

Feedback from parents

"What I like is that no matter what, the staff always put the children first and make it their all to help them improve. My child has improved massively on everything all thanks to them. I have nothing bad to say about any of them. They don't just support my child they also support me, and it means everything when you are on your own."

Family of child who is currently accessing an enhanced classroom.

"The Blossoms unit at St John Vianney has enabled my daughter to attend mainstream school but also caters for her needs with the support of the staff allowing The Blossoms to be her 'safe space' should the classroom get too overwhelming for her. Since starting at school, my daughter has come on leaps and bounds developmentally and academically with the amazing support both she and I receive."

Family of child who is currently accessing an enhanced classroom.

"I am really pleased with the progress my child has made. I feel the class has been excellent for her and she has made some really good progress. I'm pleased she has been able to access, and cope well, with some mainstream provision."

Parent of pupil who is moving into the mainstream Year 1 class after spending one year in the enhanced classroom.

"I like this school a lot because my child is always happy when he is in school. He loves his teachers and he has learnt a lot since being here. He is progressing every day and always impressing us when he comes home from school."

Family of child who is currently accessing an enhanced classroom.

SEND Contacts

Email: send@blackpool.gov.uk

Call: 01253 476602

Have you seen the Blackpool SEND Local Offer?

www.blackpoolsendlocaloffer.co.uk



Enhanced Classroom Places

Information for Parents and Carers



What is an enhanced classroom place?

Across Blackpool, we have several primary schools that have specialist enhanced classrooms. These classes provide a placement for up to two years to support children at the start of their primary education journey, who have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

Through exciting partnerships, we have worked with schools to create this specialist offer in an enhanced class which are tailor-made to suit the needs of the children who will be accessing them.

These classes are for smaller groups with a maximum of 8 children and a very high ratio of staff. The children are educated in a safe, nurturing, communication friendly environment. Each enhanced class receives regular support from the Local Authority. They can access advice from the special schools across Blackpool or their own multi-academy trust. This ensures the children receive the very best special educational needs offer within a mainstream school.

In the Early Years, children grow and develop quickly, and their needs can change. The classes provide the best of both worlds. The children will receive the intensive support that they require to meet their individual needs within the enhanced classes but are also able to join the mainstream classroom if and when they are ready.

An example of what the support for your child could look like:

- Designated keyworker who is a point of contact for parents at drop off and pick up
- Access to support from the LA or Specialist schools
- Specialist assessments e.g. speech and language
- Use of specialist equipment
- Higher ratio of adult support
- Extra Teaching Assistant in class



Frequently asked questions from parents

I'm worried that mainstream is too big and busy for my child and they might get lost in a big group or picked on.

The smaller groups and higher staff ratio mean the children receive very high levels of support and supervision throughout the day.

What training and support do the staff receive?

The enhanced classes are all supported by the Lead Teacher from the Blackpool SEND Support team who offers on-going advice and training to staff. The staff in each enhanced class work together and share good practice to support one another. They have also been trained in a number of specialist interventions, for example:

- Intensive Interaction
- Alternative methods of communication
- Sensory Integration
- Attention Autism



What will my child learn?

The children who are learning within the enhanced classes will be provided with a bespoke curriculum based on Early Years Foundation Stage framework (EYFS). The children will be involved in the wider life of the school and be a part of their school community. Sensory experiences, outdoor learning and educational visits will also be available for the children.

Will my child have to move school at the end of the two-year placement?

EHC plans are reviewed annually (6 monthly if your child is under 5 years). If it is agreed that your child's needs have changed and additional resources or a different setting is required during the two years, we will seek to put this in place. By the end of the two years, we will have an agreed plan of whether your child's needs can be met in mainstream with support, in a resource provision or in a special school. You and your child will both be fully supported through this process.

