Bridgewater Primary

Together rain or shine

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Important Guide for Primary School Parents – Ordinarily available provision

Dear Parent & Carers,

Please follow this link for a parents' guide to 'Ordinarily Available Provision'. This guide is being shared with parents and carers to ensure there is a clear, shared understanding of the support children can expect to receive in Hertfordshire primary schools, including Bridgewater Primary School.

The primary reasons for sharing this with you is:

To Empower Parents with Knowledge

Navigating the education system can be overwhelming. This guide breaks down the "teacher-speak" (such as metacognition or precision monitoring) and explains exactly what Ordinarily Available Provision means in practice. By knowing what tools and strategies are "ordinarily available," you can have more informed and confident conversations with your child's teacher or SENCo.

To Clarify that Support is Based on Need, Not Diagnosis

A vital message of this guide is that a diagnosis is not required for a child to receive help. We want parents to know that if a child is struggling, schools can—and should—implement adaptations and reasonable adjustments immediately based on the child's observed needs.

To Promote the "Child's Voice"

The guide emphasises that you and your child are experts in their experiences. By sending this out, we are encouraging a collaborative approach where your child's strengths, worries, and preferences (such as using a "traffic-light system" or "sensory breaks") are used to shape their daily school life.

To Ensure Consistency Across Schools

By outlining the "standard toolkit" of support—from visual timetables and pencil grips to "soft starts" in the morning—this guide sets a clear expectation of the inclusive environment every Hertfordshire school aims to provide. It ensures that regardless of which school a child attends, the baseline for inclusion remains high.

To Foster Partnership

Effective support works best when home and school are aligned. This guide provides practical tips for communication and record-keeping, helping to build a transparent relationship where parents and staff work together as a team to review a child's progress at least three times a year.

Thank you,

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