



# Plumcroft Primary School

## Plum Lane Campus

Plum Lane, Plumstead, London, SE18 3HW  
Tel: 020 8854 1308

## Vincent Road Campus

Vincent Road, Woolwich, London, SE18 6RG  
Tel: 0208 317 2518

**Headteacher:** Mr Richard Slade

**Deputy Headteacher:** Mrs Annette Graney

April 2022

Dear parents and carers

**"Meeting need at point of need"** is a key requirement for us to deliver on for every child at Plumcroft. For the majority of children, their class teacher and the teaching teams will be able to meet need to a high standard. However; there may be times when you have concerns and feel that your child needs some extra help.

The first person to talk to about any concerns you may have is your child's class teacher as they are best placed to move things forward and will know your child well. If we feel that additional support is needed beyond what **Quality First Teaching** can provide, the class teacher will speak to the Special Educational Needs & Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCO) that is responsible for their specific year group.

As parents and carers you will be fully involved in all discussions and decisions about your child's learning and any additional needs. Here are the names and contact details for the SENDCO for each year group in the school:

**Alicia Whytock** - SENDCO for Nursery, Reception, Year 1 & Year 2  
email: [awhytock@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:awhytock@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk)

**James Hetherington** - SENDCO for Year 3 & Year 4  
email: [jhetherington@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:jhetherington@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk)

**Kaye Henton** - SENDCO for Year 5 & Year 6  
email: [khenton@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:khenton@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk)

**Richard Slade** - Headteacher & SENDCO (whole school oversight)  
email: [rslade@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:rslade@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk)

If you have a particular interest or want to know more about how we have expanded our SEND capacity at Plumcroft then what follows will give you all the detail you need. Your feedback would be very welcome so that we can adjust and improve our services over time. Please email me directly with any comments or suggestions at:  
[rslade@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:rslade@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk)



## Meeting need at point of need

The SEND Department at Plumcroft has been significantly expanded as we already have almost 1,000 children across two campuses with two full and oversubscribed nurseries. By 2023/24 we will have reached our 5-form entry capacity of about 1,300 children. The SEND development process has been a collaborative project led by the Headteacher. We also worked with external SEND experts who provided challenge and review. We have adjusted the detail over the last 5 months to ensure it is fit for purpose, sustainable over time and ensures we can act quickly when any pupil need emerges.

- **Early identification of need is vital.** All children in Nursery & Reception will be screened by a private **Educational Psychologist (EP)** to determine if there are any emerging needs that need further investigation.
- If there is a clear concern then the class teacher, EP and Phase SENDCO will ensure that the parents are kept informed of any concerns and are fully involved at every stage of the process to identify, investigate and then plan the learning journey for that child. External expertise will be sought in a timely manner so that we get to a point of specificity of need and action as quickly as possible. We can then all help ensure good or better progress in learning for every child from their starting point.
- For the vast majority of children, **Quality First Teaching** is the key thing we can deliver in school that will ensure they achieve their full potential whilst at our school. For those children that do not make expected progress or have been identified as having a disability and/or an additional learning need as part of the early screening processes, we have developed good 'in-house' capacity to ensure that evidence-based support and interventions are put in place quickly, reviewed regularly and adjusted as needed.
- We will provide all staff with excellent quality training in inclusive pedagogy so that they embed best practice learning methodologies that will be of benefit to all children. This rigorous graduated approach to 'meeting need at point of need' will ensure that every child fulfils their potential as they progress through the school.
- A key part of the process is ensuring that children and their parents are fully involved and aware of the various stages of how we are '**meeting need at point of need**'. The first point of contact should be the class teacher as along with the parents, they will know the children in their care best. This ensures that we always keep a focus upon 'Quality First Teaching.'
- In addition, as Headteacher I am also a SENDCO at the school and will begin the National SEND Qualification in May (2022) this year. My ongoing role as a SENDCO will ensure that SEND remains at the heart of all we do and the principles of best SEND Practice will benefit all pupils. The three Phase SENDCOs will begin the National SEND Qualification in September this year (2022).

- To support and further develop the skills of all 4 SENDCOs at Plumcroft, we have secured a Service Level Agreement (SLA) with an outstanding 4-form entry Greenwich Primary School (Bannockburn) so that their Deputy Head (Sarah Catterall) who is a SEND expert, is in our school on a very regular basis to exemplify best SEND practice, as well as coach and mentor the SENDCOs and staff as needed.
- We have also increased our private EP capacity and now have two EPs (Rachael Burton & Fionna Shaw) with a total of at least 32 days a year of dedicated EP time. This allows us to genuinely deliver on early identification and intervention, based upon expert involvement as soon as children arrive at the school or if a concern emerges at some point in the child's learning journey between nursery and Year 6.
- As previously mentioned, high quality SEND CPD for all staff is vital and our 'in-house' capacity will be enhanced further by having a full-time **Assistant Psychologist (AP)** working in the school under the supervision of one of our private EPs. The AP is currently being externally recruited and will be in post from September this year (2022). The role of the AP will be fully developed in collaboration with our EPs so that they support the teaching teams to provide the best possible inclusive learning opportunities for all children based upon need.
- When children reach the age of 7, we add in an additional layer of screening for [dyslexia](#). This is aimed at any child that is still struggling to read despite having Quality First Teaching and the expert delivery model for reading using [Read, Write Inc.](#) Class teachers will discuss these concerns with the parents, the relevant SENDCO as well as our own 'in-house' dyslexia screening expert teacher, Bernie Glaister. Bernie will then complete an initial screening assessment and if needed, move the child forward for a more in-depth screening if concerns are verified. We then get specific detail on how best to help children who need it.
- As part of the development of a full SEND Department, we have three experienced SEND staff who have been promoted to be **SEND Managers** (Jo Close, Leila Griffin & Adam Keeper). Jo & Leila are based at the Plum Lane Campus and Adam is at the Vincent Road Campus.

In addition to working with many of our children with complex needs in our Orchard and Acorn classes, the SEND Managers work with the teaching teams to ensure that we '**meet need at point of need**' and that all children can be successful members of their mainstream classes.

- **Speech & Language Therapy (SALT)** is also a vital element of the SEND Department. We now have **four 'in-house' SALT Teaching Assistants** (Gemma Willis, Becky Willis, Sam Claridge-Owen & Leah Willis) who specialise in undertaking SALT assessments and screening. They also work very closely with the teaching teams and parents at both campuses to get specific Speech & Language planned interventions in place quickly. Depending on level of need, external input is also provided by the NHS.

- The final but vital element of the SEND Department is ongoing SEND Admin support provided by Oprah McDonald, who will ensure that everything runs smoothly and our Provision Mapping systems keep all the relevant information up-to-date, secure but easily available to staff at point of need.

I hope the above detail reassures all parents and carers that we will **'meet need at point of need'**.

Whilst it's great to hear when things are going well, it's even more important for me to know when we could be doing something better. Please email me directly if you have any concerns and we will always work with you to put them right:

[rslade@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk](mailto:rslade@plumcroft.greenwich.sch.uk)

Regards



Richard Slade

Headteacher