

SUTHERS INCLUSION NEWSLETTER

Term 3 – February 2025

WELCOME

Welcome to the third Inclusion newsletter. It has been an extremely busy term, with family reviews, attending CAS Evenings and joining in attendance meetings with our families.

We would like to thank you all for your continued support, as this was recognised in the NOVA Trust Awards for Parental Engagement of the Year!

If you would like to speak to us about any concerns or updates, either phone the school office or contact the relevant key adult or safeguarding year group link.



COMMUNICATION:

Mr Buckberry	Assistant Headteacher / SENDCo Designated Teacher for Children in Care SENDCo@suthersschool.co.uk
Miss Bentley	Assistant SENDCo / DSL Access Arrangements / Referrals SENDCo@suthersschool.co.uk
Mrs Whitbread	HLTA / Art Teacher Y7 Key Person cwhitbread@suthersschool.co.uk
Mr Morgan	Teaching Assistant / First Aider Y7 Key Person cmorgan@suthersschool.co.uk
Miss Laws	Teaching Assistant / First Aider Y8 & Y9 Key Person hlaws@suthersschool.co.uk
Miss Waddington	Teaching Assistant / ASDAN Lead Y10 & Y11 Key Person lwaddington@suthersschool.co.uk

SAFEGUARDING LINKS:

If you have any queries from a SEND / Inclusion perspective, please contact the key adult in the first instance, as outlined in our newsletter. Otherwise, please contact your child's form tutor in the first instance either via contacting the school office or emailing them directly.

If you have a safeguarding concern, please contact the relevant Year Link for Safeguarding:

Y7	Mr Buckberry
Y8	Mr Lynas
Y9	Miss Bentley
Y10	Miss Allen
Y11	Mrs Redmond

COFFEE AND CHAT – CHANGE OF DATE

Thank you to those who attended our rearranged Coffee & Chat session in November 2024 about Demand Avoidance – we had over 20 families attend and it was lovely to network!

We will be hosting our next event on **Wednesday 23rd April 2025 (4.30pm – 5.30pm)**. This will have a focus on Interoception and Sensory Needs, and led again by Louise Whitehead from the Communication & Interaction Team, due to popular demand!

The Nottinghamshire Parent Carer Forum will also be in attendance, if you want to speak to them directly.



Together achieving better decisions and brighter futures for our families of children and young people with additional needs at The Suthers School.

COFFEE AND CHAT

Are you a family member of a child or young person with SEND or additional needs?

Join us for a drink and some light refreshments, to learn more about the NPCF and The Suthers School.



The Suthers School,
Cross Lane, Fernwood
Newark, NG24 3NH

Join us and let your voice be heard about issues that concern you and your family!

STUDENT SURVEY:

Your voice is important to us at Suthers, as we strive for our provision to become 'Transformational for All'. We would like to thank those who took the time to share your feedback. Key headline data from responses included:

- 91% of students shared how the Inclusion Team are approachable. In addition, they were also happy with the support they receive by the Inclusion Team
- 94% of students believe that they feel supported by teaching staff.
- 86% of students share how they engage in Enrichment and after school interventions.



LOCAL OFFER

The Local Offer brings together information for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities and their families.

It includes advice about health, education and social care for:

- Children and young people from birth to 25 years old with SEND
- Parents and carers of children with SEND
- Providers of services for children and young people

<https://www.nottshelpyourself.org.uk/kb5/nottinghamshire/directory/localoffer.page?newdirectorychannel=9>

THE VIRTUAL SCHOOL

The Nottinghamshire Virtual School and Nottingham City Virtual School are statutory local authority services whose role is to improve the education of children in, and previously in, care by supporting schools, carers, parents and social workers to help children and young people to have positive educational experiences.

<https://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/education/virtual-school/nottinghamshire-virtual-school>

<http://www.nottinghamcityvirtualschool.org.uk/support-and-guidance-3/>

SUTHERS INCLUSION PADLET

Click on the link or scan the QR code to access our new Inclusion padlet! On the padlet, you will be able to download policies, key documents, information and resources for areas of needs including:

- Communication and Interaction
- Social and Emotional Health
- Sensory Processing
- Cognition and Learning
- Speech and Language Therapy

We will continue to update the padlet regularly. If there is anything you would like to see on the padlet, please contact a member of the Inclusion Team.

<https://padlet.com/sbuckberry/suthers-send-padlet-jb4pc8ahr32ivsbd>



INCLUSION FOCUS: SOCIAL SKILLS

Social skills are those skills we use to communicate with other people. They include things like verbal and non-verbal communication, listening, empathy and respect. We learn many of these skills naturally, through their interactions with others, although autism and ADHD can make this harder. Being skilled in social situations offers a number of benefits. For example, young people with strong social skills are likely to make friends easily, which can have a positive effect on mental health. On the other hand, those who struggle with social skills may have few or no friendships, which can impact wellbeing into adulthood. In any case, social skills become more and more important as young people grow older, and strong social skills during childhood can be a predictor of success in adulthood. Judging whether your child is struggling in this department can be tricky, but here's a list of things you might want to consider:

- **Listening:** Effective communication depends on being able to respond to what another person has said, which means being able to listen and absorb information. Aside from its importance to socialising, listening is also important in lessons, and it will become more and more important throughout secondary school. You can practise listening by asking your child to repeat things they might have heard and reminding them that it's rude to interrupt others.
- **Following Instructions:** Whether at school or at home, it's important that children are able to listen to and follow instructions. After all, not being able to do so could mean getting into trouble. This social skill might be more of a two-way street, however. Before asking your child to follow instructions, you might want to think about whether you're giving them clearly. Try not to give multiple instructions at the same time, and avoid phrasing your instructions as questions.
- **Empathy:** Being able to understand how another person might be feeling is another important factor in making friends, particularly at childhood and adolescence. Recognising empathy means being able to recognise and name feelings in others, as well as understanding what might affect them.
- **Eye Contact:** There are a number of reasons why individuals might not make eye contact, not all of which relate to social skills, or a lack thereof. For instance, children might not make eye contact if they're disinterested or they don't like the person talking, for whatever reason. A persistent problem with eye contact, however, could be interpreted as a sign of rudeness by others, so it's important to help children who might be struggling with this.
- **Politeness:** This is perhaps the most important social skill of all, given that no one wants to be friends with someone who's constantly rude. With politeness and good manners, the simple things are the most important to master. Saying 'please' and 'thank you' where appropriate can leave a lasting impression when talking to other people. The best thing that adults can do to help children with politeness is to be a good role model and to reward polite behaviour when appropriate.