



Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Information Report

May 2026

The SEND Information Report is a requirement under the Children's and Families Act 2014 and will be updated annually by the school in order to reflect any changes that have taken place or are planned to take place. It is intended as a response to specific questions identified within the Act and should be read in conjunction with the school's prospectus and additional information available on the school's website (such as the SEND Policy, the Equality Policy and Accessibility Plan). If you have any further questions or would like to seek clarification with regard to the content of this document, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

This report sets out, in summary form, the responsibilities of the school, Governors and the Local Authority when making sure that the additional needs of pupils who have been identified as having Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) are met in a way that works for the pupil without too many meetings or paperwork.

We accept that parents and carers need to feel confident that the school has systems in place which make it possible for us to offer a flexible range of provision which is able to meet the individual needs of each and every one of our pupils. Parents will be listened to, involved in decisions and respected. When children have additional needs and advice from outside agencies is needed, parents want to be fully informed and involved and need to trust the school to respond as quickly as possible.

The Local Authority has published arrangements for SEND and further details are available on the Local Authority website – Local Offer.

Epinay School is a school which caters for children and young people from 4–18 years of age with a wide range of special educational and complex needs.

The school caters for children and young people with significant learning difficulties and/or diagnosed learning disabilities who are working at a level of 3-4 years behind their peers and have limited ability to listen, process information, think, read, write, spell or do mathematical calculations effectively.

In addition to their learning needs, the children and young people may have some social vulnerability as well as some difficulties with their functional skills, speech and language communication needs and a diagnosis of Autistic Spectrum Condition.

The school has some children who have anxiety and mental health difficulties and require additional support to meet their emotional needs, however, they do not present with disruptive behaviours.

A small number of our children have a severe learning difficulty (SLD) and/or disability, which means that they find it difficult to understand, learn and remember new skills. These students have problems with both the acquisition of skills and their application to new situations and possible sensory issues or poor coordination.



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As a school we create a safe and inclusive centre of excellence by providing a stimulating environment where learners achieve challenging and inspirational targets in order to develop as happy, confident and independent learners who are prepared for adulthood.

We offer an education to

All students are in receipt of an Education Health Care Plan.

How and when we do it

The school day runs from 8.50 am – 3.00 pm Monday to Thursday and 8.50 am – 2.00pm on a Friday. We also offer after school clubs one night a week. Additional opportunities are also available throughout the year for residential trips.

Identifying additional support

As a special school all pupils who attend Epina y have special educational needs and therefore have significant additional adult support. The support is matched to each individual's needs. If a pupil is deemed to require additional support on a temporary basis, this will be provided. The support is usually requested following observations by a range of staff and discussions with therapists, parents and other agencies.

How is the curriculum matched to individual needs?

Our school vision:

To create a safe and inclusive centre of excellence by providing a stimulating environment where learners achieve challenging and inspirational targets, in order to develop as happy, confident and independent learners who are prepared for adulthood

Our school motto is:

'Ready to listen, Ready to learn together'.

Our school mission is to:

- *To equip each learner with necessary concepts, attitudes, skills and knowledge to create confident, independent and happy learners.*
- *To have high expectations of ourselves and each other.*
- *To provide high quality teaching to stimulate learning.*
- *To enhance learning by i enrichment and real life experiences*

Our ethos & values:

We provide equality of opportunity across the school.

- We deliver a broad, needs driven creative curriculum



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- We pursue opportunities for enrichment and links in the wider community.

#teamepinay

How will both parents and school know how well each pupil is doing?

We are continually gathering information on the achievements of our pupils. We share information with parents about their child's achievements through informal telephone calls made by the teacher, the home-school diary, formal meetings and reviews. The school believes that parents have a right to be viewed as partners in the education of their child by being given access to all of those involved in their child's learning environment.

Accurate assessment is essential to securing and measuring pupil progress. We set ambitious yet realistic individual targets tailored to pupils' learning need, style and baseline assessments. We use our analysis of pupil achievement to identify areas of difficulty within the school, in cohorts of pupils and individual pupils, to indicate interventions required. Robust monitoring of teaching ensures that we are providing challenge for all pupils.

We welcome the advice and guidance given to us by other professionals.

Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) Reviews

Reviews take place once a year. Families are encouraged to attend the review to discuss what they like and admire about their child, what's working, what's not going so well and formulate an action plan.

All relevant professionals are invited to submit reports and attend each child's Educational Health Care Plan meeting.

Specialist services

Epinay has access to many services including NHS Speech and Language Therapy services, NHS Occupational Therapy services and NHS Physiotherapists.

We also have visiting specialists, such as the Hearing Impaired Service and Visually Impaired Service. We also work closely with other professionals such as School Nursing, Paediatricians, Dentists, the Immunisation Team and any agencies involved with our pupils so that a multi-agency approach can further our work.

Training

All staff at the school have a continual programme of training, which is focussed on supporting the pupils. All of our staff have thorough induction training followed by ongoing professional development opportunities throughout the year, both formally and informally.

Trips

Trips and activities are planned to be accessible for all. We differentiate the activities and trips pupils attend according to their individual needs.



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Accessibility

We look to enable the environment to be supportive of all pupils' needs.

Transitions

A transition is seen as any change from one situation to the next for a young person and our aim is for each transition to be well prepared for and to ensure that the student and their voice is central to every transitional decision made. Transitions are very important and are carefully managed to support children and young people and their families.

There are three key transition points at Epinay:

- Entry to school;
- Transfer from KS4 to Sixth Form; and
- Moving to college and leaving school.

At all times the approach taken is matched to individual need. Transitions commonly involve visits, multi-agency meetings (involving parents) and social stories.

Resources

As a special school the resources we have available to us are all focussed on pupils with special educational needs.

Who to contact

If you require general information about the school, then most things can be found on our website (www.epinay.org) . If you require further information please contact the school directly on 0191 4898949.

If your concern is about the safety of a child, you should contact the school's Lead Designated Person (Lynne Murphy, Deputy Head Teacher) or in her absence, the school's Deputy Lead Designated Person (Chris Rue, Head Teacher).

For all other information relating to SEND please see South Tyneside Council's local offer. <https://sendlocaloffer.southtyneside.gov.uk/>

Policy approved by Governors: May 2026

Date of next review by Governors: May 2027