



St Alban's CE Primary School SEND Newsletter

February 2025

Welcome

The first half-term of 2025 has flown by and staff have been busy embracing some amazing training and enhancements to our SEN practice. In January all of the St Alban's team went to Trinity Croft for a refresher in de-escalation training, our SLT have done some work linked to EBSA with other DSAT schools, and we have changed the format of our SEN learning Plans. They are now even easier for staff and parents to access and understand, and we can't wait to share them with you in March.

As always, any queries or questions related to SEND can be sent to **sendco@sap.dsat.education**

Sensory Circuits

We have always used sensory circuits as a strategy, but we have now had additional training and invested in some new resources to ensure these are absolutely top quality.

In the morning you will see children bouncing, trampolining, planking and balancing to get their brains and senses ready to learn. At the moment we are only starting with a couple of children, but this will increase over the next few weeks as routines become established.

The order of a sensory circuit is really important, and there are 3 key parts.

- Alerting- exercises to raise the heart rate and switch the brain on
- Organising – activities that involve brain-body co-ordination or balance
- Calming – heaving lifting or stretching to lower the heart rate and prepare for going into class.

Mrs Cooper and the St Alban's Team



Every classroom at St Alban's uses the same basic visuals to reduce cognitive load for all pupils.



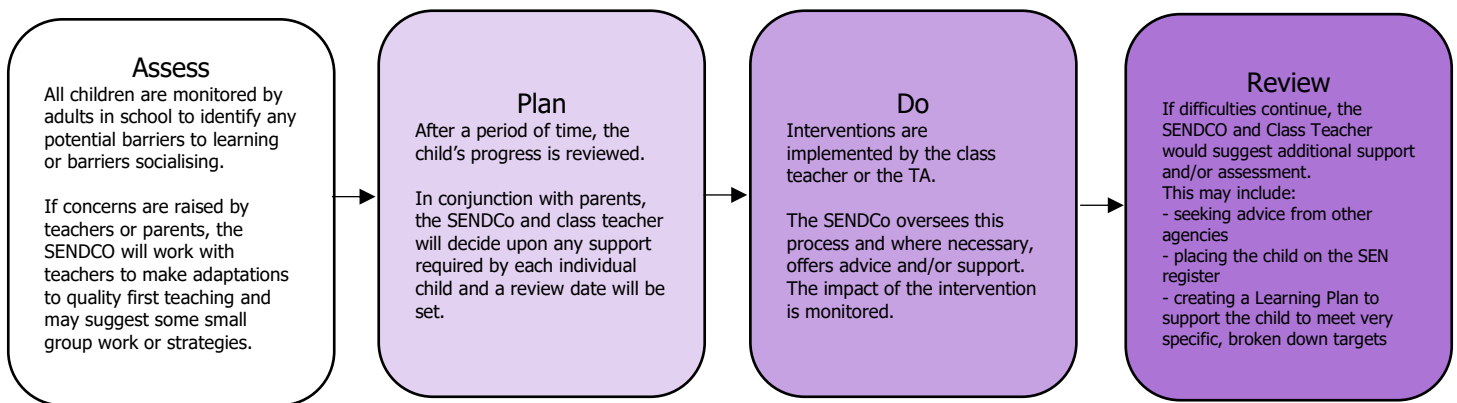
Did you know?

SEND in schools is a multi-agency job. At St Alban's we have regular contact with Educational Psychologists, Occupational Therapists, Dyslexia Specialists, the Specialist Inclusion Team, Aspire Outreach, Mind, the School Nursing service, and the DSAT SEND hub, among many, many more...

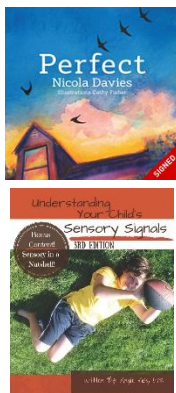
It's not a race...it's a journey

What is... a graduated response?

Nearly all pupils need support at some point in their time at school, but having additional support doesn't necessarily mean being on the SEND register. A Graduated Response describes the process of making sure that provision is in place to meet every learner's needs and to help identify which pupils would benefit from being on the SEND register or whether we need to seek support from external agencies. This is in line with the SEND Code of Practice (2015).



Book Club



Perfect by Nicola Davies

We read a beautiful book in assembly last month about a girl who is disappointed to find that her newborn sister is not as expected and has additional needs. This gorgeous book acknowledges the challenge of being a sibling to a child with additional needs, and ends with a message about how everyone is 'perfect' in their own way.

Understanding Your Child's Sensory Signals by Angie Voss

Lots of parents have been asking about a book that Mrs Higson has been loaning out. This book has a list of sensory behaviours and suggestions on what to try instead to help you child manage those sensory urges.

Useful for any parent, SEN or not, this book is a great tool to have. We have ordered some additional copies for school so if you'd like to borrow one, please ask the office.

Makaton Sign of the Month

Makaton is a language support system used by many children and adults with additional needs. It is closely linked to British Sign Language, although it aims to support rather than replace language.



Did you know...? If you have done Baby Signing classes in the past, this often uses Makaton Signing.

"School have been very proactive with my child's SEND needs, ensuring their happiness at school above all else." – Quotation from parent survey 2024.