



ALL SAINTS INTER-CHURCH ACADEMY

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Friday 1st September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am writing to you about an exciting new development here at school. As of the beginning of the Autumn term, a new provision called Stepping Stones is being launched for a small number of children with additional needs; some of these children have EHCPs, while others are on the APDR (Assess, Plan, Do, Review) pathway.

Having an EHCP or an additional need does not automatically mean a child will be able to access Stepping Stones, and we have carefully considered the children and their needs on an individual basis. For some children in the group, it may be that they find a full-time mainstream classroom overwhelming and need a smaller group to develop their self-esteem and wellbeing; for others, it might be that they need significantly differentiated activities linked to their EHCP outcomes. Additionally, there may be children who do meet the criteria above but their needs are more complex and they need a highly individualised approach, and so would not be suitable for inclusion in such a group setting.

Your child is someone that we feel will really benefit from attending Stepping Stones, and I really hope you will be as excited by this new venture as I am.

There will be two Stepping Stones groups running in school each day, both from 9am until 11am. One group is for children in Reception and Key Stage 1 (Years 1 and 2), while the other is for children in Key Stage 2 (Years 3, 4, 5 and 6). The maximum number of children in a group at any time will be six. We have two dedicated classrooms set up for the Stepping Stones groups which we have spent time over the summer holidays organising and repurposing.

As SENDCo, Mental Health Lead and now Alternative Provision Lead, I will be responsible for the planning, organisation and overall running of the groups. Under my leadership, Miss Smith and Miss Stevens will be running the Reception and Key Stage 1 group on a daily basis, while Mrs Davey and I will run the Key Stage 2 group.

Children attending the group will come in to school with their whole class via the main classroom door, and will be present for the register (unless they are coming to morning Nurture Group, which I will inform you of in a separate letter). At 9am, a

member of the class team will bring the children to their Stepping Stones group, ready for the 'alternative provision' session to begin.

Both groups will follow the same timetable for the session, which is as below:

Time	Reception & KS1 Stepping Stones	KS2 Stepping Stones
9am – 9.15am	Morning greeting Circle time	Morning greeting Circle time
9.15am – 9.50am	Session 1: EHCP/ APDR work Individual, paired or small group	Session 1: EHCP/ APDR work Individual, paired or small group
9.50am – 10am	Group game or movement break	Group game or movement break
10am – 10.30am	Session 2: EHCP/ APDR work Individual, paired or small group	Session 2: EHCP/ APDR work Individual, paired or small group
10.30am – 10.45am	Story time/ break time & snack	Story time/ break time & snack
10.45am – 11am	Tidy up time and relaxation activity	Tidy up time and relaxation activity

As you can see, during 'Session 1' and 'Session 2', the children attending the group will have daily opportunities to work either individually, in pairs or in small groups on their EHCP or APDR targets with the support of an adult; this will allow us to make sure their learning is relevant and closely tailored to their individual needs. When not working on their EHCP/ APDR targets, the children will be supported and encouraged by the second adult to complete activities linked to key areas of the National Curriculum such as Maths and Phonics.

Staff will record what children have done each day on their own 'Progress Tracker', which you are very welcome to have a copy of at any time. In addition to this, we will build up a profile of your child's achievements at Stepping Stones in their own 'Learning Journey' book which we will invite you to share with us each half-term.

At 11am each day, adults from the Stepping Stones groups will return the children to their class and share any news or necessary information with the classroom staff. We are very keen for all of our children at All Saints, whether they have additional needs or not, to feel included as part of their class and therefore at this present time Stepping Stones will run for the two hour session only. The remainder of the day will be spent being supported in class, following the National Curriculum.

I am very happy to talk to our parents and carers about our new Stepping Stones provision, so if you have any questions or would like more information, please don't hesitate to contact me via the school office or using my email address (senco@allsaints.cambs.sch.uk).

Kind regards,

Isobelle Johnson

SENDCo, Mental Health Lead, Alternative Provision Lead, Deputy Safeguarding Lead