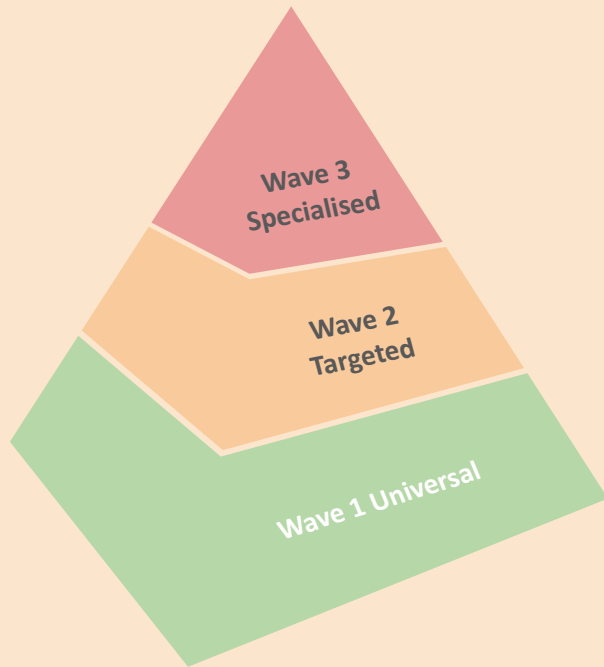


## Levels of Support

At Damers we offer a graduated offer of support. **Wave one** support is our universal offer for all pupils where quality first teaching underpins all that we do. **Wave two** support is where a pupil may need more targeted support from staff in-school, such as small groups focused on maths or motor skills or a Learning Plan. **Wave three** support is for pupils who require a high level of additional support, and this may involve external agencies, such as Educational Psychologists or the Speech and Language Therapy Service.



## Parental Involvement

Communication between parents and school is key for any child to achieve their best and this is especially important for children with SEND. At Damers, we ensure teachers are available to speak to you directly in order to keep you updated on your child's progress. You can speak to teachers on the school gate, via their year group email, during consultation evenings or arrange a meeting in a way which works for you via the teacher or school office.

It is also possible to meet with the school SENCo to discuss any concerns you may have. The SENCo can be contacted via the school office at [office@damers.dorset.sch.uk](mailto:office@damers.dorset.sch.uk).

### SEND Parents and Carers Group

We host a SEND Parents and Carers Group each half-term. This is an opportunity to help shape school policy, ask questions, seek support and hear advice and guidance from invited experts.

For more information please visit: [www.damers.dorset.sch.uk/key-information/special-educational-needs/](http://www.damers.dorset.sch.uk/key-information/special-educational-needs/)

## Special Educational Needs and Disabilities: a glossary of terms

SENCo or SENDCo	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator
ELSA	Emotional Literacy Support Assistant (we use the Hamish & Milo scheme for emotional support at Damers)
TA	Teaching Assistant
SALT	Speech and Language Therapist
EP	Educational Psychologist
ST	Specialist Teacher
SEN Support	This is the level that your child will be placed in the SEN register. The extra support will be offered using our graduated approach.
LP	Learning Plan. This is an individual support plan to support children with their learning or other areas of identified need.
EHCP	An education, health and care (EHC) plan is for children and young people aged up to 25 who need <b>significantly</b> more support than is available through SEN support.



## Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Information

### Our Mission Statement

Here at Damers First School we strive to nurture an inclusive community of respectful, collaborative learners who are encouraged to constantly achieve their very best. We empower all learners to make valuable contributions and to enjoy and benefit from a lifelong love of learning.

In supporting every learner, we aim to proactively remove any possible barriers to ensure that every child thrives, making the most of their journey throughout their time with us, academically, socially and emotionally.



*This is an example of software we use called Widgit to support children to develop their communication & interaction skills*

### What is SEND?

The term 'special educational needs' has the following legal definition:

*Children with special educational needs or disabilities (SEND) all have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it more difficult for them to learn or access education than most children of the same age.*

The difficulty or disability may relate to one (or more) of four areas:

- communication and interaction
  - cognition and learning
- social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- sensory or physical conditions.

These pupils will most likely need some form of adapted support and provision. At Damers, we believe that all pupils should be valued and have the right to a full and varied curriculum in order to achieve their full potential. We recognise that SEND may take a variety of forms and will always seek to adapt our provision to meet the needs of our pupils.

### Process of Identification

If a teacher at Damers feels that a pupil may have a special educational need, they will talk to you as parents and carers. Alternatively, if you, as a parent or carer have concerns you can also speak to your child's class teacher.

The teacher will then discuss this with the school Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo) who will gather more information by looking at the pupil's work, carrying out observations and assessments and talking to the pupil, teacher and parents or carers as required.

If the SENCo or senior team decide the pupil would benefit from additional support, they will be placed on the school SEN register and adapted support will be put in place or requested. This will only be done in consultation with the pupil's family.

