



LONDON BOROUGH OF
MERTON



SEND SUPPORT AND SERVICES



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

Special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) can affect a child or young person's ability to learn. They can affect their:

Behaviour or ability to socialise, for example, they struggle to make friends

Reading and writing, for example, because they have dyslexia

Ability to understand things

Concentration levels, for example, because they have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD)

Physical ability

Merton's vision is that Merton is a place where children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities are valued, included, enjoy equality of opportunity, feel safe and supported and are happy and fulfilled in all areas of their lives – at home, in the community, at school and beyond.



STATISTICS

In Merton, there are currently **4,027** Children and Young People receiving Special Education Needs (SEN) support.

Between 2022/23, **389,171** pupils in schools in England had an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Up by **9.5%** from 2022.

In Merton, there are currently **2,515** children and Young People with an Education Health Care Plan (EHCP). Compared to **1,053** children and young people in 2020.

In 2023, **353** children and young people in Merton received a short break package. Compared to **366** children and young people in 2022.



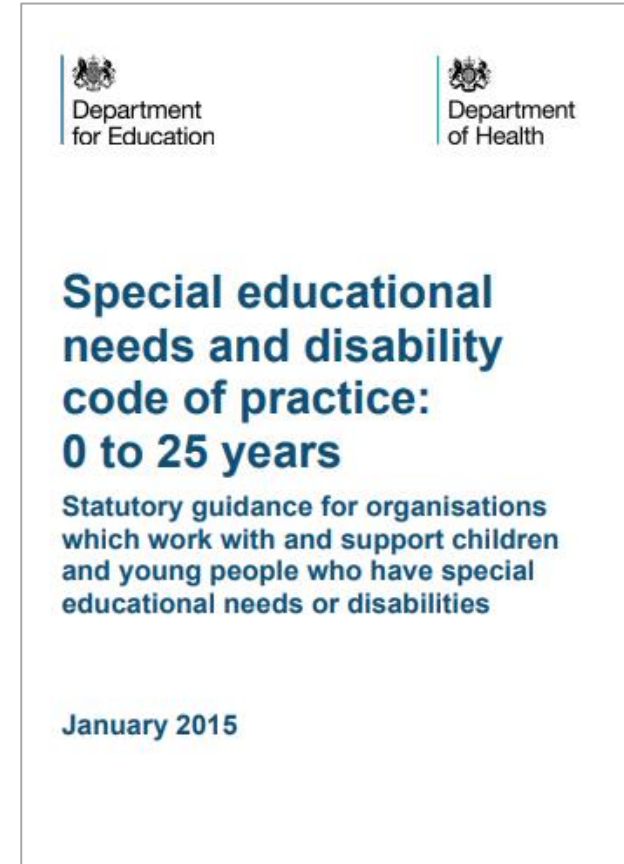
SEND CODE OF PRACTICE

The SEND Code of Practice provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations and applies to England.

It relates to children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and disabled children and young people.

The SEND code of Practice is statutory guidance for local authorities, health bodies, schools and colleges.

[SEND code of practice: 0 to 25 years](#)



MERTON LOCAL OFFER



Merton's Local Offer provides information about services and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities.

Merton Local Offer

SEND Local Offer

Support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged 0-25.



Activities and leisure



Education and Childcare



Employment and training



Health



Preparing for adulthood



Social Care



PARENTING PROGRAMMES DELIVERED BY MERTON LA

Programme	Age	Description
ASD Incredible Years (IY) <i>12 weeks</i>	2 yrs to end of reception	Children with ASD or language delay – support to understand child’s additional needs, develop strategies to engage in their learning and manage their behaviour

Referral form to be completed and sent to FSD@Merton.gov.uk

Programme	Age	Description
Social Communication Group <i>Weekly drop-in (invite only)</i>	2 to 3 years	Supports parents and carers to develop their confidence in supporting their child’s communication at home. For children with ASD or social communication difficulties.
Triple P Stepping Stones <i>9 Weeks</i>	4 to 11 years	Developed for parents of children with developmental or physical disabilities who have disruptive behaviour. Triple P’s proven parenting strategies provide ways to deal with childhood behaviour problems and issues that make family life stressful

Referral form to be completed and emailed to FSD@Merton.gov.uk along with supporting assessment

THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY PARENTING PROGRAMMES



EarlyBird

Supports parents/carers of pre-school aged children (under five years) with a diagnosis of Autism. The 6-week programme aims to support families to understand autism and how children experience the world around them, develop interactions and communication with their child and understand their child's behaviour.

EarlyBird Plus

Supports parents/carers of young people (4-9 years) with a diagnosis of Autism and for the professionals supporting them. The three-month programme consists of eight group sessions and two home visits. The course aims to empower parents/carers and to support a consistent approach between home and school.

Teen Life

Supports parents/carers of children aged 10-16 with a diagnosis of Autism. The 6 week programme aims to support families to understand autism and how teens experience the world around them, develop interactions and communication with their teen and understand their teen's behaviour.

Cricket Green School for referrals - 020 8640 1177



MAGIC 123 PARENTING PROGRAMME



Magic 123 parenting programme breaks the complex job of parenting into 3 easy steps:

1. Getting children to **stop** doing the things parents/carers don't want them to do (tantrums, whining, etc.)
2. Motivating children to **start** doing the things parents/carers want them to do (cleaning up, homework, etc.)
3. Bonding/building a positive relationship with their children

The most effective part of Magic 123 is that it encourages parents to talk less. When a child is throwing a tantrum, parents/carers attempting to talk to and reason with them just add to the overwhelming noise in their head! Magic 123 focuses on calm, non-verbal communication and signalling to help the child regulate their emotions and respond more appropriately to the situation.

The parenting programme is currently open to parents/carers with children up to the age of 12yrs with a diagnosis of Autism or ADHD who are currently under tier 3 CAMHS and awaiting medication.

020 3513 5000 / mertonspareferrals@swlstg.nhs.uk



THE NON-VIOLENT RESISTANCE PARENTING APPROACH



The Non-Violent Resistance (NVR) Parenting Programme has helped thousands of families to change their lives. Parents report increased confidence in their parenting, a greater sense of agency and improved relationships within the family.

This session is aimed at parents and carers struggling to manage their children/young people's behaviours of concern, and the people supporting them. It is a live and interactive presentation by the NVR Practitioners Consortium.

Sessions cost £7.50 - £15 and can be booked on [Eventbrite](#)



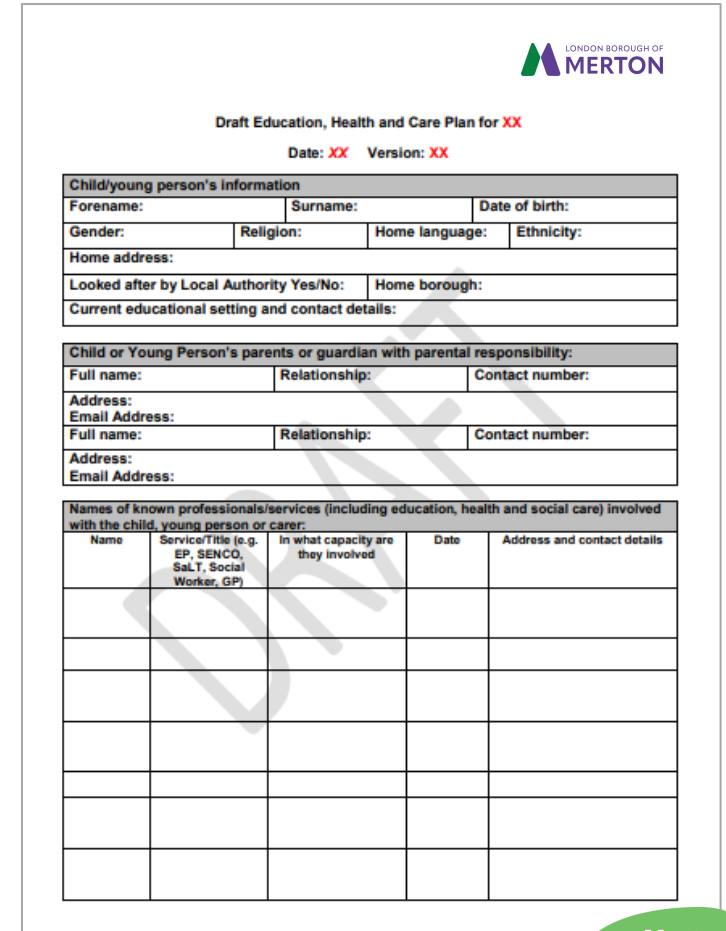
EDUCATION, HEALTH AND CARE PLANS

Some children and young people who have special educational needs may need extra support which cannot be provided from the resources available at their early years setting, school or college.

To make sure that the right extra support is provided for these children and young people, an Education, Health and Care (EHC) Needs Assessment takes place.

At the end of the assessment, an EHC Plan (EHCP) is written. This will detail what is required to meet the needs of the child or young person and to achieve the best outcomes for them.

The EHCP is reviewed every year and, as the child gets older, this will include adding in support to move successfully into adulthood.



The form is titled "Draft Education, Health and Care Plan for XX" and includes the Merton London Borough logo. It is dated "Date: XX" and versioned "Version: XX". The form is divided into several sections: "Child/young person's information", "Child or Young Person's parents or guardian with parental responsibility:", and "Names of known professionals/services (including education, health and social care) involved with the child, young person or carer:". The first section contains fields for Forename, Surname, Date of birth, Gender, Religion, Home language, and Ethnicity. The second section contains fields for Full name, Relationship, and Contact number for two different individuals. The third section is a table with columns for Name, Service/Title (e.g. EP, SENCO, SaLT, Social Worker, GP), In what capacity are they involved, Date, and Address and contact details.

Names of known professionals/services (including education, health and social care) involved with the child, young person or carer:				
Name	Service/Title (e.g. EP, SENCO, SaLT, Social Worker, GP)	In what capacity are they involved	Date	Address and contact details



THE SEN TEAM



Merton SEN Team coordinates the assessment of education, health and care needs when it considers that it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made for the child or young person in accordance with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

An Education Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA) request can be made by the parent of the child or young person, their school, setting or a professional working with the family. The local authority then has six weeks to decide whether or not to carry out an EHC needs assessment.

If the Local Authority agrees to undertake an EHCNA this process brings together education, health and social care professionals who then work together to assess all the needs of the child or young person. This means that these professionals have a coordinated approach to understanding the child or young person's needs and then making provision to meet these needs. The Local Authority will decide within 16 weeks of this process as to whether an EHCP will be issued.

If the local authority determines that an EHCNA is not required, or an EHCP will not be issued, it must notify the referrer and family and provide information on how they can appeal the decision not to assess or to issue a plan, this includes information on the Mediation process and services they should contact.



MIASS



Merton's Information, Advice and Support Service (MIASS)) is co-commissioned by Merton Council and the NHS to provide free, confidential, and impartial information, advice and support to children and young people (aged 0-25) with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) and their parents/carers who live in Merton.



Parents and young people should first contact their school's SENCo, learning support advisor, class teacher and other professionals who know the child/young person. Merton's SEN Local Offer also has a large number of useful guidance documents and services listed.

MIASS is aimed at families who have explored these options but require some additional direct and specialist help and advice. No referral is required.

MIASS also run drop-in sessions at the children centres – Newminster (Friday's 9:30 – 11:30), Acacia (Thursday's 9:15 - 12:00) and Church road (Tuesday's 9:15 – 12:00).

020 8543 8854 / miass@merton.gov.uk



ADDITIONALLY RESOURCED PROVISIONS

Additionally Resourced Provision (ARP) is available at a number of mainstream schools in Merton for children with EHCPs (Education, Health and Care Plans) and the SEN Team manage the admissions. Through the placement, ARP's provide targeted support for pupils to enable children to make progress, achieve their identified outcomes and continue to access the mainstream curriculum while being provided with a specialist intervention programme.

Primary schools:

- ❖ Cranmer Primary School - For Children with Communication Needs including Autistic Spectrum (ASD)
- ❖ Hatfeild Primary School - For Children on the Autistic Spectrum (ASD)
- ❖ Harris Primary Academy Merton - For Children on the Autistic Spectrum (ASD)
- ❖ Stanford Primary School - For Children on the Autistic Spectrum (ASD) – closing July 2024
- ❖ Liberty Primary School – For Children on the Autistic Spectrum (ASD) – opening September 2024
- ❖ West Wimbledon Primary - Known as 'Tree Tops', for Children on the Autistic Spectrum (ASD)
- ❖ Wimbledon Chase- For Children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Secondary schools:

- ❖ Raynes Park High - For Children on the Autistic Spectrum (ASD)
- ❖ Ricards Lodge - For Children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)
- ❖ Rutlish - For Children with Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)



SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN MERTON

Merton's three state-funded special schools provide for a variety of needs for children with an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan).

Cricket Green School

Cricket Green School is for children aged 4-19 with complex and varied needs, moderate learning difficulties, emotional and behavioural difficulties and those on the autistic spectrum (ASD)

Melrose School

Melrose School is for children aged 4-19 with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs (SEMH) and from September 2022 extended its designation on an additional site in Whatley Avenue SW20 to provide for children on the autistic spectrum (ASD) and with Speech, Language and Communication difficulties (SLCN).

Perseid School

Perseid provides for children aged 3-19 with severe and complex learning difficulties, including learners with an additional diagnosis of autism and/or additional physical and/or sensory disabilities.



MERTON COLLEGE



Merton College has a dedicated provision for 16 to 25 year olds with significant learning and social communication support needs. New students are carefully assessed by tutors and therapists, who work closely with the young person and their family to create a three-year progression pathway.

Merton College foundation learning/SEND study programmes embed independence and employability skills to enable learners to secure positive and meaningful progression, be that into independent living or into the workplace through vocational study within other specialist areas across the College.

Merton College is also the base for South Thames College Group's Aurora provision which is a specialist, non-residential FE centre for young adults with moderate to severe learning disabilities who may have Autism, behaviours of concern or complex support needs.

The programme is focused on the four key areas of the Preparing for Adulthood Agenda. These are employment, independent living, good health, friends, family and community. Learners will be involved in community-based projects, training for travel and developing independence, social and communication skills.

020 8918 7777 / Info.Merton@stcg.ac.uk / [Merton College Foundation Learning/SEND](#)



FAMILY WELLBEING SERVICE SHORT BREAKS



Short Breaks Services (previously called respite care) are fun and /or educational activities for children and young people with disabilities and additional needs. They support disabled children and their families who can't use universal services.

They give children and young people a chance to socialise and gain independence while their families get to take time out from caring. Short Breaks Services can be offered during the day, in the evenings, at weekends or during school holidays.

The Short Breaks are designed depending on the child's level of need.

- **Targeted Short Breaks** are activities where additional support is provided for groups of children with a disability or additional needs to take part. Merton Council subsidise some of these activities and they're run by organisations.
- **Specialist Short Breaks** are where the child is assessed to find out how Merton can provide specialised groups or activities to help them take part.

Parental and professional referrals accepted - [Family Wellbeing Short Breaks Services](#)



BRIGHTWELL

Brightwell Specialist Out of School Provision is one of Merton's Specialist short breaks.

Brightwell is a purpose-built provision, providing respite and short breaks for children with a range of complex needs who have a learning disability and/or physical disability.

Brightwell caters for children and young people aged from Year 1 to 18 years of age and is managed by Merton Council.

Children and young people come to have fun, enjoy the facilities and spend time with friends.

020 8274 5380 / Brightwell2@merton.gov.uk / [**Brightwell Specialist Out of School Provision**](#)



PARENT CARERS NEEDS ASSESSMENT

All parents/carers looking after a disabled child, who have Parental Responsibility for that child, have a right to ask for an assessment of their needs at any time.

Under the Children and Families Act 2014, local authorities are required to assess parent carers on the appearance of need or where an assessment is requested by the parent. This is called a “parent carers needs assessment”.

Where requested, the local authority must assess whether that parent has needs for support and, if so, what those needs are. The assessment must include an assessment of whether it is appropriate for the parent to provide, or continue to provide, care for the disabled child, in the light of the parent’s needs for support, other needs, and wishes.

Parents/carers can request a parent Carers Needs Assessment via the [Children and Families Hub](#).



CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES TEAM

The Children with Disabilities Team (CWD) is a specialist service supporting children and young people 0-18 with profound, severe, complex and long-term needs. This includes learning disabilities, a physical or sensory impairment and life-limiting or life-threatening medical conditions.

Merton has an obligation to assess the needs of children and young people with disabilities and then to offer support and services, including a Personal Budget where appropriate, to meet the needs identified and those of their carers.

Children and young people with a diagnosis of high functioning Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD) or children and young people with social, emotional and behavioural difficulties due to social or environmental factors, are unlikely to meet the criteria for the CWD team unless in conjunction with a severe to profound disability.

A **Request for Service** can be made by completing the Children and Family Hub Request for Service form which should include evidence of the child's or young person's disability and need for further support through the CWD team.

020 8545 4200 / Children.WithDisabilitiesDuty@merton.gov.uk

TRANSITION TEAM

Transition is when a young person moves from using children's services to adult services.

Preparing for adulthood is a very significant time for all young people and their families. It can be stressful especially if you have special educational needs and disabilities.

Merton's Transition Team is made up of social workers, who work closely with children's health and social care services, to support young people with additional needs through the transition from childhood to adulthood.

Professional and Self-referrals accepted.

020 8545 3033 / Transition.team@merton.gov.uk / [Transition Team](#)

HOW WE CAN HELP

- The young person will meet with one of our social workers from the Transition Team who will discuss their needs with them and their family.
- We offer advice, guidance and support on the following:
 - Health
 - Employment
 - Relationships
 - Housing
 - Money matters
 - Access to leisure opportunities
 - Travelling independently
 - Future education or training
- We are committed to helping young people to achieve their hopes and aspirations for their future.



ADULT SOCIAL CARE

Adult social care is for:

- ❖ adults with physical or learning disabilities
- ❖ adults with physical or mental illnesses
- ❖ older people who require extra support

If support cannot be provided within the community, adult social care can carry out a needs assessment. This assessment will look at the care already provided and what support is required.

If eligible for support from adult social care, a care and support plan will be created which will detail the support services, the frequency of this support and the date it will be reviewed.

If not eligible for support, information and advice will be provided about support within the community.

A needs assessment can be requested by contacting the Adult Social Care First Response Team:
020 8545 4388 / ASCFirstResponse@merton.gov.uk



SEND SUPPORT



Merton libraries have a fantastic programme of regular SEND events and activities across all the libraries, including story time, stay & plays and sensory time. All events can be booked via the library website.



Portage Parenting Service is an educational support service for children 0-3yrs with significant additional needs and disabilities and their families. Designed around the individual needs of a child, the Portage Parenting Service helps parents and carers to become more skilled in supporting their child's development, either individually or as part of a group. Referral to the service is required. fsd@merton.gov.uk



Home-Start Merton enables families experiencing stress or difficulties to meet the needs of their children from conception to five years old. Volunteers work alongside parents and families in their own homes to empower and support them by offering both practical and emotional support. Self-referrals are accepted. Professional - [Referral Form](#) 0208 646 6044



SEND SUPPORT

**Carers
First**

[Carers First](#)

Carers First works directly with, and for carers, providing personalised information and tailored support in the way that suits them: online, on the phone, or face-to-face in their local community. Carers First can support with carers wellbeing assessments, planning ahead, managing work or education, financial support and much more. 03003031555 / hello@carersfirst.org.uk



[Merton Sensory
Support Service](#)

Merton Sensory Support Service work with children and young people 0- 25 who have been diagnosed with a hearing impairment, visual impairment, or multi- sensory impairment/deaf blind. Their aim is to work creatively with children/young person, families, schools, settings and other professionals to remove barriers that prevent them from living and learning as independently as possible. 07852 768 639 / SEN@merton.gov.uk



[SenTalk](#)

Sen Talk is a local non-profit organisation working within the borough of Wandsworth specifically supporting autistic children and children with Attention Deficit Disorders and or other Social Communication needs and their families. Support includes monthly coffee mornings, children's interest-led sessions, family support, counselling, advocacy, pastoral support and respite breaks and trips for families. The age range for children and young people that Sen Talk support is 5-16 years. Professional referral and self-referral are accepted and support open to all families in London.

020 7223 1694 / info@sentalk.org



SEND SUPPORT



[Merton
Mencap](#)

Merton Mencap offers many services and activities for children and young people with a learning disability and/or autism. Services/activities include holiday playschemes, a Saturday club, a youth club, Independent travel training, cooking courses, community activities and leisure activities. The website provides more information on the referral pathways. 02039630599



[Kids First](#)

Kids First (a project of Merton Mencap) is Merton's forum for parents of children and young people with disabilities or special needs. Kids First provides workshops and other support activities for parents to support them to achieve improved outcomes for their children. It also provides the means for parents to meet other parents in the same or similar situation, and to support each other. Kids First supports parents in influencing the development of service provision and planning in the Borough, giving them a voice on local issues. 02039630597 / kids.first@mertonmencap.org.uk



[Adults First](#)

Adults First (a project of Merton Mencap) is a Merton Forum for carers of adults with a learning disability and/or autism. Adults First aims to provide an environment of mutual support and education for carers, providing workshops and other support activities, to support them to achieve a better life for their son/daughter or relative. Adults First supports carers to influence the development of service provision and planning in the borough, helping to ensure their voice is heard on local issues. 02039630597



SEND SUPPORT



[Merton Autism Parent Service](#)

Merton Autism Parent Service (MAPS) is a listening, support, information and advice service for parents of 0 – 25 year olds with a diagnosis of autism or who are likely to receive a diagnosis. The team offer advice on communication, challenging behaviours, self-harming, sleep issues, anxiety and many other challenges that arise. 020 3963 0597 / maps.coordinator@mertonmencap.org.uk



[SEND Youth Advisory Forum](#)

The Participant and Engagement Team have recently launched a SEND Advisory Forum. This brings together the special school student councils, who meet once a half-term to discuss the issues that are most important to them and what they feel Merton Council's priorities should be.

contact
[Contact](#)

Contact is a charity for families in the UK with disabled children. Contact provides information, advice and support through a helpline, a listening ear 1-1 service, workshops and family events. 0808 808 3555 (Monday-Friday, 9.30am-5pm) / info@contact.org.uk

YOUNG MERTON
[Young Merton](#)

As well as the local offer, Young Merton provides information about all services and organisations that are available to children and young people within the borough. SEN local offer activities will have a blue triangle.



SEND SUPPORT



[The M.A.G.I.C
Club](#)

The M.A.G.I.C Club is a specialist youth group for children 11 to 25 years with moderate to severe learning disabilities or Autism. Activities take place at Phipps Bridge Youth Centre and include Wii, pool, table tennis, football, basketball, arts and crafts and cooking. Also, young people will have the opportunity to go on trips for example to the cinema or bowling. 020 8274 5194 / lisa.tharpe@merton.gov.uk



[M-Card](#)

The M-Card is a concession card issued by London Borough of Merton which provides a quick, easy and discrete way to raise awareness that eligible children and young people have disabilities or Special Educational Needs. The M-Card is accepted in a range of places and by organisations that offer concessions or assistance, such as museums, theme parks and football clubs. If eligible, the child must be registered to the Merton Disability Database and then an application can be completed online.



[Blue
Badge](#)

Blue Badges allow people with disabilities or health conditions to park closer to their destination, either as the driver or passenger. This is a national scheme open to both individuals and organisations. Eligible is listed on the website and applications can take up to 12 weeks to be processed. Merton residents with a Blue Badge can also apply for a [carer permit](#) free of charge.



SEND SUPPORT

SEN Transport supports children and young people who have an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to travel to and from school. If eligible, travel assistance will be provided appropriately to the child's individual needs and any assistance offered will be the most effective and efficient available, in terms of both sustainability and cost. This may include, a direct payment agreement allowing parent's flexibility to provide travel assistance for their child, a minibus, a taxi shared with other children or a taxi not shared with other children, where there is no viable alternative. 020 8545 4810 / SENtransport@merton.gov.uk



[SEN Transport](#)

Merton Autism Outreach Service (MAOS) supports the inclusion of pupils with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and Social Communication Difficulties in mainstream settings. MAOS works in an advisory role with schools supporting staff in developing their understanding of ASD and sharing tools and strategies to enable pupils to access learning and social opportunities. Advice relating to the needs of specific pupils and staff training is also provided. 020 8640 1177 / bonnie.brown@cricketgreen.merton.sch.uk



[Merton school Improvement](#)

Merton school Improvement advisers offer training and support for schools to improve their capacity to meet the needs of pupils with SEN. The service offers policy development in relation to special educational needs, including Local Offer/SEN Information report review and support, Ofsted preparation in relation to special educational needs and individual, group and whole school support for the development of inclusive practice. There is a charge for this service. 020 8288 5622



SEND SUPPORT



[National Autistic Society](#)

The National Autistic Society offer advice and guidance about autism and the challenges autistic people and their families face. Topics include what is autism, diagnosis, communication, mental health, education, and more. There is also the UK's most comprehensive directory of services and support for autistic people, their families, and the people who work with them, including an online community to meet like-minded people.



[ADDISS](#)

The National Attention Deficit Disorder Information and Support Service (ADDISS) organises local and national seminars and provides information, support, training and resources on ADHD for parents, health workers and teachers. ADDISS have a wide range of information factsheets, books, and special sections for children, parents or professionals. 020 8952 2800 / info@addiss.co.uk



[HACSG](#)

The Hyperactive Children's Support Group is a registered charity which has been successfully helping ADHD/Hyperactive children and their families for over 30 years. The HACSG is Britain's leading proponent of a dietary approach to the problem of hyperactivity. The group provides workshops for parents and healthcare professionals to learn more about managing ADHD and hyperactive behaviour and how diet can help. Workshops can cover diet and behaviour and dyslexia behavioural management. 01243 539966 / hacsg@hacsg.org.uk



SEND SUPPORT

Family Fund is the UK's largest charity providing grants and services for families on low incomes raising a disabled or seriously ill child or young person, up to the age of 24. Grants are available for essential items to help meet a child or young person's support needs, including kitchen appliances, furniture, computers and tablets, play and sensory equipment, clothing, bedding and family breaks. They also provide services such as digital skills workshops, online money management tools and information events. Families can apply for the grant online. 01904 550055 / info@familyfund.org.uk



[Family Fund](#)



[Citizens Advice](#)

Citizens Advice Merton & Lambeth provide free, independent, impartial and confidential information and advice for the general public on a range of issues, including housing, benefits, debt, employment rights, immigration and disability.

Merton Adviceline: 0808 278 7831 (Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm)



[Carer's Allowance](#)
/ [DLA](#)

Disability Living Allowance (DLA) is a benefit paid for children who need additional care or supervision because they have a disability or health condition. DLA is awarded based on mobility and care needs, not based on diagnosis. If you provide care for someone for 35 hours a week or more, you may be able to claim Carer's Allowance from central government.



SEND SUPPORT



Neuro
Developmental
Service (NDT)

The NDT service offers a diagnostic assessment for Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) /Attention Deficit with Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). This is a specialist service for young people up to 18 years old with a referral from their local CAMHS service, their parents/carers and other professionals who work with them. Referrals via local CAMHS SPA. 020 3513 5000 / mertonspareferrals@swlstg.nhs.uk



Deaf CAMHS

Deaf CAMHS provides highly specialised mental health care to deaf children and young people (aged up to 18 years) and their families and additionally to hearing children of deaf adults in the community. They also provide advice and consultation to local services that work with deaf children. Professional referrals accepted. 020 3513 5000 / ndcamhs@swlstg.nhs.uk



Merton
ADHD/ASD
Diagnostic Service

Merton's ADHD/ASD Diagnostic Service offer specialist assessment and diagnosis of ADHD and ASD, ADHD medication initiation and titration focussed OT work for ADHD and specialist medical review for those with an established diagnosis who are taking medication for ADHD. This service is for adults over the age of 18. Referrals are only accepted by a GP or health care professional. 020 3513 5000 / externalsuttonadhdasd@swlstg.nhs.uk



SEND SUPPORT



[Speech and
Language
Therapy](#)

The NHS Speech and Language Therapy Service is part of Central London Community Healthcare. The targeted service works with children 0-4 year olds with speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) and 0-19 year olds who have SLCN with medical origins such as swallowing problems (dysphagia), stammering, complex speech disorders and those needing computerised augmentative and alternative communication. 0330 053 9264 / CLCHT.HCPAdminMerton@nhs.net



[Merton
Language and
Learning
Support Team](#)

The Language and Learning Support Team is part of Merton Local Authority and delivers speech and language therapy to pupils of statutory school age (age 5 – 16) who attend a Merton school. This includes Merton's special schools where children have speech and language therapy provision detailed in their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). 020 8288 5692 / admin.lbl-vbs@merton.gov.uk



[Community
paediatrics](#)

Epsom & St Heliers, Croydon, St Georges and Kingston hospitals all provide community paediatrics. The teams offer specialist medical assessment and support for children and young people with developmental disorders, neurodisability, social communication disorders like autism and Aspergers and special educational needs.



SUPPORT FOR PRACTITIONERS



[Council for Disabled Children](#)

Council for Disabled Children offers E-Learning modules which have been developed to improve knowledge, understanding and practical skills and support in range of key areas that impact children and young people, particularly those with special educational needs and disability. E-Learning courses include, supporting children and young people with SEND and introduction to mental health.



[SEND STRATEGY 2020-23](#)

Merton's 'Strategy for meeting the needs of children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities aged 0-25 (Merton's SEND Strategy)' is for all children and young people with SEND. In Merton having high aspirations for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities aged 0-25, and providing effective services to support their health and well-being, education and beyond to independence is 'everyone's business'.



[Autism Strategy 2018-2023](#)

Merton's Autism Strategy sets out how we want Merton to be an autism-friendly borough in which people with autism are able to live fulfilling and rewarding lives within a society and reach their full potential at all stages of their lives. The strategy takes a whole life course approach, encompassing children, young people and adults with autism and taking into consideration the needs of families and carers.



SUPPORT FOR PRACTITIONERS



[Ordinarily Available Guidance](#)

Ordinarily Available Provision refers to the setting based interventions and services that all Merton schools, early years and post 16 settings should be able to provide for children or young people, including those with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), from within their own resources. This guidance is intended to support schools or settings to reflect and develop their inclusive provision to benefit all the children or young people in the school or setting, including those with SEND.



[SENDIF](#)

All LAs are required to establish a SEND Inclusion Fund for children aged 3 and 4 who are in receipt of funded early education. In Merton, it has been agreed that this fund will also be made available to 2-year-old children taking up a funded place. The purpose of the fund is to support LAs to work with providers to address the special educational needs and disabilities of individual children. More information can be found in the SENDIF document.



[Carers Strategy 2021-2026](#)

Carers have a valuable role to play, and it is widely acknowledged that carers contribute significantly to ensuring that the person they care for remains independent in their own home for longer. Merton's vision is for carers in Merton to feel recognised, listened to and supported (socially, medically, emotionally and financially) in this vital role so they can live their life to the full alongside caring. Further information about this is in Merton's Carers Strategy 2021 – 2026.



FURTHER SUPPORT

Families can receive further information on SEND support and services through the Family Information Support Hubs (FISH).

FISH provides parents/carers with information, support and guidance on all aspects of family life.

FISH sessions take place Monday – Friday with FREE face-to-face or telephone appointments available. Appointments can be booked via [Eventbrite](#) either by a parent/carer or a practitioner on their behalf.

Or parents/carers can come along to one of the FISH drop-in sessions (no appointment needed):

Family Hub at Church Rd Children Centre – Mondays, 1.30pm-4.30pm

Family Hub at Acacia Children Centre – Wednesdays, 9.00am-12.00pm

