

Designated Provision in Warrington

What is a Designated Provision?

A Designated Provision is a discrete provision within a mainstream school where children and young people are educated separately from their mainstream peers but have the opportunity to have mainstream experiences wherever appropriate tailored to the child's individual needs.

How does a child receive a place in a designated provision?

Generally, all children in the designated provisions have an EHC Plan. The places in the provisions are allocated by the Local Authority through the SEND Panel **not** by the school hosting the provision. Preference is **not** given to children already at the school. In order to get a place it must be proven that the child is not able to manage in a mainstream provision with a level of support.

Where are the Designated Provisions?

Early Years

| School | Type of provision | Places |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| Sandy Lane Nursery and Forest School | Early Years (2-4 year olds) Children with complex additional needs | Approx.: 24-30 FTE (dependent on the need of the cohort) |

- Children will not necessarily have an EHCP at this stage
- Children will have received a referral from the CDC pediatricians and subsequently allocated a place at Sandy Lane Nursery via the Early Years' SEND Inclusion Fund (EYSENDIF) panel and not by the school

Key Stage 1

| School | Type of provision | Places |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Bewsey Lodge Primary | Cognition & Learning | 8 |
| Meadowside Primary | Development Centre | 8 |
| Dallam Community Primary | Autistic Spectrum Disorder | 8 |
| Oakwood Avenue Community Primary | Social, Emotional and Mental Health | 8 |
| Woolston Community Primary | Autistic Spectrum Disorder | 8 |

- Please note the children who attend a Development Centre have a range of needs.

Key Stage 2

| School | Type of provision | Places |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|
| Bewsey Lodge Primary | Cognition and Learning | 10 |
| Meadowside Primary | Cognition and Learning | 10 |
| Dallam Community Primary | Autistic Spectrum Disorder | 16 |
| Oakwood Avenue Community Primary | Social, Emotional and Mental Health | 10 |
| Oakwood Avenue Community Primary | Cognition and Learning | 10 |
| Woolston Community Primary | Autistic Spectrum Disorder | 8 |

Key Stages 3 and 4

| School | Type of Provision | Places |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------|
| Bridgewater High School | Autistic Spectrum Disorder | 22 |
| St Gregory's Catholic High School | Autistic Spectrum Disorder | 16 |
| Penketh High School | Cognition and learning | 16 |
| Sir Thomas Boteler CE High School | Cognition and learning | 12 |
| University Academy Warrington | Cognition and learning | 12 |

Frequently Asked Questions

When will I hear if my child has or has not gained a DP place?

When a child/young person's paperwork has been to the SEND Panel and a decision has been made about the provision for their education, the parents/carers will be contacted by the school's EHCP Co-ordinator. If they are not happy with the outcome they have can ask for the case to be reconsidered.

When can we apply for a place within the DP?

Ordinarily when a child receives their first EHCP they will be awarded additional funding. There is an expectation that the mainstream school uses this funding to provide some individual support/interventions that have previously not been available before the LA considers a place in a DP.

If a placement change is needed, the LA will consult with parents/carers and the SEND Panel will make a decision about the most appropriate provision. There is an appeals process if the placement given to a child is not what the parents/carers feel is correct.

Do I still need to apply for a mainstream school even if I have applied for a DP placement?

Yes

How will I know if a DP placement is right for my child?

Parents/carers are always advised to visit the DPs and special schools before making a decision as to their child's/young person's educational placement. During these visits any questions can be asked and concerns voiced. More information can be found on the different schools' websites.

What if my child makes exceptional progress within the DP and no longer needs the placement? Will they be accepted into the school mainstream or will they need to move?

Progress and future provision is always discussed at the child's/young person's annual review. The meetings are every year but can be called earlier if deemed necessary. From that meeting any wishes or requests are sent back to WBC and discussed at the SEND Panel. If it is thought appropriate that child/young person is ready to return to a mainstream school then this will be actioned in consultation with the school and the parents/carers. The mainstream placement would not automatically be at the school that houses the DP. The parent/carer would have to go through the process of applying for a mainstream placement through WBC.

How much of the mainstream is accessed?

This is very much dependent on the child's needs and the setting and should be discussed with the DP Lead at the school.

Who will teach my child? What is the staffing?

This is different from school to school. However when in DPs there is usually a greater staff to pupil ratio compared to a mainstream class. More detailed information on this can be gained from the DP Leads at the different schools.

What happens if my child still does not cope within a DP?

Progress and future provision is always discussed at the child's/young person's annual review. The meetings are every year but can be called earlier if deemed necessary. From that meeting any wishes or requests are sent back to the authority and discussed at the SEND Panel. If it is thought appropriate that child/young person needs a more specialist provision this will be actioned in consultation with the school and the parents/carers.

If my child already has a DP placement within a primary school will they automatically gain a secondary school DP placement? If my child has not had a primary school DP placement can they gain a DP placement within a secondary school?

When a child with an EHCP is at the end of year 5, a Transition Review is held. At this meeting it is discussed where the parents/carers would like their child to go to high school - whether it be a special school, a DP or mainstream. This information along with the reports from the professionals working with the child is taken to a special SEND Panel where all the children who are ready to move to high school will be discussed and places allocated. If a child has a place in a DP at primary school they will not automatically receive a place at a DP at high school. If a child is in mainstream with support in KS2 it is possible for them to receive a place at a DP for KS3 if it is deemed appropriate for their needs.

If my child is just going through the EHCP process can they apply for a DP placement or will it have to go back to panel?

If it has been deemed appropriate for a child to receive an EHCP, the parents/carers will be asked by one of the EHCP Co-ordinators where they would prefer their child to go to school. This information along with information from other professionals is sent to the SEND Panel where it will be discussed and a provision allocated. Any additional information is passed to EHCP Co-ordinator during the process (eg medical reports etc.) as needs change etc.

Will my child do all the different subjects at High School in a DP?

Your child will have a personalised timetable which should offer as much variety as possible whilst still catering for additional needs. Literacy and numeracy may be taught as a KS3 group until the point where students can join their mainstream peers with support. Students in KS3 will have some Humanities lessons, Technology, Performance and some MFL across the Key Stage.

Does it mean that my child will not be entered for formal exams in Y11 if he/she is in DP?

Students will be entered for GCSEs in subjects where they can access the course and the assessments with support. Many students qualify for extra time, a reader, use of laptop or a scribe in order to support them. Where students are not able to take GCSE qualification, a range of Entry Level and Unit Award Certificates are offered, meaning that all students should leave with qualifications relevant to their interests and abilities.

Will my child stay in DP for all of their time at school?

Some students require the support of the DP throughout their whole time in school. Others move gradually into mainstream lessons where appropriate and successful. The Annual Review will look at progress made and ensure that each student is supported and challenged at an appropriate level according to their needs.

How does transport work?

Councils have to make home to school travel arrangements for eligible children so they are able to attend their nearest suitable school.

How do I know if my child will be eligible for home to school transport assistance?

Transport assistance will be provided for free when one or more of the following is true:

- Your child is attending the nearest suitable primary school/special school to home and the shortest walking distance from their home to that school is more than 2 miles
- Your child is attending the nearest suitable secondary school/special school to home and the shortest walking distance from their home to that school is more than 3 miles
- Your child (up to age 16) is unable to walk to their nearest suitable school because of the nature of the route and the route has been classified by the Council as hazardous

If you are able to claim free school meals for your child, or you are entitled to the Maximum amount of working tax credit, free transport will be provided if:

- Your child is attending a suitable school which is one of the three nearest secondary schools to home and the shortest walking distance is more than two miles but less than 6; or
- Your child is attending a school and the shortest walking distance is more than two miles but less than 15 and is the nearest school to home preferred on the basis of the parents religion or belief

Are there any other circumstances which may be considered?

Travel assistance may also be agreed for other reasons, even where the family circumstances do not meet the standard eligibility criteria, as long as the child is attending the nearest suitable school. Each application will be considered on a case by case basis.

Examples of exceptional circumstances include:

- Where the child is attending their nearest suitable school and there is evidence to suggest that the child is unable to walk to school, accompanied as necessary, due to his/her special educational needs; and
- Where the child is attending their nearest suitable school and there is evidence to suggest that the child is unable to be accompanied due to parent/carers mobility issues, physical disability or mental health issues.

What does 'suitable school' actually mean?

'Suitable school' is defined as the nearest establishment to home that the local authority says can meet the needs of the child.

What if the nearest suitable school is not the school I choose for my child because I prefer a different one?

If you choose a school for your child which is not the nearest one to home that is able to meet your child's needs, you need to think carefully about how you are going to make sure your child is able to travel there and home again each day.

Won't I automatically get transport assistance for free, if a school is named in my child's plan?

No. Having the right to choose a school does not mean you will automatically receive transport assistance.

To be considered for transport assistance, your child must be attending the nearest suitable school or provision to home.

The school or designated provision my child will be attending from September is the nearest suitable school to home so when can I apply to see if I am eligible for transport assistance?

As soon as your child's education, health and care plan or the amendment to your child's plan is finalised. The sooner you apply, the better.

You can apply by completing an application form. Forms are available to download from the Council's website. If you do not have access to the internet, you can go to Contact Warrington and ask them to download a paper form for you. If you are having trouble finding it, please telephone 01925 442974 and the transport officer will be happy to help.

Who can I contact if I have a question about making an application?

Call: 01925 442974

Email: sentransport@warrington.gov.uk

Write: Home to School Transport
Families and Wellbeing
2nd Floor New Town House
Buttermarket Street
Warrington
WA1 2NH

If I am eligible to claim transport assistance for my child, will it be door to door transport on a minibus or taxi?

Not necessarily. If you are found to be eligible for travel assistance, the Council will consider a range of transport options including:

- Bus Pass
- Mileage Allowance
- Minibus
- Cycle Allowance

If I apply and my application is refused, can I appeal against the decision?

Yes. You will receive a letter to let you know the outcome of your application. If your application is refused, the letter will include information about the appeals process.

For impartial advice about the appeals process, you can contact the Council's SENDIASS officer who will guide you through the process. Contact details for the SENDIASS officer are set out below.

What help can I get to guide me through the process?

Warrington SENDIASS is available to support parents/carers through this process.

Email – warringtonsendiass@warrington.gov.uk

Phone number - 01925 442978