-quality training and support for school improvement.

The following schools are designated teaching schools in Derby City and can help you to support all children in your school with SEND.

1. Derby Early Years Teaching School Alliance (DEYTSA)
2. Derby Teaching Schools Alliance (DTSA)
3. Landau Forte Teaching School Alliance
4. Inclusive Teaching School Alliance

### **Derby Research School**

The research schools network is focused on evidence to improve teaching practice. Derby Research School at Wyndham Primary Academy is supporting schools in the Derby City LA area to make better use of evidence to inform teaching and learning.

For more information see the Research School's website.

### **Derby University**

Derby University offers the national award for SEN Coordination and they also run the SENCO network meetings.

For more information see the Derby University website.