

SEND News – Term 5 2021



Hello everyone,

I hope this finds everyone well and enjoying the increased freedom permitted by the relaxation of lockdown restrictions. Meeting friends, having fun and visiting new places is very positive for our well-being and for children’s development of course. However, this poses challenges for some. Socialising, interacting with others and unknown environments cause significant anxiety for some children and young people with SEND. Indeed, even the return to school may represent a barrier. Support is available to encourage good school attendance. You may wish to look up Emotionally Based School Avoidance (EBSA) if poor attendance persists (below 90%) - please get in touch with your school if your child is struggling.

All the best, Sue Fulbrook (Head of SEND)

Attendance of SEND – the national picture

- 24.6% of learners with an EHCP were persistently absent from school (below 90% attendance)
- 17.9% of learners on SEN Support were persistently absent from school.
- 9% of learners without SEND were persistently absent from school.

We work very hard in Acorn schools to promote strong attendance for all. We know that good attendance is directly linked to positive outcomes for later life in a truly holistic sense.

Some learners with SEND are struggling to attend at the moment. All of our schools have procedures in place to support. We value working with parents/carers and are always happy to talk and listen to concerns in order to plan a way forward. Please keep in contact with your school’s SENCo/pastoral team or class teacher.

Strategies to improve attendance

- Reward small improvements. Celebrate reaching a target at home. Reward effort to improve.
- Take support on offer at the school. Work together. Stick to the plan. Talk to the class teacher or tutor.
- Have a visual timetable of the morning routine. Praise at each step.
- Allow plenty of time to get to school -maybe arrange a “meet and greet” to reduce anxiety.
- Check what your child needs to catch-up with if they miss a session. The school may offer some pre-teach sessions and/or you can support at home.
- Talk about learning in school, but don’t quiz your child about school! It can make them more anxious.
- Rather than dwelling on the “don’ts”, tell your child what they “can do” to improve their attendance.
- Always bear sensory overload in mind.

School Matters!



What does SEND look like in Acorn compared to national and local statistics 2020?

		State-funded primary	State-funded secondary
England	EHCP %	1.8	1.8
	SEN Support %	12.8	11.1
Wiltshire	EHCP %	3.2	2.0
	SEN Support %	14.1	10.9
Acorn	EHCP %	5.7	2.2
	SEN Support %	12.1	8.6 (both schools also hold “monitoring” lists)

- The most common primary area of need for learners with EHCPs both nationally and in Acorn Education Trust schools is Autistic Spectrum Disorder.
- The most common primary area of need for learners on SEN Support both nationally and in Acorn Education Trust schools is Speech, Language and Communication Needs.