

*June 2025 Edition – Summer term edition*

**Communication is Key**

At Sissinghurst Primary, we are continuing to improve how we communicate with families of children with additional needs. Thank you to all families who took part in our SEN parent conversations. We truly value your input.

All communication about SEND must go through the school office so it can be directed and responded to promptly:

Email the School Office: [office@sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk)

SEN Parent Meetings – Weeks 3 & 5 Each Term:

You are warmly invited to book a SEN parent meeting in Week 3 or Week 5 each term to discuss your child's support and progress. Please contact the school office to book your appointment.

**SENCo Parent Drop-In Schedule September 2025 to July 2026**

**19<sup>th</sup> September**

**3<sup>rd</sup> October**

**14<sup>th</sup> November**

**28<sup>th</sup> November**

**23<sup>rd</sup> January**

**5<sup>th</sup> February**

**13<sup>th</sup> March**

**27<sup>th</sup> March**

**8<sup>th</sup> May**

**22<sup>nd</sup> May**

**19<sup>th</sup> June**

**3<sup>rd</sup> July**

## Responding to Parent Feedback

We've been carefully reviewing your responses. Here's how we are taking action:

Parent Feedback	Our Response
Some parents unsure about how to support their child's specific needs.	We will include information on different types of additional needs in each newsletter. This issue focuses on ADHD and Speech & Language (SaLT).
Some felt unsure while waiting for external services.	See medical wait section below.
Parents weren't always sure who ELSA is.	We'll promote the ELSA role in upcoming newsletters and parent letters.
Requests for clarity on personal provision plans.	A letter will be sent termly explaining the purpose of provision plans and what to expect. Please talk to your class teacher for the first port of call in the first instance for anything provision related
Parents found end-of-year transition meetings helpful.	These meetings will continue this year between current and new class teachers, with parent involvement. The school office are scheduling these appointments.

## Useful SEN & Inclusion Links

Sissinghurst Inclusion Page: <https://www.sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk/page/?title=Inclusion&pid=27>

Kent County Council SEN & EHCP: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>

Kent SEND Information Hub: <https://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/send-information-hub>

Kent Community Health SaLT Services: <https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/service/speech-and-language-therapy-children/>

Imago Young Carers Support: <https://www.imago.community/Children-and-Young-People/Young-Carers>

### **Support for Families Awaiting Medical Input**

All parents are provided with appropriate links for services they may need. If you feel you need further support while waiting for a diagnosis or input from external agencies, you can always contact our Senco for a joint meeting with the Community Pediatrics Team School Link Officer.

Families are reminded they can also use the 'Right to Choose' system, which allows you to request an alternative provider through your GP. This system does not go through the SENCO, but requires a GP referral initiated by the parent.

- **Talk to your GP:**

Discuss your concerns and explore whether Right to Choose is an option for you.

- **Choose your provider:**

Your GP can help you identify eligible providers under the Right to Choose pathway.

- **Referral:**

Your GP will then refer you to your chosen provider.

- **Note:**

If you choose to proceed with Right to Choose, ensure the previous provider is informed so they can remove you from their waiting list.

### **Examples of Right to Choose in West Kent:**

- **ADHD and autism assessments:**

Individuals can choose a different provider for these assessments when the NHS waiting list is long.

- **ADHD medication support:**

Some providers offer medication support for children and young people, including titration, through the Right to Choose pathway.

Important considerations:

- **Complex needs:**

If you have complex needs, your GP may advise that Right to Choose is not the best option for you.

- **ICB guidance:**

Kent & Medway ICS has specific guidance on Right to Choose, which your GP can help you with.


- **Consult your GP:**

The best way to understand your options and determine if Right to Choose is appropriate for you is to speak with your GP.

Additionally, a list of private health providers with shorter waiting lists is available. You are encouraged to speak to your family GP about medical wait times, referrals, and all related concerns.

### **Important Reminder About Communication Channels**

Please note: Messages sent via StudyBugs are **not monitored by the SENCO**.

 All communication regarding your child's additional needs must go through the **school office**. This ensures your message is directed appropriately and responded to in a timely manner.

 **Email the School Office:** [office@sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk](mailto:office@sissinghurst.kent.sch.uk)

I do hope you have found this information useful. We always welcome parent feedback. If you would like information on different subjects or areas of interest, please let Anna know via the school office.

Anna Wolfe

Senco