Education Guide to the Local Offer

Autumn 2026

Blackpool Council














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Blackpool's Vision and Values

Vision and Values

In Blackpool we want all children and young people with SEND to live happy, healthy lives in a community that is inclusive and supports them to achieve their ambitions. We believe in providing the best and easily accessible support for schools to deliver excellent education for children and young people in Blackpool.

Children's Services visions:

1. Supporting children to remain in their family
2. More children to access education

This booklet summarises the Blackpool Local Offer for school professionals. Further, more in - depth information on the services listed in this guide can be found on the Blackpool SEND Local Offer at www.blackpoolsendlocaloffer.co.uk

The Local Authority Offer

The SEND Support Team

All schools within Blackpool are allocated a dedicated Advisory Teacher who works collaboratively with SENCOs, school leaders and staff to identify priorities, plan support, and develop inclusive practice across the setting.

Advisory Teachers and SEND Advisory Officers provide strategic advice, guidance and practical support in a range of areas, including:

- SENCO supervision and professional support
- Development and implementation of the Graduated Approach across all areas of SEND
- Supporting the identification and assessment of pupils with SEND
- Advising on SEND provision planning and effective responses to pupil needs
- Supporting SENCOs with SEND action planning, provision mapping, assessments and interventions
- Delivery of staff meetings, professional development and training
- Identifying and addressing emerging themes and trends relating to SEND within schools
- Supporting priority year groups, classes or cohorts through observations, learning walks and recommendations to enhance learning environments and classroom practice

The team offers specialist support across the following areas of need:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH), including trauma-informed approaches
- Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC) and Assistive Technology

In addition to providing SEND-focused advice and guidance, Advisory Teacher link meetings offer valuable professional support for SENCOs. This collaborative approach helps promote consistency across Blackpool schools, fostering a shared understanding of SEND, effective identification of needs, and the use of assessment to inform high-quality provision and intervention.

Contact: sendsupport.team@blackpool.gov.uk

SEND Support Team Training Offer

Training	Cost
New to SENCO role	Free
TA use of the Graduated Approach Toolkit	Free
ECT SEND Training	Free
Elklan Let's Talk Level 1 for TAs (for 5 – 11-year-olds)	£100 per person
Supporting Reluctant Talkers in the Classroom	Free
Neuroinclusive Education Network – Making Sense of Autism	Free
Neuroinclusive Education Network – additional modules	Free
The Use of Visuals in the Classroom	Free
BLANK Levels of questioning	Free
Speech Production Difficulties Workshop	Free
Language Difficulties Workshop	Free
Communication Difficulties Workshop	Free
Cygnet for Parents	Free
Active Spellings	Free
Colourful Semantics	Free
Precision Teaching	Free
Adaptive Teaching	Free
Identifying and Supporting Children and Young People with Mathematical Difficulties	Free
Dyspraxia Awareness	Free
Trauma and Attachment Aware Schools	Free
Anxiety in the Classroom	Free
Behaviour is Communication	Free
Dealing with Children's Anxiety (for parents)	Free
An Introduction to Emotion Coaching	Free
Nurture Circles - Nurturing trust, attachment and regulation through play	Free
Using Therapeutic Story Telling with Children	Free
Picture Your Feelings – Exploring Emotions Through Images	Free
Recognising and Responding to Sensory Seeking Behaviours in the Classroom	Free
Recognising and Responding to Sensory Seeking Behaviours (for parents)	Free
An Introduction to Assistive Technology	Free

SENCO Network Meetings

The SENCO Network is firmly established as a resource providing regular updates, expert advice from guest speakers and interactive discussion to enable SENCOs to develop effective practice.
Because the SENCO role is unique within schools, it may feel isolating. Meetings offer the chance to share concerns, get advice on specific issues and identify good practice with colleagues.

The SENCO Network meets half termly for face-to-face meetings from 2.30 – 4.00pm on the following dates:

- Thursday 8 October 2026, 2.30 to 4.00pm
- Thursday 3 December 2026, 2.30 to 4.00pm
- Tuesday 9 February 2027, 2.30 to 4.00pm
- Wednesday 17 March 2027, 2.30 to 4.00pm
- Tuesday 4 May 2027, 2.30 to 4.00pm
- Thursday 1 July 2027, 2.30 to 4.00pm

There is a SENCO Network Teams resource folder where all meeting slides are held and resources are shared.

For any queries regarding the SENCO Network contact:

SENDSupport.team@blackpool.gov.uk

The Graduated Approach Toolkit

The Blackpool Graduated Approach is a framework designed to help education settings identify, assess and meet the needs of children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). It supports a consistent, evidence-based process for providing the right level of support at the right time.

The Graduated Approach aims to ensure that all children and young people with SEND receive appropriate support through a structured process of assessment, planning, intervention and review. It helps practitioners understand what support should be in place before considering requests for more specialist involvement or an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment (EHCNA).

Key Principles for Schools and Settings

- Early identification of emerging needs.
- High-quality, inclusive teaching as the foundation for all learners.
- A cyclical process of Assess, Plan, Do, Review (APDR) to monitor progress and adapt support.
- Partnership working with parents, carers and the child or young person.
- Use of evidence-based interventions and clear recording of outcomes.

The Graduated Approach Toolkit on the Local Offer

Blackpool Physical and Sensory Team

Our specialist team supports schools, settings, and families to meet the needs of children and young people with hearing impairment, vision impairment, physical needs, and medical needs. The team provides advice, assessment, direct intervention, and staff training to promote inclusion, curriculum access, and independence.

Support includes:

- Functional vision and hearing assessments.
- Advice on classroom adaptations, resources, and assistive technology.
- Curriculum adaptations and specialist teaching strategies.
- Support with hearing aids and hearing technology.
- Braille, tactile learning, and vision impairment support.
- British Sign Language (BSL) support and training.
- Mobility and independence training for pupils with vision impairment.
- Support for mainstream schools to meet physical and medical needs, following health professional guidance.
- Collaborative work with families and partner agencies to improve outcomes for children and young people.

The team works directly with pupils and alongside school staff to ensure children and young people can fully access learning, develop independence, and achieve their potential.

Physical and Sensory Team training offer	
Support for Children and Young People with Downs Syndrome	Free
Basic BSL and Deaf Awareness	Free
Deaf friendly teaching strategies that are good for all	Free
Visual Awareness training for those support people with sight loss	Free

Contact: send@blackpool.gov.uk

Support with Specialist Equipment for Children and Young People

Access to specialist equipment that enables children and young people with SEND to access education, participate safely, and achieve greater independence. On the Local Offer you will find the responsibilities of schools, early years settings, colleges and the local authority for funding and provision.
Education settings can access support for:

- Assessment and recommendations for specialist equipment through relevant therapists and specialist teachers.
- Equipment such as specialist seating, standing aids, communication devices, positioning equipment, toileting equipment and sensory support equipment where there is an assessed need.
- Specialist sensory equipment for children with hearing or visual impairments, including FM systems and low vision aids.
- Funding support from Blackpool Council for specialist equipment above agreed thresholds, with different arrangements for mainstream, special and early years settings.

The service uses a multi-agency assessment process to ensure children and young people receive the equipment they need to access learning and their educational environment.

Contact: send@blackpool.gov.uk

Specialist Equipment Policy

Blackpool Early Years Quality and Inclusion Team

Blackpool Early Years Quality and Inclusion Team supports early years settings across Blackpool to deliver high-quality, inclusive provision for children aged 0 to 4. The team provides free advice, training, coaching and specialist support to help identify and meet children's needs, promote inclusion, and ensure compliance with the EYFS framework, SEND Code of Practice and Ofsted requirements. They also offer support with behaviour, speech and language development, assessments, and multi-agency meetings where needed.

Contact: send@blackpool.gov.uk

Blackpool Early Years Quality and Inclusion Team on the Local Offer

Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund

The Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund provides additional funding to early years settings to support children with emerging or identified SEND whose needs are above and beyond ordinarily available provision. The fund helps settings promote inclusion and improve outcomes for children accessing funded early education places.

- Early years providers can access funding for:
- Additional staffing, interventions and targeted support.
- Specialist resources linked to a child's specific SEND needs. [
- Additional SENCo time in settings with higher levels of SEND need.
- Short-term support to aid transition into a setting or prevent placement breakdown.

Funding is available to eligible nurseries, preschools, school nursery classes and childminders receiving early years entitlement funding. Applications must demonstrate a graduated approach and be supported by an Early Years Advisory Teacher.

Contact: send@blackpool.gov.uk

Early Years SEND Inclusion Fund on the Local Offer

Blackpool Educational Psychology Service

The Educational Psychology Service works with schools, families and partner agencies to promote inclusion, wellbeing and positive outcomes for children and young people.
Key support includes:

- Assessment, consultation and advice for children and young people.
- Support with the Assess, Plan, Do, Review (APDR) process.
- Guidance for SENDCos, teachers and support staff.
- Contributions to SEND and statutory assessment processes.
- Advice on behaviour, emotional wellbeing, communication and learning needs.
- Support to develop inclusive practice and effective learning environments.

Each Blackpool school has access to a linked Educational Psychologist (or Assistant/Associate EP) through a free core allocation, usually accessed via the SENCO.

Contact: send@blackpool.gov.uk

01253 476602: ask for the Educational Psychology Service

Blackpool Educational Psychology Service on the Local Offer

Support around EHC Needs Assessments and the EHC Hub

This service supports schools and settings through the Education, Health and Care (EHC) assessment and planning process for children and young people with significant SEND. An EHC plan sets out a child or young person's needs, outcomes and required provision. Schools and settings can:

- Request an EHC needs assessment through the Blackpool EHC Hub and contribute evidence to assessments and reviews.
- Access clear timescales for assessments, plan issuance and annual reviews.
- Participate in annual reviews and phase transfer planning to ensure support remains appropriate as children and young people move between educational settings.

The EHC Hub provides a central platform for education settings, families and professionals to collaborate on assessments, plans and reviews.

Contact: send@blackpool.gov.uk

EHC Needs Assessments on the Local Offer

The EHC Hub on the Local Offer

The Virtual School

Blackpool Virtual School supports children and young people who are in care, have experience of care, or have a social worker by championing their education, removing barriers to learning, and ensuring they have the same opportunities to achieve their full potential as their peers.

Contact: virtual.school@blackpool.gov.uk

Blackpool Virtual School on the Local Offer

Blackpool Communication Offer for Education Settings

The Blackpool Communication Offer provides support for speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) from 0 to 25 years, using a graduated approach of Universal, Targeted and Specialist support.
Schools and settings can access:

- Training and CPD, including ELKLAN, communication resources, and Blackpool's Graduated Approach Toolkit.
- Evidence-based interventions such as Talk Boost, Early Talk Boost, Talking Partners and Socially Speaking.
- Termly Communication Leads meetings and the Blackpool Classrooms that Communicate Toolkit.
- Advice from Speech and Language Therapists and SEND specialists for children and young people with more complex needs.
- Support and guidance on Alternative and Augmentative Communication (AAC).

The offer aims to help education providers build communication-friendly environments, deliver effective interventions, and access specialist support when required.

Communication Offer for Professionals on the Local Offer

Assistive Technology Support

Help for schools and settings to use assistive technology AT) to improve access, independence and inclusion for learners with SEND and neurodiverse needs. It provides guidance, training and tools to support reading, writing, communication, vision, concentration and literacy.
Education settings can access:

- The Literacy Toolbox approach and Scanning Pens resources to support reading and literacy.
- Training and guidance on assistive technology for specific needs, including speech, language and communication, fine motor skills, low vision and comprehension.
- Information on accessibility features within Microsoft 365, including Immersive Reader, Reading Coach and other inclusive learning tools.
- Specialist support, training and advice through organisations such as Ace Centre, CALL Scotland and BATA
- Free online training videos and SEND-focused EdTech resources developed in Blackpool.

The page acts as a hub of resources to help settings embed assistive technology and improve outcomes for learners with additional needs.

Contact: SENDSupport.team@blackpool.gov.uk

Assistive Technology on the Local Offer

Blackpool Best Start Family Hubs

There are three Best Start Family Hubs in Blackpool. They are and are open to all families in Blackpool with children aged 0-19 and up to 25 for SEND. Family Hubs are key to the Implementation of Blackpool's Best Start Plan*. Family Hubs also use a range of community buildings such as Children's Centres, Schools, Community Centres, and church halls to support all communities to access support.

Blackpool's Best Start Family Hubs are:

- North Family Hub Dingle Ave, Blackpool, FY3 7NX
- Central Family Hub – Gorton Street, Blackpool, FY1 3JW
- South Family Hub – St Anne's Road, Blackpool FY4 2AP

Groups and activities are open to all children regardless of their needs, there are specific sessions offered to children who have or may have SEND and their families. Families can access any Family Hub it does not need to be the one near where they live.

Family Hubs offer of support is focused on children in their early years and their families, but positive activities, groups and actives for older children developing all the time and there is ongoing work with The Youth Partnership to support families to access the support across the wider age range.

Best Start Family Hubs on the Local Offer

Scan the QR code to find out more, and to see the timetable of activities.

Support Offer from Schools

Highfurlong School

Highfurlong provides education for pupils aged 2-19 with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). These include pupils with complex medical conditions, physical disabilities, profound and multiple learning difficulties including multi-sensory and visual/ hearing impairments, speech, language, and communication difficulties, moderate learning difficulties, and autistic spectrum condition (ASC). We are proud to be part of Synergy Education Trust.

Within the Trust and the wider community, we pride ourselves on being a unique and extraordinary school. We are committed to creating an inclusive, supportive, and enriching educational environment where every pupil can thrive, and every staff member can contribute to the success of our unique community.

Highfurlong have specialist staff who can advise and provide training in the following areas:

- Curriculum planning and support with adapting learning for pupils with S/PMLD
- Methods of assessment for pupils with SEND
- Support for SEN provisions
- Adapted PE (MATP) for pupils with physical needs
- Support around writing intimate care policies and procedures

Contact: Toni Dean, SENCO: toni.dean@highfurlong.seteducation.org.uk
Call: 01253 392188

https://highfurlong.org/

Cost for services: £600 per day

Park Community Academy

Park Community Academy is a special school in Blackpool catering for children and young people aged from 2 to 19. Our population have a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities including ASC, SLD, CLD, VI, HI and sensory needs.
Our teachers, support staff and family team have a wealth of experience and expertise in supporting pupils with a broad range of SEND. Many of our teachers have advanced qualifications in leadership, ASD, Behaviour, SPLD, Speech, language and communication, HI, Forest School, and behaviour support, MAKATON, BSL and Attention Autism and we also have a number of advanced Team Teach trainers, SEND reviewers and Pupil Premium reviewers.
PCA established and leads the highly successful Blackpool Sea View Trust School Direct programme, recruiting and training the next generation of Blackpool teachers. As an all age school we also have a number of subject specialists who are highly skilled at adapting, delivering and assessing their subject to effectively meet the needs of pupils with a broad range of SEND. These subject areas include: Science, Art and Design, Design Technology including food tech, PE, Music and drama, Maths, English and Humanities.

We offer bespoke training packages and support for a number of areas including:
- Accreditation for young people with SEND
- The 4 areas of need
- Early Years SEND
- Sensory needs
- Total Communication / MAKATON

Attention Autism
- Supporting and inducting new SENCOs
- Working effectively with your support staff
- HI
- ASD
- SPLD
- Behaviour management and Team Teach accreditation
- Assessment
- Quality first teaching and learning
- Effective differentiation
- Supporting mental health and wellbeing

Our support packages are tailored to meet the individual needs of each organisation; therefore, pricing is bespoke and provided following an initial consultation.

Contact: Kristy Emsley Assistant Headteacher / SENDCO
Email: k.emsley@park.svt.org.uk 01253 764130

St John Vianney English Hub

Our English Hub supports schools to develop excellence in early language, phonics, reading and literacy through evidence-informed professional development, bespoke school improvement support and access to high-quality resources. Our offer is primarily focused on Early Years Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1, with additional support available for leaders and practitioners across Key Stage 2 to strengthen reading curriculum design, fluency and comprehension and into KS3.

Schools can access literacy specialist audits, tailored action planning, leadership coaching, showcase events, network meetings and practitioner training. We provide support for schools at varying stages of development, from those establishing effective phonics provision to those seeking to embed and sustain best practice. Our approach combines strategic leadership development with practical classroom support, ensuring improvements have a lasting impact on pupil outcomes.

The Hub works with schools serving diverse communities and supports both mainstream and specialist provision. Through collaboration, coaching and evidence-based practice, we help schools build strong foundations in reading so that all pupils, particularly the most disadvantaged and those at risk of falling behind, can become confident, fluent and enthusiastic readers.

Contact Emma Hornby, Hub Lead at englishhub@sjvprimary.co.uk
Call 01253 543872

There is no cost for this service.

Woodlands School

All students at Woodlands School have a severe learning difficulty with a high majority of pupils having a diagnosis of autism or present with autistic traits. Many of our students have limited language and communication skills, sensory processing disorders and require a high level of personal care. We work with schools to design and deliver bespoke training which focusses on enabling their staff to deliver a specific intervention or strategy for students with SEN.

We provide training on:

- The understanding and implementation of Attention Autism
- Colourful Semantics
- TACPAC
- Story Massage
- TEACCH
- Social stories
- Sensory diets
- PECS
- PODD
- Communication Books
- Voice Output Communication Aid
- ALI Boards
- Makaton
- Intensive Interaction
- Total Communication
- Equals Curriculum
- Evidence for Learning assessment

We also provide:

- Support to develop One-Page Profiles
- Drop-in sessions for discussion and problem solving
- In – reach visits to our school for staff to observe lessons and work alongside identified staff on specific areas of SEND.
- Support and training in the assessment of student behaviour and subsequent behaviour support plans including a wide range of individualised behaviour strategies.
- Support is also available through observations, assessments, advice on sensory profiling, support with differentiation and appropriate resources.

Contact: Karen Haworth, Head Teacher
Email: admin@woodlands.blackpool.sch.uk

Support Offer from Multi – Academy Trusts

The Sea View Trust

Sea View Trust is a community-focused organisation serving children, young people and families across Blackpool and Lancashire. As an inclusive multi-academy trust supporting learners of all ages and abilities, we are committed to professional development as a key driver of improved outcomes for children and young people. The Trust leads on Priority 2, Inclusion, within Blackpool's Education Strategy.
Through Embrace Education**,** we provide high-quality teacher development and training, including the Embrace Teaching School Hub (ECT and NPQ programmes) and Embrace SCITT for initial teacher training.
As a former Behaviour Hub Lead School and Behaviour Hub Lead Multi-Academy Trust, led by the five-times Outstanding Tor View School, we have extensive expertise in behaviour and culture, helping schools develop effective, inclusive approaches to behaviour support.

Through collaboration, expertise and innovation, Sea View Trust supports schools to strengthen inclusive practice and improve outcomes for all learners.

Our bespoke services include:

- Behaviour Reviews and Support
- Curriculum Review and Development
- Cygnet Autism Programme for Parents & Carers
- Excellent Teaching in Special Schools
- High-Quality Teaching: Train the Trainer
- Inclusion Audit Framework

Makaton Training

- Primary with SEND Initial Teacher Training (Apprenticeship and Standard Routes)
- Pupil Premium Reviews
- Safeguarding Reviews
- SEND Reviews
- Small Step Assessment Framework

Contact us to discuss costs and funding opportunities.

Contact: educationalexcellence@embrace-education.co.uk
Call: 01706 214640 Option 4
www://theseaviewtrust.co.uk/

Synergy Education Trust

Synergy Education Trust is a diverse and inclusive family of mainstream, special, SEMH and PRU schools, many recognised as Centres of Excellence for Inclusion through the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM).

Through our Experts at Hand offer, we provide specialist expertise, practical support and workforce development to help schools build inclusive, thriving learning communities.

We can support schools with:

- SEND provision, leadership, assessment and curriculum adaptation.
- AAC, assistive technology and Preparation for Adulthood pathways.
- Inclusion audits and strategic development.
- Team Teach training, positive school culture and personal regulation plans.
- Trauma-informed practice, emotional coaching and co-regulation strategies.
- De-escalation, crisis management and relational behaviour approaches.
- Restorative practice and personalised behaviour support planning.
- Adaptive curricula, vocational pathways and flexible learning approaches.
- Reintegration, transition support and destination planning for vulnerable learners.
- Outreach support, staff coaching and modelling of inclusive classroom practice to reduce the risk of exclusion.

This is offered through the Trust Central Team, Highfurlong School, Educational Diversity, Boundary Primary School, the Maple School, Moor Park Primary School and Stanley Primary School.

Informal Visits to our provisions and schools are free.
Costs for training programmes are detailed on our website – Approx £20 per session.
Costs for in school support/outreach support would depend on the amount of support needed.

Contact Suzanne Hamilton: Suzanne.hamilton@seteducation.org.uk
01253 800318
www.seteducation.org.uk

Support Offer from NHS

Referrals into NHS Therapies

Guidance on how schools and SENDCOs can access NHS therapy and assessment services for children and young people.

Schools and settings can:

- Refer directly to Speech and Language Therapy using the NHS referral process
- Refer into the Neurodevelopmental Pathway (including autism and ADHD assessments) where targeted interventions have already been implemented and parental consent has been obtained.
- Access Blenheim Child Development Centre assessments through the referral and triage process.
- Seek support from Options4CYP for mental health concerns, including advice from Primary Mental Health Workers (PMHWs), Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) through the Single Point of Access (SPoA)
- Clarification on referral routes and eligibility criteria for physiotherapy and occupational therapy services

Referrals into Therapies on the Local Offer

Mental Health Support for Children and Young People

Options4CYP is the local children and young people's mental health service for Blackpool and the Fylde Coast, providing a single point of access to a range of emotional wellbeing and mental health support services.
Education settings can access:

- Advice, consultation and referral pathways through the Single Point of Access (SPOA).
- Early intervention support from Primary Mental Health Workers (PMHWs) and Children and Young People's Wellbeing Practitioners (CYWPs).
- Support from Mental Health Support Teams (MHSTs) working with education settings to promote positive wellbeing and prevent escalation of difficulties.
- Access to specialist CAMHS assessment and intervention for pupils with moderate to severe mental health needs.
- Guidance on referrals and signposting to the most appropriate mental health service for children and young people.

Mental Health Support Services on the Local Offer

ARFID

Help for education professionals to recognise the signs of eating disorders and understand when to seek further support for children and young people. It highlights that eating disorders can affect anyone, regardless of age, gender or weight.
Schools and settings can access:

- Information on identifying common eating disorders, including anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa, binge-eating disorder, ARFID and OSFED.
- Guidance on recognising emotional and physical signs that may indicate an eating disorder.
- Information about available treatments and the importance of early identification and intervention.
- Signposting to further advice, resources and support for children, young people and families.

ARFID on the Local Offer

Blenheim

The Blenheim Child Development Centre provides multi-disciplinary assessment, advice and support for children from birth to school age who have emerging developmental difficulties, complex needs or SEND.
Early Years settings can access:

- Specialist assessment and support from a team including paediatricians, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, speech and language therapists, nurses and other SEND professionals.
- Advice and guidance for children with developmental, physical, communication and neurodevelopmental needs.
- Multi-agency working to help identify needs early and coordinate support for children and families.
- Access to specialist pathways relating to assessment, ongoing support and child development.

Blenheim Child Development Centre on the Local Offer

Children and Young People's Continuing Care (CYPCC) Service

The CYPCC service supports children and young people up to age 18 whose health needs are too complex to be met by universal NHS services alone, including those with disabilities, long-term conditions, life-limiting conditions, or serious illness and injury.
Education settings can access:

- Referral pathways for pupils with significant unmet health needs via health or social care professionals.
- Multi-agency assessments involving families and professionals to determine eligibility for continuing care support.
- Coordinated care packages for eligible children and young people, helping to ensure their health needs are met at home and across services.
- Information about Personal Health Budgets, which can provide flexible funding to meet a child's assessed care needs.

The service helps ensure children and young people with the most complex health needs receive appropriate, coordinated support to access education and everyday life.

Children and Young People's Continuing Care Service on the Local Offer