

The Milford Academy - Link Trustee Visit

Date: 15/01/26 Trustee: Terry Smith Lead staff member(s): Joe Turner (HT & DSL & Acting SENCO)

Priority / Area of focus: SEND Support

Current progress / developments	Next steps / actions	Further comments
<p>MAIN ASPECTS OF THE VISIT</p> <p>Meeting with Joe Turner (HT/temporary SENCO)</p> <p>Joe and Kieran Matthews (DHT) are currently acting up as SENCOs following the previous SENCO's departure at Christmas 2025.</p> <p>We discussed the current pressures exerted by an increase in the number of children with additional needs currently being supported at Milford, and also the provision for these children.</p> <p>Joe shared an Inclusion document ('Whole School Provision Map Autumn Term 2025') which identifies the children on the SEND register and the specific provision for each child.</p> <p>Case studies have also been produced, identifying specific areas of need, appropriate provision for each individual child and progress made against the child's targets.</p> <p>Support is provided by TAs and Care Assistants according to plans produced by the SENCOs and class teachers.</p>	<p>STRENGTHS OF SEND PROVISION AT MILFORD</p> <p>Inclusion is at the heart of the school, underpinning everything that happens at Milford. All children are welcomed and valued, regardless of need. This is a key belief of the school and is evident throughout the school and in its vision and values.</p> <p>This is evident from conversations with Joe and Kieran and from conversations with TAs and teachers across the school.</p> <p>The Whole School Provision Map is an invaluable document that appropriately identifies individual and whole school needs, identifying how HLN funding is spent across the school.</p> <p>There are concerns around the amount of funding for some children as their HLN doesn't meet the cost of support, but this shortfall is well met by the school, resulting in excellent provision.</p> <p>Children with additional needs thrive at Milford, due to the care and support they receive in class and in Milestones, from expert support from teachers, TAs and CAs.</p>	<p>ADDITIONAL COMMENTS</p> <p>I was hugely impressed by the SEND provision across the school.</p> <p>Inclusion is a key value at Milford and this is evident in every aspect of the school's work.</p> <p>The school now needs to appoint a new SENCO who will share this vision for SEND Support and further develop the school's policies and practices.</p> <p>The school's acting SENCOs are doing an excellent job of keeping the needs of children with (sometimes quite complex) additional needs at the centre of the school's community.</p>

<p>'Milestones' Inclusion Hub is now up and running, having been completed in Autumn Term 2025. This provides a high-quality provision for children with significant needs. The majority of the children attending Milestones already attend Milford with some children now attending from other schools and joining Milford's roll.</p> <p>An advert for a new Senco is going out in Spring Term 2026</p>	<p>The needs of an increasing number of children with EHCPs are well met by the school, supported by professionals from appropriate LA SEND teams.</p> <p>This is particularly evident within Milestones, where staff show a high level of care for the children. Appropriate plans are in place for all individual children, when they are in the Unit and in class. The work that the children do in Milestones is closely linked to the curriculum within the children's classes.</p> <p>The Unit is well organised and planned effectively. The support that the children receive in the Unit is excellent. There is a tangible sense of love and care and a desire for all children to achieve to the best of their abilities.</p>	
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