

Specialist Support in Dartford

Dartford STLS Team

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For details of other specialists and support staff who work within mainstream schools and settings to support children and young people with SEND, please visit:

[SEND support in schools - Kent County Council](#)

[Support for children with SEND in early years - Kent County Council](#)

About Dartford STLS

We are a **service for mainstream schools and early years' settings** commissioned by Kent County Council.

What do we do?

We **advise and support** staff in EY settings and schools to **build their capacity and confidence** in order to support your child effectively.

We **offer training** to school and setting staff to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills so that they can support children with SEND effectively.

We **work together with other agencies** and services in order to provide appropriate interventions for your child.

We **attend meetings** to contribute to and support making decisions around your child.

Where appropriate and possible, we meet with you, as parents/carers to **gain your views**. Or we may send a questionnaire to seek your views.

Where possible, we **gain your child's views**, in an appropriate way.

We usually **liaise with the SENCo** in order to arrange meetings or pass on reports to you. Sometimes, where appropriate, we may liaise with you directly.



01322 937897

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Specialist Teaching and Learning Services (STLS)

Dartford District



Dartford STLS
Commissioned by KCC

Information for Parents and Carers



Meeting your child's needs

In the first instance EY settings should refer to the **Best Practice Guidance** and schools should refer to the **Mainstream Core Standards** to identify what can be done to support the pupils access to the curriculum and ability to make progress from within the setting's/school's own resources.

Referring to STLS

Staff in schools and EY settings refer to our service via the LIFT process. Parents/carers will be asked to complete and sign an agreement to engage form prior to the case being heard at LIFT.

What is LIFT?

LIFT stands for Local Inclusion Forum Team. Full details of the LIFT process can be found on the Kelsi website, together with a parent/carer's guide to LIFT: www.kelsi.org.uk
A Specialist Teacher may be allocated to support the school/setting in supporting your child.

Useful Links

IASK (Information and Advice Service in Kent)
www.iask.org.uk

We Are Beams (Support for disabled children and their families)
www.wearebeams.org.uk

Kent PACT (Parent and Carers Together)
www.kentpact.org.uk

What happens after LIFT?

The school/setting SENCo should be able to inform you of the decisions and recommendations which were made at the LIFT meeting following a discussion about your child's needs. They will be able to tell you which Specialist Teacher was allocated and provide an overview of the nature of their work, if we allocate the case to a team member.

If a Specialist Teacher is allocated, they will usually make a visit to your child's school/setting. The nature of the visit can vary, depending on the member of our team who visits. We all have particular roles and so how a visit is structured may vary.

Here are some examples of what an initial visit may involve:

- An observation of your child in class
- Discussion with the class teacher/key person and/or SENCo
- Discussion with your child about their views, where appropriate
- Undertaking assessments with your child, where appropriate
- Attending an initial information-gathering meeting to find out more about your child's needs
- Reviewing the current provision in place for your child and identifying next steps
- Meeting with / contacting you to gain your views, where possible.

What happens next?

Specialist Teachers will:

- usually carry out review visits, as appropriate, to monitor the impact of their recommendations and support the school with identifying new outcomes and targets for your child
- close the case when the identified targets for the intervention have been met or STLS support is no longer appropriate.

Records of Visit (ROVs) are completed by Specialist Teachers as a record of the visit/meeting/contact involving your child.

All completed ROVs are sent via email to the school or setting using the email for confidential information which the school/setting has provided to STLS. It will be marked "FAO" to the SENCo. It is the expectation that the SENCo will pass a copy of the ROV to you, as a parent/carer. If you have not received a ROV, please contact the SENCo in the first instance.

If you have any queries regarding the content of the ROV, please contact the allocated Specialist Teacher; their contact details are provided in the ROV.

For any further queries, please contact Kirby Woods, the Dartford STLS Lead.