

## 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 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 school SENCo** in order to communicate with you as the parent/carer. Sometimes, where appropriate, we may liaise with you directly.

## Specialist Support in Dartford

### Dartford STLS Team

District Co-ordinator  
Kirby Woods  
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Dartford District Administrator  
Angela Knight  
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01474 705377 Extension 143

Early Years Specialist Teachers  
Jayne Field  
Marilyn Kay  
Michele Yates

Specialist Outreach Support Workers  
Karen Tonks  
Linda Jackson  
Linda Riddell

Specialist Teachers  
Cathy Leigh  
Jayne Field  
Julie Radford

Other specialist staff who support pupils with SEND in Dartford include the Specialist Teachers for Hearing Impairment, Visual Impairment, Physical Disability and the SENIF practitioner (EY).

The STLS team are based at Rowhill School,  
Main Road, Longfield, Kent DA3 7PW

Telephone: 01474 705377  
Extension 143

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# Specialist Teaching and Learning Service (STLS)

## Dartford District



## 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.

<http://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/local-inclusion-forum-teams>

Useful links:

**IASK** (Information and Advice Service in Kent)

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/who-to-contact/Information-Advice-and-Support-Kent>

**We Are BEAMS** (Support for disabled children and their families)

[www.wearebeams.org.uk](http://www.wearebeams.org.uk)

## What happens when we visit?

This 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. Your school 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 or Specialist Outreach Support Worker will visit and provide an overview of the nature of their work. Here are some examples of what an initial visit may involve:

- An observation of your child in class
- Discussion with the class teacher 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
- Carrying out a consultation to review the current provision in place for your child and identifying next steps
- Meeting with you to gain your views, if possible

## What happens next?

**Specialist Outreach Support Workers** for pupils with **SEMH** needs (Social, Emotional and Mental Health) will:

- usually provide weekly / fortnightly support in school for your child
- usually work with your child individually and sometimes within a group, where appropriate
- sometimes work in a separate, quiet space with your child
- provide feedback on your child's progress within their sessions – usually at review meetings
- close the case when intervention from the Specialist Outreach Support Worker is no longer appropriate

**Specialist Outreach Support Workers** for pupils with **C & I** needs (Communication and Interaction) will:

- usually provide weekly / fortnightly support in school for your child
- usually work within the setting or class with your child
- role model strategies to the supporting staff
- provide feedback on your child's progress within their sessions – usually at review meetings
- close the case when intervention from the Specialist Outreach Support Worker is no longer appropriate

**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 intervention from the Specialist Teacher is no longer appropriate