



Thursday 22nd May 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

As you may be aware, Kent County Council have been carrying out a full review of SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) provision across the county. As a result of this review, they are now in the process of making some significant changes to the systems that determine how pupils with SEND are supported in schools.

From 1st September 2025, Kent County Council is introducing a revised model for SEND provision in mainstream schools. This is called "The Locality Model".

The aim of this change is to create a more consistent and needs-led approach across the county, ensuring that children with additional needs receive appropriate support at the right time. I would like to take a moment to explain some of the changes to you.

What is changing under the new system?

- "High Needs Funding" is the name given to the current system used to provide schools with additional top-up funding to support some pupils with SEND. This system, in its current form, will cease from September 2025. It will be replaced with a different, tariff-led system linked to a newly written document known as the "Continuum of Need".
- There will be a greater emphasis on the early identification of pupil's special needs and subsequent intervention by schools.
- There will be higher expectations from the local authority for **all** mainstream schools to be fully inclusive.
- There will be a greater expectation that many children's specific needs can and will be met within mainstream schools. It will be the pupil's needs, and not the label, that will be used to define the provision. Provisions may include additional training for staff, the provision of additional resources or the use of targeted support in or out of the classroom. The focus will be on our teachers adapting their teaching as much as possible to scaffold learning for all pupils using a range of strategies.
- Over the past two years, as a build up to these changes, school staff have benefitted from increased training from professionals such as Educational Psychologists and specialist teachers. We have fully engaged in this training (for example through taking part in whole school training last year provided by the AET (Autism Education Trust). We feel that we are in a strong position to continue to plan provision and meet the SEN needs of all our pupils, with your support. We



are pleased that OFSTED recognised the strength of our SEND provision at Warden House in their recent visit – although there is always more to do.

- Importantly, it has been made clear to schools that the amount of funding available to support individual pupils as we head into new school year will be less. This means that we will need to work creatively with the resources that we have to meet the needs of all of our pupils, alongside working with colleagues from our locality group to provide the best support.

What this means for your child:

If your child currently receives SEND support, we want to reassure you that this support will continue, however it may look different to how it has been delivered before. The changes are designed to help schools respond more flexibly and effectively to individual needs. However, the way in which support is planned, recorded, and delivered may look slightly different to what it has looked like in the past. As the new school year progresses, we will be increasingly moving towards a team-based approach to delivering provision, with staff specialising in specific areas and working across year groups within our school.

We are committed to working closely with you throughout this transition. Our class teachers, SENCO team (Mrs. Moore and Ms. Watson), and senior staff such as Mr. Atkinson and myself, are available to discuss any specific questions you might have about how the changes may impact the school day.

Next Steps

Kent County Council is providing further information and guidance for families, which we will share with you as it becomes available. In the meantime, if you would like to know more, please visit the SEND section on the Kent County Council website: [Special educational needs and disabilities \(SEND\) - Kent County Council](#).

We understand that changes to funding, provision and external SEND support can cause concern, but we want to assure you that we will do all we can to provide the highest quality support for all pupils – not just those with special educational needs - here at Warden House.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Rob Hackett
Headteacher