



A Warm welcome to Owl Class

We are a Specialist Resourced Hub for primary aged children with complex communication and interaction needs who have difficulties accessing a mainstream education. These include children who may or may not have a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and have a combination of needs that require more specialist communication interventions and support for subsequent cognition and learning needs. Children attending the Hub are allocated by the Local Authority through a thorough consultation process. <https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/education/nurseries-schools-colleges-and-specialist-provision/specialist-schools-and-provision/>

The Hub is very much part of the school where we aim for children to feel valued and included.



Who will be supporting my child in the Hub?



Mrs Hector - Assistant Head/SENCo, Hub Leader



Miss Snape – Hub Teacher



Miss North – HLTA Specialist Teaching Assistant



Mrs Dews – SEN Teaching Assistant



Mrs Love – SEN Teaching Assistant



Mrs Sloan – SEN Teaching Assistant

All staff have Autism Education Trust (AET) training Level 1 & 2 and some have Level 3 - <https://www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk/about> . All TA's are trained to deliver specific Speech and Language (SALT) Interventions as described in individual pupil SALT reports and Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP's). We are particularly interested in developing nurturing environments for pupils to develop independence skills based on learning through their own interests. All staff are trained in Makaton - <https://makaton.org/>

The Hub is well supported by Shropshire Local Authority & partners.

How many children will be taught in the Hub?

The Hub is resourced for up to 8 children with a higher ratio of adults to children to accommodate individual needs. Learning is based on individual learning styles and pupil interests in order to increase learning potential. Adults work alongside pupils to extend learning links and opportunities where tasks have been specifically led by pupils. This allows pupils to take ownership of their learning in alternative formats.

Learning spaces are nurturing, organised, purposeful to developmental stages and above all, calming. Children also have access to a large interactive whiteboard and I-pads to support and enhance learning further.



Creativity is encouraged and celebrated where Children will be supported to use a range of media to showcase their ideas. All of which will be enhanced through the use of communication tools such as Makaton signs, Widget symbols and verbal modelling. Children will be supported to work independently and as a team.

What adaptations will be made for my child?

We start at 9am and finish at 3pm. This is to ensure that the children have a calm transition into and out of school avoiding the most busy times of the day. It also allows for safer onsite transport access to the Hub setting when dropping off and

picking up. Parent/carer vehicles, including taxis, must be offsite by 3:10pm when the main gates are opened to all other parents & carers collecting children from mainstream classes.

Information about **uniform** is in the main school welcome pack. Children attending the Hub may need to wear alternative options that take into account their sensory needs such as soft fabric items for additional comfort. This is welcomed by the school – please speak with Hub staff if you have any questions regarding alternatives.



In addition to this, children attending the Hub may have a diet specific to their individual sensory needs. Where this is relevant, please speak to Hub staff where we will try to accommodate. <https://www.autism.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/topics/behaviour/eating/all-audiences>

We have close access to toilet facilities with a changing bed. Children who need changing will be supported to transition to potty training when appropriate and in consultation with parents/carers. All personal care items need to be clearly labelled please.

We work closely with the SEND Public Health Nursing Team - <https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/health/health-services-for-children-and-young-people-with-send/public-health-nursing-service/> who support both parents and professionals with a range of health care needs.

Will my child have opportunities to socialise?

Where and when deemed appropriate, children may access some selected mainstream sessions with their mainstream cohort. They will be accompanied by a Hub SEN Teaching Assistant on these occasions until secure to be supported by the classroom TA. Progress will be shared. Where a pupil finds engagement with others challenging, we have a range of professionals that we can call upon to help with interactions as well as providing insights and interpretations into unspoken behaviours. We also work closely with Spectra Inclusion Service who advise school

on inclusion issues and work with individual children and families on inclusion needs.

All Hub children will have access to the main hall for PE sessions. In addition to the classroom spaces which include sensory and relaxation aids, children will have access to outside safe spaces for continuous provision and activation stations. We will also visit the main playground spaces and the Outdoor Classroom area to develop learning through outdoor sensory experiences.

How will the Hub staff communicate with parent/carers?

Communication between home and school will be encouraged and all aspects of progress and development will be celebrated via **Seesaw** and a **Home/School Communication Book**. Information on how to access Seesaw will be shared via Parentmail/email. Please make staff aware of individual health or behaviour matters that are in addition to any pre-existing concerns via the communication book. Staff will use this method to inform you in advance of an visitors to school such as the Speech and Language Therapist, Occupational Therapist and/or Teacher of the Deaf, etc.

A typical teaching day in the Hub will look like this:

9.00am – 9.10am	Hub Door Open – Registration/daily routines
9.10am – 10.00am	Teaching/intensive intervention
10.00am – 10.20am	Break & snack
10.20am – 11:30am	Teaching/intervention
11:30pm – 1.00pm	Lunch
1.00pm – 2.00pm	Topic Continuous Provision/intervention
2.00pm – 2:10pm	Break
2:10pm – 2:45pm	Topic Continuous provision
2:45pm – 3:00pm	Story time – end of day

When will I hear how my child is progressing?

All children attending the Hub have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which will be reviewed in a meeting with parents & professionals involved with the child, at least annually.

Additional individual meetings can also be arranged by telephoning or emailing the school. This is in addition to the termly Progress Reports, Seesaw online viewing tool and designated Parents/Carers Evening. Where children are unable to access subject specific learning, their progress will be assessed using The Engagement Model. This measures five key 'engagement' areas through observation - *Exploration, Realisation, Anticipation, Persistence* and *Initiation*. This model of assessment allows staff to make decisions about individual learning needs and inform the next steps. Please see document -

The engagement model: information for parents.

What can I do if I am worried about my child?

We aim to operate an open-door policy with easy access to the Hub teacher, Coordinator and Head Teacher.

We would much rather you share any concerns or anxieties so they can be dealt with promptly before they become more of a worry. Above all else good communication between home and school is vitally important. If you have any concerns that take up more than a short conversation, you may be asked to make an appointment in order for the time to be given to fully address them.

We are keen to work in close partnership with parents and look forward to working with you to support the children in achieving their full potential.

What will my child need to bring to school?

- **A named water bottle,**
- **A packed lunch from home or a school meal ordered through SQUID,**
- **A named book bag,**
- **Personal care items (nappies, wipes, cream...) as appropriate to health care/personal needs,**
- **A named Waterproof coat & hat,**
- **Transitional items from home (as necessary to the child to help them settle).**



Useful resource:

<https://www.widgit.com/resources/home-early-years/back-to-school-parents/back-to-school-parent-toolkit-2021.pdf>

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/the-send-local-offer/> - A useful source of information on Special Educational Needs in Shropshire.

<http://search3.openobjects.com/kb5/shropshire/fid/home.page> Shropshire Family Information Service offers a directory of resources and services in our area.

