

Our Mission

We are an ambitious and inclusive Church of England School, dedicated to ensuring all students live life to the full.

Welcome to the first SEND newsletter for this academic year!

In this issue you will find information about our SEND Parent Forum; Devon's SEND Local Offer and Ordinarily Available Provision; support for Young Carers at St Luke's; and accessing Early Help and DIAS.

Parent Forum

Thank you to those who attended our Parent Forum last term.

Our next Parent Forum is being held from 2.30-3.30 on Tuesday 26th November. This is an opportunity for you to meet other parents of children with special needs and to chat and also for us to explore a specific topic together.

The focus of the next meeting is mental health and representatives of the Mental Health Support Team in school will be joining us to talk about their role and about student mental health and wellbeing.



We will also be holding Parent Forum meetings on the 11th February and the 3rd June. If you have a particular topic you think it would be good to have as a focus, please email the SEND team SEND@stlukescofe.school and we will do our best to arrange it.

The Devon Local Offer

You may not be aware but all local authorities have to share their local offer in terms of the provision that they make for students with additional needs and the support services available.

Devon's Local Offer can be found at:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/education-and-families/send-local-offer/>

You may want to read about Devon's Parent Forum, for example, or see what support is available for different types of need. Or perhaps you want to know more about what Devon's Strategy for SEND?

Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision

Devon has been doing a lot of work recently on Ordinarily Available Provision. Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision (OAIP) describes the inclusive provision and practice that all Devon schools, early years, and post 16 settings should be able to provide for all children and young people, including those with SEND, from within their own resources. This will support all children and young people to attend, engage and thrive in their educational setting.

You can find out more about Ordinarily Available Inclusive Provision here:

<https://www.devon.gov.uk/support-schools-settings/ordinarily-available-inclusive-provision/introduction/>

Young Carers

St Luke's is relaunching its support of Young Carers.

A young carer is any student who **helps look after someone because of a disability, mental or physical illness or drug or alcohol problem.**

Statistics suggest 1:5 students at secondary school is a Young Carer. We think that this means we may have Young Carers at St Luke's that we don't know about – so please do tell us if you think your child is a Young Carer.



We would like to support Young Carers because whilst being a Young Carer obviously says great things about you, we know it may add an extra level of challenge to school e.g. with homework, or it may sometimes feel a bit lonely e.g. there may be less time to socialise outside school. It might feel like no one in school really understands.

So, we have invited students to tell us if they are Young Carers. We are then planning to have regular get-togethers.

We aim to provide extra opportunities for activities and to link up with Devon Young Carers and access further support that way too.

In short, we are planning to:

Hold regular meetings so that students can meet other people in the same position and maybe feel like there are more people who 'get' what it's like to be a young carer.

Have someone who can help if things are tough and who can help find solutions or someone to talk to.

Work with Devon Young Carers so that they can support, or so Young Carers from St Luke's can take part in events and activities that they are running.

Work with students to make sure that St Luke's is doing all it can to support them to achieve their goals.



If you would like to tell us about how your child is a Young Carer, please do email us
SEND@stlukescofe.school

Additional help:



You can always access free, impartial and confidential help about SEND issues through DIAS.

<https://devonias.org.uk/> tel:441392383080 devonias@devon.gov.uk



Early Help is the extra support your family can get if you need it. It may be that you want to prevent a problem, or change things for your family before the problem becomes more serious.

It is not a specific service or team, it's an approach that brings together people from a range of services and teams who will work together with your whole family to help improve the situation for everyone.

It can offer support to families from pre-birth to adolescents with all sorts of issues from parenting, employment and school attendance to emotional wellbeing or anti-social behaviour. If you would like to know more then please email

Tracey.Wadeley@stlukescofe.school

For Wellbeing support and also to find our One Minute Guides to SEND and also Early Help, please visit our website page

<https://stlukescofe.school/send/>