SEN Information Report for Parents

Assistant Principal SEND Strategy & Partnership
Head of SEND
September 2026

Minsthorpe Community College: A place where everyone plays a part in strengthening our learning community through Motivation, Commitment & Care.

Minsthorpe
Community College

Our Vision

- Minsthorpe Community College welcomes all students, whatever their background or needs.
- We want every student to reach their potential, gain confidence, and become more independent.
- We provide support from Year 5 to Year 13.
- Teachers and support staff regularly review and adapt help to meet each student's needs.

What is a Special Educational Need (SEN)?

A child has SEN if:

- They find learning much harder than others their age, OR
- They have a disability that makes it harder to use school facilities.

What is a Disability?

- A disability is a physical or mental condition that lasts a year or more and affects everyday life.
- Examples: asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, autism, sight or hearing problems.
- Some disabled children also have SEN, but not always.

Types of Needs We Support

1. Communication & Interaction – difficulties with speech, understanding, or social skills (e.g. Autism).
2. Cognition & Learning – learning more slowly than others, or specific difficulties like dyslexia.
3. Social, Emotional & Mental Health – issues such as anxiety, ADHD, or challenging behaviour.
4. Sensory & Physical – problems with hearing, vision, or physical disabilities that affect learning.

How We Support Students

We provide many types of help, such as:

- In-class support (teachers adapt lessons, support staff help where needed).
- Student Profiles to support teaching strategies for adapting lessons for identified students.
- Small group/individual sessions (e.g. reading, handwriting, social skills, behaviour support).
- Special programs like *Nurture Curriculum*, *Step Back* (extra help with behaviour), and *Foundations* (Year 8 support).
- Access arrangements for exams (extra time, laptops, breaks, etc.).
- Clubs & safe spaces (homework club, snack break support, safe time-out passes).
- Alternative curriculum (practical skills, vocational training, life skills for some KS3–KS5 students).

Who Helps and How to Contact?

- Assistant Principal SEND Strategy & Partnership - – Mr Orr provides strategic leadership and manages the specialist provisions.
- Head of SEND (Mrs Handley), Provisions Manager (Mrs Connolly) and Assistant SENCo (Mrs Dickens) & team – organise day-to-day support, meet with parents, plan interventions.
- Teaching staff – adapt lessons and follow strategies.
- Outside specialists – e.g. educational psychologists, speech therapists, CAMHS.
- Contact email enquiries@minsthorpe.cc or phone 01977 657600

Transitions

We help students move smoothly:

- Primary to Secondary (Year 6 → Year 7) – meetings with primary schools, visits, extra support if needed.
- GCSE choices (Year 9 → 10) – advice and support for SEND students to make the right subject choices.
- Post-16 (Year 11 → 12/college/work) – careers advice, visits, and sharing support information with next steps.

Information for Parents

- You can bring an advocate (professional or personal supporter) to meetings.
- The behaviour policy focuses on fairness and safety. Staff use their judgement to keep things calm and safe.
- If you have concerns, start with the Student Support team or Year Office. There is also a Complaints Policy if needed.
- Support may take time – we must try things step by step (this is called the Graduated Response).
- We refer to other services (EP/ADHS/ASD) but due to demand this can take a lot of time, and we need to know students well to do referrals (2 terms of good attendance).
- SEND Together offers parents a meeting with Student Support key staff to discuss your child and support.
- Getting an EHC Plan takes around 20 weeks once the council accepts the request.

Wakefield Local Offer and Local Authority Contacts

The Local Offer website has information about SEND services, support, and advice for families in Wakefield.
Wakefield SEND Local Offer | Wakefield SEND Local Offer
Key links to services supporting parent/carers.
Special Educational Needs (SEN) - Wakefield Council

Common Questions (Parents)

- How will I know if my child needs help?
  - We test all new students, monitor progress, and talk to teachers and parents.
- How will the school support my child?
  - Personalised support, adapted lessons, small group or individual work, and outside specialist help.
- How will I know how my child is doing?
  - You'll get regular updates, at least termly. Students with EHCPs have annual reviews.
- How is support decided?
  - Based on assessments, meetings, and what works best for your child. Parents and students are involved in decisions.

Questions (Students)

- How do you know if I need help?
  - We talk to your old school, do assessments, and check in with you regularly.
- What if I think I need help?
  - Talk to your teacher, Year Head, or Student Support. Or ask your parents to contact us.
- How will you help me?
  - We'll adapt lessons, give extra support, and involve you in planning.
- How can I help myself?
  - Teachers will give you targets and tips for becoming more independent.