SEND Parents Frequently Asked Questions

How does your school know if my child needs extra help?

• If your child is transferring to Barton Court Grammar School and already has special educational need, your primary school will inform the Special Educational Needs Coordinator at Barton Court Grammar School.
• There is planning between the schools and with parents/carers in Year 6 to support the student’s move from primary to secondary school.
• On entry to the school, all students are screened on key cognitive skills, language skills and certain core academic skills via CAT tests. This system can pick up potential difficulties at the earliest stage.
• Some children do well at primary school but find the transition to secondary education more difficult. The teachers are highly alert so that such areas of need are spotted early and referred to the Pastoral Team so that support can be coordinated promptly.
• The school listens to parents. Sometimes, the first signs of difficulty are picked up through conversation at home so parents are always welcome to contact the school to talk about concerns.

What should I do if I think my child may have a special educational need or disability? Who can I contact for further information?
If you are concerned about your child’s abilities, the school will listen to your concerns, discuss them with you and agree on a plan that might only need light monitoring or might require assessment by specialist staff or external agencies.
You can contact the school by phone, letter or e-mail.
It will be OK to contact the school through a family friend or professional translator if you feel more comfortable using a language other than English.
If your child is still at primary school, talk to your child’s teacher there who can help you look at any issues and make links with Barton Court Grammar School to help prepare for the next year.

What is an EHCP?
An EHCP is a legal document that identifies a child’s SEN needs and focusses on the support required to meet agreed outcomes. The key difference between a statement of SEN and EHCPs is that, as well as the educational elements covered in statements, EHCPs also outline the child’s health and social care needs, outcomes and support.

How will I know if your school is supporting my child? How will I know how my child is doing? How is student progress monitored?
All students:
• The school will always contact you to let you know if we are proposing to offer your child support that is additional to or different from what is already in place for all mainstream students.
• You will a grade sheet three times per year which will indicate your child’s progress against their minimum expected grade.
• The grade data is used by teaching staff to identify students who need additional support and intervention to fulfil their potential.
• Parent consultation evenings are opportunities to discuss your child’s progress and needs and to find out about support options.
• If your child has an identified need, they will have a provision map in place. This will be reviewed termly and you will be sent a secure link to access the provision map in place.
• Parents are always welcome to contact the SENCo at any time to discuss concern as they arise.

**Students with EHCPs:**
Your child will have identified needs and an education plan in place from the time they start at Barton Court Grammar School. Or, if an EHCP is arranged while they are at the school, this will be from the point of the plan being designed. In addition to the consultation evenings, students will have an Annual Review of their progress and needs. This comes in the form of a specially arranged face to face meeting between parents and staff. During this meeting, students, parents and staff have the chance to express their views about the progress being made and the provision they are receiving at school.

**What specialist services and expertise are available at the school?**
The School SENCO and Trust SENCO work in collaboration with each other, to share best practice and provide support for the full range of needs in place at Barton Court Grammar school. Where a student has a need which requires specialist training of staff, the school brings in additional expertise (assessment, staff training and intervention) from outside agencies, including:
- Educational psychology
- Occupational therapy
- Specialist Teaching Service
- Speech and Language therapy
- CAMHS