



DHS SEN Information Report Summary



2025 - 2026



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Please Note: This will be a short and accessible version, for the full report please click [HERE](#)



Prefer to listen?

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- <https://www.naturalreaders.com/online/>
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 1. Download this PDF.
 2. On the Natural Reader website, click "Add Files" on the left, then select "Document".
 3. From the pop up, go to your downloads and select the PDF "SEN-Information-Report-Summary-Sept-2025.pdf".
 4. You can then click the text you want read.



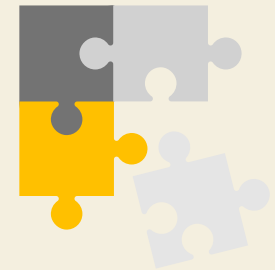
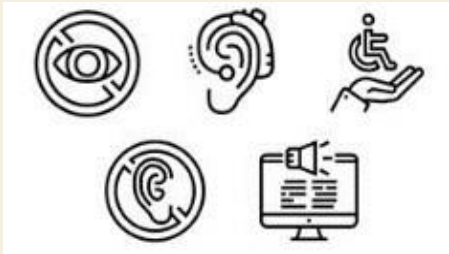
What types of SEN does the school provide for?

Communication and Interaction

- Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).
- Speech and Language difficulties.

Cognition and Learning:

- Specific learning difficulties including dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia.
- Moderate learning difficulties.



Social, Emotional and Mental Health:

- Attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD).
- Attention deficit disorder (ADD).

Sensory and/or Physical:

- Hearing impairments.
- Visual impairment.
- Multi-sensory impairment.
- Physical impairment.

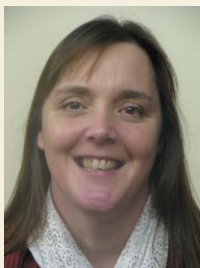


Which staff will be supporting my child?



Mrs Emma Somers

Special Educational Needs
Co-Ordinator (SENCO)



Mrs Sara Palmer

Assistant SENDCO



Miss Katherine Hawkes

SEND Administrator



Miss Gemma Steele

Teaching Assistant



Mrs Liz Coleman

Teaching Assistant



Miss Kelly Sadler

Teaching Assistant



Dr Andrea Hannon

Teaching Assistant



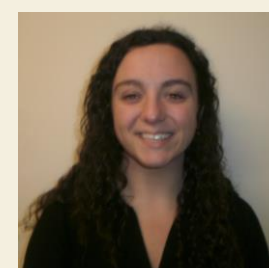
Mrs Emma Goddard

Librarian/Teaching
Assistant



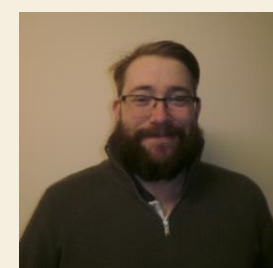
Mrs Tara Darrall

Teaching Assistant



Miss Ellie Gardner

Teaching Assistant



Mr George Lewis

Teaching Assistant



What training have they (staff) had?

Mrs Somers

- Mrs Somers has **9 years experience** in the role of SENCO. She has also worked as a Head of Year and is a qualified teacher. She is allocated time within a week to manage SEN provision.
- She achieved the National Award in Special Educational Needs Co-Ordination in 2019.
- She has completed **Trauma Informed training** as well as **additional training for SPLD, Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD Awareness**. She is a Level 7 qualified Exam Access Arrangements Assessor and holds a CPT3A which enables her to complete additional educational testing.

Mrs Palmer

- Mrs Palmer has **12 years experience** in this role and has also worked as a primary school teaching assistant.
- She has training in **Nurture, Trauma and supporting students with; SPLD, Autism Spectrum Disorder and ADHD**.
- She is the **lead for ASDAN courses** which offered as part of our provision.

Teachers

- In 2022 **all staff** undertook **Trauma Informed training** and in September 2023 all staff have received **specific training in Norfolk's Provision Expected as SEND Support (Norfolk PEASS)**. A programme of continuous training is available in specialist areas through our Continuing Professional Development programme. This enables all teachers and support staff the opportunity to complete short courses in all areas of SEND to help tailor their knowledge to the needs in their classes.

Teaching Assistants

- Our Teaching Assistants have been trained in **Literacy, Numeracy and Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) interventions** as well as **Trauma Informed Practice and Norfolk PEASS (Provision Expected as SEND Support)**.



Heads of Year

Your child's head of year is your first point of contact for any worries, questions, or concerns.

- Year 7 - [Miss Kelly](#)
- Year 8 - [Mr Widdeson](#)
- Year 9 - [Miss Jarocki](#)
- Year 10 - [Mrs Bensley](#) and [Mrs Barrett](#)
- Year 11 - [Dr Busby](#)
- Sixth form (years 12 and 13) - [Mr Hurley](#)



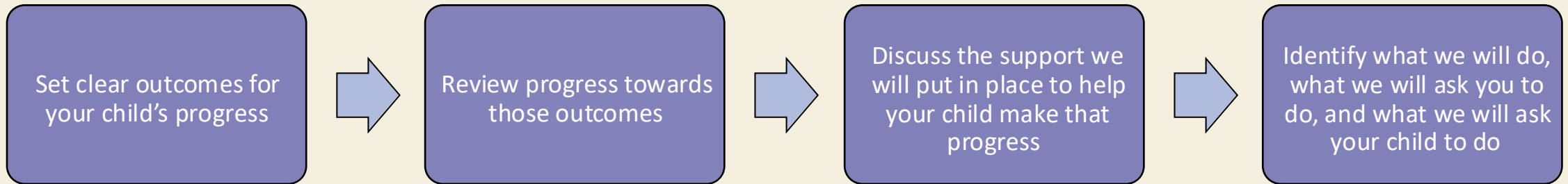
The Safeguarding Team

- Some students will need further support from our safeguarding team.
- This is so we can keep them as safe as possible. This includes keeping them safe from physical and emotional harm.
- Our safeguarding lead is Miss O'Neil. The full team can be found [here](#).
- Our full safeguarding policy can be found [here](#).



How will I be involved in decisions made about my child's education?

- We will provide three paper reports on your child's progress each year. In addition to this your child's teachers will meet with you annually to:



- In Year 7 there is also an additional in person appointment offered to discuss how your child has managed the transition to High School.
- The SENCO (Mrs Somers) may also attend these meetings to provide extra support.
- If you have any concerns that arise between these meetings, please contact your child's [Head of Year](#).





How will Diss High School adapt its teaching for my child?

- High-quality teaching is our first step in responding to your child's needs. We will make sure that your child has access to a broad and balanced curriculum in every year they are at our school.



- We will differentiate (or adapt) how we teach to suit the way the pupil works best. There is no '1 size fits all' approach to adapting the curriculum, we work on a case-by-case basis to make sure the adaptations we make are meaningful to your child. See below
- Please do not hesitate to contact us to discuss this further, to know how staff are adapting for your child's needs.
- Please see our [Accessibility Policy HERE](#).



English as an additional language

- Students who have English as an additional language (EAL) are supported by our EAL coordinator, [Mr Outred](#).
- Mr Outred works with our SENCO to make sure every SEN student gets the support they need.



How will the school support with mental health and emotional and social development?

Pupils with SEN are encouraged to be part of the school council and the **Learning Support Centre (LSC) Lunch club** which promotes team building and friendships.

We run a Nurture Provision for Year 7 pupils who need extra support. In Year 8 there is additional nurture support through ASDAN Languages and ASDAN Gardening. In Years 9-11 there is ASDAN Personal Development support.

We provide extra pastoral support for listening to the views of pupils with SEN by having specially trained SEMH (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) support through a variety of staff members, including our [safeguarding team](#). Alongside this we have a **zero tolerance approach to bullying**, you can find our bullying policy [here](#).





What support will be available for my child as they transition between year groups?

Your child's Head of Year will usually stay the same while at our school. Where possible their Head of Year in Year 7 will be their Head of Year in Year 11.

The rest of their pastoral team will be kept the same as much as possible.

Timetables are available during the summer before the autumn term begins.

Students can meet staff they do not know as soon as possible.



What support will be available for my child as they transition between schools?

When leaving us, we will share as much information with your child's new school as you want to. This information is sent securely.

When joining us, your child's head of year shares information about your child with their teachers and support staff. They will also work with our SENCO so your child's support can continue as soon as possible after joining us.



What support will be available for my child as they transition into secondary school?

Mrs Somers (SENCO) will meet with primary school SENCOs to discuss the needs of incoming pupils near the end of the summer term. This is to discuss how we can best support and welcome the child into our community.



We have Year 11 mentors in every Year 7 tutor group to support with transition and answer questions - providing a "buddy" role.





What support will be available for my child as they transition into adulthood?

We provide all our pupils with appropriate advice on paths into work or further education.

Our Head of Sixth Form provides additional support to Year 13 SEN students to smooth their transition into further education or employment.





What should I do if I have a complaint about my child's SEN support?

- Firstly - please see our complaints policy [HERE](#).
- All complaints about SEN provision in our school should be made to the **Headteacher** (Mr Sam Stopps). They will then be referred to the school's complaints policy.
- See more information on page 17 in the [full SEN report](#).





What support is available for me and my family?

- If you have questions about SEND, or are struggling to cope, please get in touch to let us know. We want to support you, your child and your family.
- To see what support is available to you locally, have a look at the Norfolk Local Offer. Norfolk County Council publishes information about the local offer on their website:
<https://www.norfolk.gov.uk/children-and-families/send-local-offer>
- Our local special educational needs and disabilities information advice and support services (SENDIASS) organisations are: <https://www.norfolksendiass.org.uk/>
- With further resources available on: <https://www.norfolksendiass.org.uk/informationzone>
- Local charities that offer information and support to families of children with SEND are:

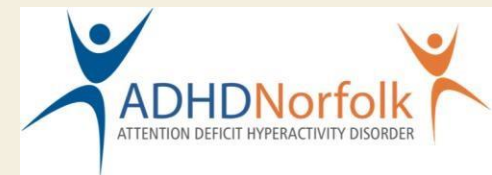


<https://www.norfolksennetwork.org/about-us/>

<https://www.nansa.org.uk/>

<https://www.autism-anglia.org.uk/norfolk-support>

<https://www.adhdnorfolk.org.uk/>





Main Contacts

- Heads of Year
- Mrs Somers (SENCO)
- Learning support department
- Mr Outred (EAL Coordinator)
- Main school office
- Telephone number: 01379 642424