



**All Saints CE VC Primary School**

Bishops Caundle

Sherborne

Dorset

DT9 5NQ

Headteacher

Mrs A. Crumpler BEd, NPQH

Tel/Fax: 01963 23450

E-mail: [office@bishopscaundle.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@bishopscaundle.dorset.sch.uk)

Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May 2015

Dear Parents/Carers,

### **Special Educational Needs (SEN)**

I am sure you will have heard the news that SEN reforms are now underway in schools nationally. This includes the way that we organise and deliver support to children and families. This letter will give you some further information to help you to understand the changes.

The changes have been implemented because parents have voiced concerns over the last few years nationally about the existing SEN and disability system. These reforms will give parents and young people more of a voice in decision making. Education, health and social care services will work better together to support children in school right through to adulthood.

These reforms include:

- ✓ Replacing the statement of Special Educational Needs with a broader Education, Health and Care plan (EHC) for 0-25 years
- ✓ Personal budgets for children with an EHC – this gives families the option to 'buy' specialist support rather than relying on the council or health services to provide it. All families with an EHC plan have the right to request this budget (<http://www.kids.org.uk/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=db8672d1-b702-4073-b2bc-84b7d7b3564d>)
- ✓ Changes to the code of practice
- ✓ Making sure that the local authority publish their 'Dorset Local Offer' telling parents and children about the support and services available to them

If your child already has a statement, they will automatically transfer to an EHC plan within the next three years. From September 2014 no 'new statements' will be issued and any children being assessed for the first time will be considered for an EHC plan.

Children on the SEN register without a statement or EHC plan:

- ✓ Will have SEN support which is graduated. No longer will they be categorised as either school action or school action plus
- ✓ Will continue to have support from school and meet termly to review and discuss provision

The aims of the new reforms are:

- ✓ That children with SEN are identified quickly and supported accordingly
- ✓ That parents know what they can expect from schools
- ✓ Joint working is improved through the EHC plan (birth to 25 years)
- ✓ Staff have the knowledge, understanding and the skills to provide the correct support for SEN and disabled children
- ✓ Aspirations for children are raised through an increased focus on achievements and wider life outcomes

Please watch the following link, which is an 'easy to understand' animation that explains the changes –

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-3N9d-WRD3Q>

The following link is for the Dorset local offer - <http://familyinformationdirectory.dorsetforyou.com/kb5/dorset/fsd/home.page>

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter regarding special educational needs. As always, if you have any queries regarding SEN provision in our school, please contact me, Mrs Crumpler (Head teacher) or Mrs Peters (SEN Governor).

Lisa Regan

SENCo