



THE
AYLSHAM
CLUSTER
TRUST

We want you at the heart of our Trust

Working together for our children, families and community



March 2013

CHANGES TO SEND FUNDING

Dear Families and Carers,

For all of the schools in the Aylsham Cluster, there is a continued commitment to providing an outstanding education, guidance and care and a wealth of opportunities beyond the classroom for all of our children and young people. We value all of our learners and actively seek to meet their individual needs and do all that we can to support children with additional needs, special educational needs or disabilities (SEND.) This letter aims to inform you about some changes that have been introduced to all schools, specifically relating to some children with SEND. We are working together as a group of schools to introduce these changes as smoothly as possible and we would like to assure you that our commitment to providing quality provision will always be our priority.

The big change comes with pupils who have a statement of special educational needs and have 20+ hours mentioned in their statement. Up to April 2012, these pupils, via schools, were given a designated amount of money to support their learning, taking account of their specific need. The school has always been able to use this funding to best meet pupil need. From April 2012, a change was introduced to the distribution of some of this funding—from April 2013 all monies previously allocated to schools with children on a statement of 20+ hours, will be paid into clusters for a range of SEN support. Funding for clusters has been determined using a formula based primarily on ALL pupil numbers. All SEND funding allocations for April 2013 for our cluster are lower than the funds we would have received had the allocation formula for funding remain unchanged.

All of these pupils currently have their needs met by the support of either a 1:1 teaching assistant (mainly primary) or in class teaching assistant support. Schools are being asked to support statemented pupils in different ways. Our cluster has a working party who are doing just that – seeking to broaden our approach to supporting these pupils with specific needs.

For more information email: trust@aylshamclustertrust.org.uk



@TACTrust



Aylsham Cluster Trust

The Cluster SEND funding needs to be distributed in a fair and equitable way, using a procedure devised by us to enable all schools to meet pupil need. The School Senco's meet termly to share good practice and skills to benefit learners with SEND, and the cluster SEND working party meet every half term to plan the discuss support for learning across the schools in the Cluster, taking responsibility for funding distribution and supporting schools.

If your child has SEND then their schools will discuss your child's learning needs with you and the provision your child requires, in the usual way. Together you will be able to plan the next steps for them. Often this can be adjustments made in class by the teacher, but sometimes it may be working in small groups practising a skill or following a programme. It may include time with a teaching assistant working in a small group or individually. Our priority is identifying the best support for learners, which will promote their participation, independence and achievement at school, within the new funding system. We will continue to work tirelessly to ensure that all learning needs are met for all of our children.

We appreciate that with change comes uncertainty, but we wish to reassure you that we will together continue to strive for the outstanding educational provision your child deserves. Please support us in these changes, and understand when changes are made they are made for the best of reasons. The provision your child receives to meet their special need may be different, but our commitment remains the same. We have produced a parent leaflet to provide you with a summary of the changes and how these may directly affect you and your child.

If you have any worries or concerns about these changes, please do get in touch with your child's school, who will be happy to help.

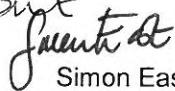
Kind Regards




Tina Casburn
Aldborough



Fiona Chant
John of Gaunt



Simon East
Erpingham



Karen Hutchison
Hevingham & Marsham



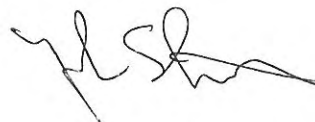
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