

SEND and Safeguarding - 30/3/2022

The SENCo and I met on 24/3/2022 for a brief update and to plan for future meetings.

Main points raised were -

- We have five, Year Six children, leaving in July who have an EHCP (one is going to Devon, two to the Academy and two to Heathfield)
- That amounts to a total funding loss of approximately £20,000.00
- We have a possible four children who are in the early stages of assessment and the school are likely to be requesting an EHCP on their behalf in the next academic year.

Admittedly, I am biased, but I was suitably impressed with how brilliantly the school continues to function even though Covid has tried to disrupt activities. I arrived just as the 'Draw and Talk' art therapy session was coming to a close. This particular session was using acrylics and three children were having a wonderful time. The SENCo attended an online art course during lockdown and attained a Degree for her troubles.

Even with everything else going on, Wellsprings continues to provide alternative learning opportunities.

Some of the provisions the school offers are -

- Forest School. Pete attends two days a week and from my experience, the children love attending Forest School, even when it is freezing cold!
- Four children, all with an EHCP, attend Otterhead Forest School one day a week.
- One Child with an EHCP attends Conquest Farm (formerly an RDA facility) for one day a week
- One child has been attending one session of Action Track which is held in a recording studio where they can record their own music.

In addition to all that, the school benefits greatly from Jess. Jess belongs to the SENCo and is an extremely intelligent Border Collie. She is a therapeutic dog, not to be confused with a Therapy Dog. Jess has her own insurance and her own school policy. Whereas Therapy Dogs are assigned to just one or two children per session, Jess is happy to support anyone who needs it.

Jess helps the children regulate their emotions and she provides comfort for children who are emotionally distressed. She is used for 'Walk and Talk' therapy.

The SENCo and I spent a short while discussing salient points towards updating the SEND policy. She and I will meet during the next half term.