

Barkisland SEND Bulletin

Spring Term 2024

Inclusion Manager Role

Hello, my name is Mrs Howarth and I am the Inclusion Manager at Barkisland. It is my responsibility to co-ordinate an effective service for children with Special Educational Need and Disability throughout our school. I monitor and update the SEN Register for the school, and monitor individual children and their progress once they have been placed on the register. I recently achieved the National Award for SEN Co-ordination which has already begun to have a positive impact on my SEN leadership at Barkisland.

I also work closely with Mrs Young, our Pastoral Support Worker, who does valuable work to support children and their families when needed.

If you would like to speak to either of us, then please email (admin@barkisland.calderdale.sch.uk) or phone 01422 823324.



A focus on...Sensory Processing Difficulties

Sensory processing is the way that our body takes in and makes sense of information. Our senses include hearing, vision, touch, taste and smell, as well as vestibular processing (which helps with balance and movement), proprioception (which is the awareness of our body in the space around it), and interoception (our awareness of our internal body feelings). We use our senses every day to interact with the world.

Sensory sensitivities can lead to higher stress and anxieties in children. They may try avoid certain things, people and places. They sometimes find everyday tasks difficult to cope with, for example, showering, wearing certain clothes, eating and teeth-brushing. Children overwhelmed by sensory information can find it difficult to communicate their needs and sometimes struggle in busy school environments.

There is no medication to treat sensory processing issues. But there are treatments, and practical changes that can be made at school and home that can help. Occupational therapists are specialists who work with children who have sensory issues. Some adaptations that we can make in school to support children with sensory processing difficulties are; providing sensory breaks, fidget toys, chewable items, not being seated near an area of distracting noises, having lunch in quieter areas and having a clear visual timetable with plenty of preparation for transitions.

Please contact your class teacher or Mrs Howarth if you feel that your child may have Sensory Processing Difficulties.

Children's Mental Health Week 2024

Children's Mental Health Week 2024 is between 5-11th February. **Place2Be** launched the mental health awareness week in 2015 to empower, equip and give a voice to every child in the UK. This years theme is My Voice Matters. We want all children here at Barkisland to say and believe that their voice matters! When we feel empowered, this can have a positive impact on our wellbeing. Children and young people who feel that their voices are heard and can make a difference have a greater sense of community and self-esteem. Children sometimes just want a chat with their families to ensure that their voices are being heard. Here are some conversation starters that you could use if you are concerned about your child's mental health...

Tell me about your day...

What was the best thing about today?

What is the biggest worry in your life right now?

What can I do to help you?

Sometimes children might not want to talk but will come to you when they are ready to. Remember sometimes a hug is all is needed to make a child feel more supported. For more information visit...

<https://www.childrensmentalhealthweek.org.uk/families/>

Mental Health Week coincides with our Keeping Safe Week in school. We will be discussing Mental Health during our Keeping Safe Week.



Barkisland CE (VA) Primary School
WE BELIEVE, WE NURTURE, WE SUCCEED!

SEN Documents

All required SEN Documentation is available on our school website.

From the homepage select 'Curriculum' then 'Inclusion'.

How to support your child at home

Research and studies have shown that the most important thing you can do to support your child's education at home is to read little and often.

If your child has an ISP in place this document will provide you with targets you can also use at home to support your child's learning at school. These are updated at least termly.

If you have any questions about supporting your child at home please don't hesitate to contact your child's teacher.

Written By Mrs Howarth, Inclusion Manager