

Whitefield School SEND Information Report 2025 – 2026

This report is written so that parents can find information about SEND at Whitefield School

For further information on our SEND offer, please see our [SEND/Inclusion policy](#) and Accessibility Plan which are both available on our website.



Our School

Whitefield School is a special school for around 370 pupils aged 3 to 19, all with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

We provide early-years, primary, secondary and post-16 education.

Our environment is calm, nurturing and inclusive. We focus on every pupil's wellbeing, progress and individuality. All staff are trained in positive behaviour strategies and trauma-informed practice to support effective learning.

Contact us:

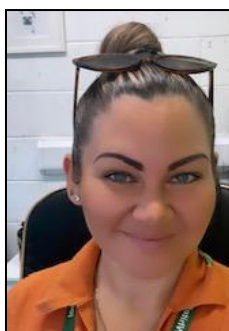
☎ 020 8531 3426 ✉ enquiries@whitefield.waltham.sch.uk



Meet our Team



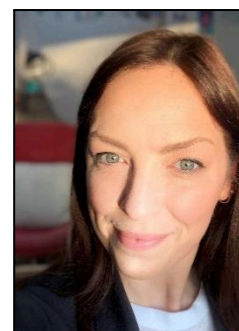
Trevor Button
Principal



Laura Huseyin
Vice Principal



Zuzanna Gromska
Vice Principal



Kayleigh Hardy
Vice Principal



Special Educational Needs

What is SEN?

SEN stands for Special Educational Needs. A child has SEN if they need extra help with their learning or development, compared to other children of the same age.



What 'SEND' means ...

A child has Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) if they need extra support to learn or take part in school life.

We provide for all four areas of need from the SEND Code of Practice 2015:

	Cognition and Learning, including: • Learning difficulties; • Dyslexia & dyscalculia; • Focus, attention, or memory difficulties.
	Communication and Interaction: including: • Autism (ASC); • Social communication difficulties; • Speech & language difficulties (e.g. receptive language difficulties, selective mutism, tongue tie).
	Social, Emotional and Mental Health: including: • Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD/ADD); • Anxiety; • Dysregulated behaviour
	Sensory and Physical: including: • Physical needs (e.g. cerebral palsy, dyspraxia); • Deafness or hearing difficulty; • Blind or visually impaired.

Many pupils have needs across more than one area. Support is personalised for each child.



Admissions to Whitefield School

All pupils at Whitefield School have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). An EHCP is a special plan that sets out the support your child needs to learn, develop and make good progress at school.

Many of our pupils have found learning in mainstream (regular) schools challenging or may not have attended one at all. Whitefield School offers a calm, supportive environment designed to meet a wide range of additional needs.

We warmly encourage parents and carers to visit the school before a placement is agreed. Seeing the school in action helps families understand what we offer and how we can support their child.

It's helpful if this visit takes place before an annual review or Local Authority assessment, so you can share accurate information about your child's potential placement.

If you think Whitefield School could be right for your child, please contact your Local Authority [SEND Team](#).

They will manage the admissions process and send us the documents we need to consider whether our school can meet your child's needs. For more information or to arrange a visit, please contact us:

☎ 020 8531 3426

✉ enquiries@whitefield.waltham.sch.uk

🌐 [Visit our website for full details about the admissions process.](#)



Our approach to teaching curriculum adaptations for children with SEND

Our curriculum is adapted so every pupil can succeed.

Teachers plan lessons using evidence-based approaches and work closely with therapists and support staff.

Each pupil has personalised learning goals reviewed regularly with families.

Support may include:

- Small-group or one-to-one teaching
- Individual timetables with sensory or rest breaks
- Visual supports and communication systems
- Specialist input from therapists or outside professionals

Emotional regulation strategies	Word banks	Positive behaviour
Ear defenders	Timers	Calm corner
Mind maps	Font and text sizes	Assistive technology

Explicit instruction	Task planners	Sensory supports
Visual timetables	Talk partners	Social story

 The role of parents	We believe families know their children best. We communicate through: • Calls, emails, texts and letters • Annual review meetings and parent consultations • Informal events like coffee mornings and celebrations Our Family Support Team offers regular drop-ins and can signpost services. We welcome feedback, positive or negative, and follow up quickly.
The role of the child 	Pupils are supported to express their views using methods that suit them (visuals, objects, yes/no cards, or speech). Staff listen carefully and record pupil views in learning plans and reviews.
Support that is available for parents 	Waltham Forest Waltham Forest has a website for parents, carers and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It explains what support is available in Waltham Forest and how to access it. You can find information about: • Health services – for example, NHS Speech and Language Therapy. • Schools and settings – including details about Whitefield School. • Leisure and community activities – such as sports clubs for children with SEND. • Local charities and support organisations. Visit:  Waltham Forest SENDIAS SENDIAS (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service) offers free, independent and confidential advice for parents, carers and young people with SEND. They can help you to: • Understand local SEND services and how they work. • Learn about SEND law and your child's rights. • Prepare for meetings and share your views confidently. • Find local support groups and activities.  sendiasswalthamf@centre404.org.uk  0800 064 4488 National Support Services You can also find help and information from national organisations: • NSPCC Parent Helpline: 0800 800 5000 • Council for Disabled Children: councilfordisabledchildren.org.uk • National Autistic Society: autism.org.uk • Special Needs UK: specialneedsuk.org • Challenging Behaviour Foundation: theCBF.org.uk You can also contact charities that offer practical or emotional help, including: • IPSEA (Independent Parental Special Education Advice): ipsea.org.uk – free legal advice for families. • Family Fund: familyfund.org.uk – grants for families with disabled children. • Scope: scope.org.uk – support, information and helplines. • Young Minds: youngminds.org.uk – mental health advice for children and families.

Staff training 	All staff complete induction and continuing professional development in areas such as: • Communication (Makaton, core boards) • Sensory and physical development • Structured teaching approaches • Medical awareness (e.g. epilepsy, care plans) • Positive behaviour support and Pro-Active Approaches • Multi-agency working Training is delivered by in-house experts and external professionals (Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Education Psychologists).
Transition support 	We plan carefully for moves between classes, schools or into adulthood. Transition support may include: • Extra visits or phased starts • Transition booklets with photos • Meetings between professionals • Life-skills programmes (travel, cooking, personal care)
Outside agencies 	At Whitefield School, we work closely with a range of specialist services and professionals to make sure every child receives the right support. These experts help us understand your child's needs and give advice to staff and families. We may work with professionals such as: • Educational Psychologists – to assess learning needs and suggest strategies for progress. • Speech and Language Therapists – to support communication and language development. • Occupational Therapists – to help with movement, coordination and everyday skills. • Specialist Teachers – for pupils who are Deaf, have a visual impairment, or other specific learning needs. • School Nurse – to provide medical advice and support health plans. • Behaviour Outreach Teams – to support positive behaviour and emotional regulation. • Early Help Services – to assist families who may need extra support at home or school. • Counsellors and Emotional Wellbeing Practitioners – to support mental health and resilience. Before we involve any external agency, we will always talk with you first and ask for your consent. Once the work is completed, we share feedback and recommendations with you, so we can plan the next steps together.
Clubs and visits 	All pupils can take part in trips, clubs and educational visits. Risk assessments and support plans ensure access and safety for every child.
Emotional and social wellbeing 	At Whitefield School, we believe that children learn best when they feel safe, happy and supported. We are a caring and inclusive school where emotional wellbeing is at the heart of everything we do. Children learn about their feelings, friendships and safety through: • A clear and age-appropriate PSHE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic) curriculum. • Relationship, Sex and Health Education (RSHE) lessons, adapted when needed for children with SEND.

	• Class discussions, assemblies, and small-group sessions, such as Lego Therapy. • Regular opportunities to talk to trusted adults. Every pupil has someone in their teaching team they can turn to for support. If a child is finding it hard to manage their emotions or behaviour, we: • Listen carefully to their views. • Talk with parents and carers to share information and agree on next steps. • Use simple screening tools to understand what help is needed. • Create Behaviour Support Plans or offer small-group or 1:1 support when required. • Work with external specialists, such as counsellors, educational psychologists, or CAMHS. Our Mental Health Lead works closely with the Designated Safeguarding Lead and other staff to make sure each child receives the right support at the right time. We also teach children how to stay safe both online and offline and follow our Safeguarding and Anti-Bullying Policies to ensure that every pupil — especially those with SEND — is included, protected and listened to.
SEND and Looked after Children (LAC) 	Some children live with foster carers or are cared for by the local authority because their parents are unable to look after them. These pupils are known as Looked After Children (LAC). This may be for a short time or for a longer period. Decisions about their care are made by social workers and the courts, and the local council is responsible for their wellbeing. For more information, please see guidance from the NSPCC: Children in Care – NSPCC Learning At Whitefield School, we understand that being in care can affect how a child feels and learns. We make sure that every Looked After Child receives the support they need to feel safe, valued and successful. Our Designated Teacher works closely with the teaching team, social workers, and carers to coordinate: • A Personal Education Plan (PEP) – which tracks learning and progress, and These plans are reviewed together so that each child’s education, wellbeing and emotional development are supported in a joined-up way.
Complaint procedure 	If you have concerns, speak first with the class teacher or a School leader. If the issue is not resolved, follow the school’s Complaints Policy. Independent advice is available from SENDIAS ✉ sendiasswalthamf@centre404.org.uk  0800 064 4488
Legal framework 	This report follows national laws and guidance about Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND): • Children and Families Act 2014 Sets out the duties of local authorities, schools and health services to support children and young people with SEND. • Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 (Schedule 1) Explains what information schools must include in their SEND Information Report. • SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 Years (2015) Statutory guidance that tells schools, colleges and local authorities how to identify and meet special educational needs.

Glossary



 SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities
 EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan
 SEND Code of Practice (2015)	Statutory guidance for organisations which work with and support children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities
 EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage