

Gateshead's Area Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (Area SENCOs)



**Supporting Early
Identification and Intervention**

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Background

The Area SENCO Team in Gateshead provides support, advice, training and information to schools, pre-schools, playgroups, childminders receiving two/three year old funding and private day nurseries on inclusive practice for children with Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) to help make sure that all children are fully included within the setting.

Gateshead is committed to providing effective early identification and intervention for children with Special educational needs and disabilities. It is essential that all children with SEND have their needs identified as early as possible and the aim is to provide early intervention programmes to help remove barriers to learning.

Gateshead have an Area SENCO team of two SEN and Inclusion Consultants, both teachers and specialists in SEN and disabilities. They are part of educationGateshead. The principle focus of their role is to support all early years settings and schools in the early identification and intervention for children with Special education needs and disabilities.

Schools and early years settings can seek advice from the Area SENCO Team at the first signs of a concern. The Area SENCO team is flexible and reactive and there is no lengthy referral process.

The purpose and aims of the Area SENCO Team include:

- Empowering all those working in early years settings and schools, including childminders to respond to and meet the diverse needs of children in their care.
- Helping to meet the needs of children with SEN and disabilities as soon as possible through observational assessment, advice and support.
- Dissemination high quality, inclusive practice across settings and schools.
- Providing day to day support to practitioners and early years SENCOs in the implementation of the Code of practice for Special educational needs.
- Facilitating strong links between the school or setting, Early Years Assessment and Intervention Team, Health and Social services.
- Supporting the successful inclusion and admission, of children with SEN and disabilities.
- Delivering high quality training to teachers, practitioners and child minders to support children with SEN or disabilities.
- Providing a continuous SENCO training programme ensuring a fully qualified SENCO in every early years setting.
- Supporting schools and settings to implement the statutory requirements of the Code of Practice for SEN.
- Promoting effective communication with parents, ensuring a shared dialogue between professionals and parents.

- Providing guidance and support for referrals to additional services for example Gateshead Early Years Assessment and Intervention Team or specialist health services such as Speech and language therapy or Occupational therapy.
- Monitoring and reviewing children's progress and supporting successful transitions between settings and schools.

Responsibilities

All providers of Early Years settings must have regard to the SEN Code of Practice, which describes how help for children with SEN should be made. All settings and schools should have a named SENCO and a SEN policy. The SENCO in the setting has responsibility for drawing up and implementing the setting's SEN Policy covering issues of inclusion and admissions. The manager of the setting has ultimate responsibility for ensuring that the SEN policy is put into effect. All staff in the setting should support the SENCO in their role and contribute to the SEN policy. Area SENCOs will ensure that training provided to the setting SENCO and to all staff in the setting, wherever possible, in order to create a common understanding of SEN and Disability.

Frequency of visits

The Area SENCOs will aim to offer each PVI setting and school an annual monitoring visit. Settings and schools can request additional visits for advice regarding individual children at any time. There is no referral process, schools and settings just need to contact their attached Area SENCO by e-mail or phone to request a visit. Advice by telephone is also available at all times.

What happens during an Area SENCO Visit?

- Where a concern relates to a child, the Area SENCO will carry out a short observation and view relevant information such as observations, development plans, Individual Action Plans and reviews.
- The Area SENCO may arrange to meet with the parent/ carers with the setting's SENCO to discuss any concerns and strategies that can be used within the home and also to share information about other agencies that can help and to gain consent if a joint visit or referral to another agency is required
- The Area SENCO will discuss with key worker and/ or SENCO the strategies and action to take, that will ensure the child is included within the setting and is able to make progress.
- Where the visit relates to general support and advice, the Area SENCO will meet with the SENCO or manager to offer related materials and equipment, inform the setting of training available or consider facilitating a short training session with the staff group.
- Following the visit the area SENCO will complete a short report, clearly listing the actions that are required and the individuals responsible for undertaking the work.

Jean Thomspson

Allocated Schools

Bensham Grove Nursery
Bill Quay Primary
Birtley East Primary
Blaydon West Primary
Brandling Primary
Brighton Avenue Primary
Clover Hill Primary
Emmaville Primary
Falla Park Primary
Fell Dyke Primary
Glynwood Primary

High Spen Primary
Kells Lane Primary
Kelvin Grove Primary
Larkspur Primary
Lingey House Primary
Ravensworth Primary
Riverside Academy
Roman Road Primary
Sacred Heart R.C Primary
South Street Primary
St Agnes R.C Primary

St Annes R.C Primary
St Josephs R.C Primary, Blaydon
St Josephs R.C Primary, Gateshead
St Oswalds R.C Primary
St Peters R.C Primary
St Wilfrids R.C Primary
The Drive Primary
Whickham Parochial Primary
Cedars Academy
Eslington Primary

Allocated PVI Settings

Care with Cuddles
The Bridges Nursery
Holly Hill Nursery
All Saints Pre School
Bensham 4Children
Bill Quay Pre-School
Cromer Pre-School
Deckham 4Children

Lyndhurst Childcare
St. Agnes Day Nursery
St. Annes Pre-School
Leam Lane 4 Children
Little Hearts Pre-School
The Grove Pre-School
The Hardman Centre Pre-School
The Mulberry Bush

The Village Montessori
The Montessori at Felldyke
Ring O Roses Nursery
Tree Tops Nursery
Just Learning Day Nursery
Little Hearts Pre-School

Melanie Vincent

Allocated Schools

Barley Mow Primary
Bede Primary
Caedmon Primary
Carr Hill Primary
Chopwell Primary
Colegate Primary
Corpus Christie Primary
Crookhill Primary
Dunston Hill Primary
Fellside Primary
Front Street Primary
Greenside Primary
Harlow Green Primary

Highfield Primary
Kibblesworth Primary
Lobley Hill Primary
Oakfield Infants
Parkhead Primary
Portobello Primary
Rowlands Gill Primary
Ryton Infants
St Aidans C of E Primary
St Albans R.C Primary
St Augustines R.C Primary
St Josephs R.C Infants Birtley
St Josephs R.C Primary, Highfield

St Mary and St Thomas Aquinas R.C
R.C Primary Primary
St Marys Duckpool
St Philip Neri R.C Primary
Swalwell Primary
Wardley Primary
Washingwell Primary
Whitemere Primary
Windy Nook Primary
Winlaton West Lane Primary
Gibside School

Allocated PVI Settings

Bright Sparks Nursery
Ashfield Nursery
Denewell Pre-School
Crookhill Early Years
Beehive, Dunston
Highfield 4Children
Gateshead Jewish Nursery
Shira Centre
Blaydon 4Children
Rose Villa Nursery

Rowlands Gill Pre-School
Saltwell Park Montessori
St Marys Duckpool Pre-School
St Philip Neri Pre-School
Stepping Stones Nursery
The Willows Montessori
Tik Tok Nursery
Trinity Corner Nursery
Washingwell Pre-School
Whickham Community Association
Pre-School

Whickham Cottage Nursery
Little Acorns @Winlaton West Lane
The Valley Nursery
Blaydon Pre-School
Bumble Bees Pre-School
2nd Home Childcare
Little Owls Nursery
Cheder Primary
Kids 1st Nursery

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