

## **Overview and introduction to Fortismere's SENDIA Award**

We have signed up to complete the SEND Inclusion Award (SENDIA) this year.

The SENDIA offers mainstream schools the opportunity to gain accreditation for high quality provision and outcomes for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). Schools are required to reflect on and improve their provision in line with a series of objectives that fulfil both Ofsted criteria and the SEND Code of Practice. Specifically, the award focuses on 'outcomes' for pupils and how schools can demonstrate the impact of their SEND provision. The award leads schools through a process of self-evaluation, action planning and evidence collection before final verification and accreditation.

The award will drive our development of high-quality SEND provision throughout the school by:

- promoting awareness of SEND issues and inclusion for all staff, parents, pupils and governors
- evaluating and improving classroom practice and interventions
- focusing on pupil outcomes.

Successful completion of the award will enable us to:

- gain recognition for high-quality education and care for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
- demonstrate to parents, governors and Ofsted inspectors that the school provision complies with current legislation and the SEND Code of Practice, and is effective in achieving good outcomes for all pupils. NB The term 'parent' is used throughout to represent the principal adult or adults caring for the pupil with SEND and is intended to cover any main caregiver.

We must complete the process of achieving the award in 12-15 months. We started in April 2024. Within this timescale, the process is supportive, developmental and progressive, rather than a box-ticking, target-driven exercise. This guidance provides clear, comprehensive, straightforward guidance to support us in whole school improvement through successful completion of the award.

The process involved in the award will enable schools to:

- 1 Demonstrate a commitment to establishing outstanding provision for SEND pupils through achieving and maintaining the award.
- 2 Ensure that the school's SEND policy and practice is compliant with legislation and DfE guidance and promotes an inclusive ethos.
- 3 Establish and maintain strong and effective leadership and management of SEND provision.
- 4 Demonstrate that everyday teaching and learning for pupils with SEND is good or better.
- 5 Establish and maintain an effective system of identifying pupils' special educational needs.
- 6 Demonstrate that pupils are actively involved in decision-making about, and the delivery of, their own SEND provision/support.
- 7 Ensure that parents are actively involved in decision-making about, and the delivery of, their children's SEND provision/support.
- 8 Highlight their commitment to providing high-quality, on-going continuing professional development (CPD) on SEND.