

INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING INCLUSION

Across EKC Schools Trust, we remain deeply committed to ensuring every child belongs, feels valued, and thrives both academically and socially. Our Trust's inclusive ethos continues to shine across our schools, with Ofsted regularly recognising the strength of our inclusive practice, personal development curriculums and the supportive environments our staff create.

This term, we are sharing important updates about the national Education White Paper: Every Child Achieving and Thriving, published in February 2026. The government has set out a 10-year vision to strengthen education, improve inclusion, and ensure all children, including those with SEND, experience a childhood rich in opportunity.

As with all national reforms, much is still in development. But we want to keep you informed, answer questions early, and reassure you that our commitment to inclusive, high-quality provision remains unchanged.

WHAT'S IN THE WHITE PAPER?

The White Paper is built around three big shifts the government wants all schools to work towards:

- A broader curriculum, more enrichment, and stronger foundations in literacy, numeracy, and oracy.
- A stronger, more consistent national approach to SEND support, with....

The logo for the Department for Education, featuring the Royal Coat of Arms above the text 'Department for Education' in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The logo is positioned on a white background that is part of a larger graphic element resembling a document cover.The title of the White Paper, 'Every Child Achieving and Thriving', written in a dark blue, sans-serif font. The text is tilted upwards and to the right, matching the angle of the document cover graphic.

- earlier identification, digital Individual Support Plans (ISPs), and improved access to specialists such as speech and language therapists and educational psychologists.
- A renewed focus on attendance, belonging, mental health, and school-family relationships — recognising that children learn best when they feel safe, connected and supported.

These national priorities align closely with the inclusive practice already embedded across EKC Trust schools.

Importantly, the White Paper is not introducing sudden changes. Implementation is phased over several years (2025–2029), with much still being co-designed.

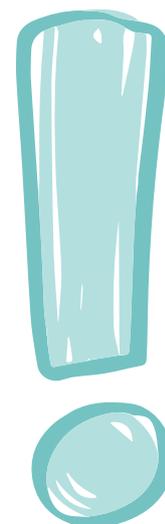
SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN WITH SEND

The White Paper places a significant focus on improving SEND support nationally:

- Earlier identification of needs
- A “universal → targeted → specialist” model
- Greater consistency across schools
- Increased investment in SEND and expert support

This aligns with our Trust’s existing commitment to:

- Inclusive teaching and support
- Strong SENCO leadership
- Thoughtful, needs-led decision-making
- Collaboration across schools to enhance practice
- Continual investment in staff development



As national expectations evolve, we will continue to communicate clearly with you about what this means in practice.

WHAT’S NEXT?

We know parents will have questions about the White Paper, especially around SEND, funding, attendance expectations, and curriculum changes. Many details are still being finalised nationally, so we will continue updating you with clear, parent-friendly information as reforms progress.

What will not change is our Trust’s unwavering commitment to ensuring every child belongs and achieves, with parents as valued partners in this work. From what we know so far, we are proud that our Trust already has strong, inclusive approaches firmly in place, and, as ever, we will continue to learn, evolve and refine our practice as more national detail emerges.