

22/2/18

Inspection of West Sussex local area's effectiveness in identifying and meeting the needs of, and improving outcomes for, children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities from 26 February 2018 to 02 March 2018.

Dear Parents and Carers

Ofsted and the Care Quality Commission (CQC) will carry out jointly an inspection of your local area. The local area is the geographical area of the local authority. However, the responsibility of the local area for children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities extends to those who are residents of the local area but attend educational establishments or receive services outside the local authority's boundaries.

The inspection will evaluate how effectively the local area:

- identifies the needs of children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities
- meets the needs of these children and young people so that their outcomes and chances of participating fully in society improve.

Inspectors will be visiting your son/daughter's school during the afternoon of Thursday, 1st March 2018. The views of parents and carers are an important part of the inspection evidence. If you are a parent or carer of a child or young person with special educational needs and/or disabilities, we would very much like to speak with you during this visit. A meeting has been arranged provisionally for 2 pm on the 1st March 2018. It is expected that this meeting will last about 30 minutes. Can you please confirm with the school if you are able to attend so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

While we understand that many parents and carers may have views on their experience that extend before the implementation of the reforms in September 2014 it important that this date is used as the start for the judgements made under the new inspection remit. We would also like parents and carers to understand that we will not be able to follow up or comment upon individual cases.

In addition to the meeting detailed above we are also hosting an online webinar at 2pm, on Friday 23 February that you may wish to take part in. If you would like to take part in this webinar then please follow this internet link

<http://bit.ly/WestSussexLASEND>

Information on local area duties toward children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities can be found on the Department for Education's website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>

Yours sincerely

Matthew Barnes
Her Majesty's Inspector