

Southampton Advisory Outreach Service for SEND



Information for Parents

What is the role of the Southampton Advisory Outreach Service (SAOS)?

The role of the Southampton Advisory Outreach Service for SEND is to support mainstream primary and secondary schools in developing their provision for pupils with special educational needs. Further information is available on the SAOS website.

How can I access support for my child?

Parents should always speak to their child's school if they have any questions regarding their child's provision, support or progress. Outreach support is agreed following a written application made by the school. The Headteacher or SENCo may complete a referral form and send it either directly to SAOS (for charged services) or to the Primary Headteachers' Inclusion Group (for funded services). Unfortunately SAOS cannot accept referrals from parents.

What does support look like?

Usually your child is visited in school by an Outreach Advisory Teacher who will observe your child in class and talk to staff. The advisory teacher will then write a report, setting targets for a time limited intervention and make recommendations. An advisory teacher or specialist SSA will then visit your child once a week to work with him or her and support the school in implementing recommendations. At the end of the intervention, outreach staff will hold a review meeting with the school to discuss your child's progress in relation to the targets that have been set. A final review report is written, outlining progress made during the intervention and making further recommendations for future provision.

Can SAOS support my child without my permission?

The school will ask you to sign a form to give permission for outreach staff to work with your child in his or her school. If the school is requesting funded support, this will also include permission to discuss your child's needs at the Primary Headteachers' Inclusion Group. The service cannot work with your child unless your permission has been given.

How will I be informed about my child's progress?

Once the intervention has been agreed, the school SENCo or Inclusion Manager will inform you when outreach support is about to start. If you would like to attend the review meeting or receive any written reports, please speak to the school SENCo who can arrange this for you. It is the responsibility of the child's school to keep parents informed of any outreach support and outcomes from interventions.

SAOS, Springwell School, Hinkler Road, Thornhill, Southampton, SO19 6DH

Tel: 023 80 445 981 Fax: 023 80 426 874

Email: info@southamptonoutreach.net Website: www.southamptonoutreach.net

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Who should I contact if I have a query about support my child is receiving from SAOS?

If you have a query about support your child is receiving through SAOS, it is important that you contact your child's school, not the outreach service.

How is the service quality assured?

The Southampton Advisory Outreach Service has a School Level Agreement with Southampton Local Authority which provides funding as part of the Local Offer to parents of children with special educational needs. The service is quality assured by the local authority.

As part of normal practice, records on pupils are maintained within a secure and confidential database. Progress is recorded at the end of each intervention and parents are asked to complete a consent form for this data to be used for evaluation and research purposes. All data used by the service remains confidential and anonymous.

For further information on the Southampton Advisory Outreach Service, please visit our website at www.southamptonoutreach.net or speak to your school SENCo.