

**DRAFT SUTTON SEND CHARTER FOR CONSULTATION AND COMMENTS- PARENT/CARER GROUPS - FEBRUARY 2021**

**What is an SEND Charter?**

The charter intends a high level set of values and attitudes agreed by all stakeholders with regard to how we approach SEND. Getting these right gives a tool by which to influence and pick up where we fall short, and more positively, a framework to celebrate when we are all working well together.

Alongside the charter, the intention is that this would be underpinned by various processes that support its values and provide a frame work for interaction between the LA, Cognus, Schools, Parents/Carers, young people and other professionals with regard to SEND matters.

**DRAFT SUTTON CHARTER – many thanks to SPCF (Sutton Parent Carer Forum) for their time and thought in drafting this initial starting point. Feedback has already been gained from some stakeholder groups and we are now asking parent/carers groups for any feedback before consulting on a final version**

**Vision statement:**

We are collectively ambitious for our children and young people. Together we want to provide them with the best chances to achieve their best outcomes in life, whatever their starting point, and to prepare them effectively for adulthood

**Charter Principles:**

The Sutton Charter state the values and principles that we believe all of us should follow when working to support children and young people with SEND. .

By working to fulfil these at the highest standard, we then build TRUST between all parties to the benefit of the child or young person.



**The Charter explained:**

**WELCOME AND CARE**

We will welcome the child or young person and show that we care by:

- Providing a happy and secure environment
- Celebrating strengths and achievements
- Preparing for transition points and supporting successful transfer to new settings

- Acknowledging and respecting how both families and professionals contribute to the progress of the child

## VALUE AND INCLUDE

We will all work together to support the child or young person to make the most of their educational experiences by:

- Having a 'Can do' approach
- Identifying needs early, agreeing how we can help
- Being creative and flexible so we respond in the best way to individual needs and changing circumstances
- Problem-solving any difficulties even when it means uncomfortable conversations
- Making well-considered decisions, valuing the input of families and professionals

## COMMUNICATE

We will communicate openly, clearly and honestly by:

- Making time to listen calmly and respectfully to others' views, acknowledging their input
- Responding promptly to queries, explaining answers clearly
- Following up and reviewing regularly, using past information shared to inform discussions
- Providing all the information needed in good time, in a form that can be readily understood
- Using positive and constructive language, being sensitive to the stresses for families and professionals

## PARTNERSHIP

We will work in partnership across families and professionals to help us all be ambitious for our children and young people by:

- Sharing good practice at home and in education
- Encouraging training and support networks to flourish
- Preparing well in advance for adult life and the transition from childhood
- Using feedback and contributions from all parties to improve what we do
- Encouraging active participation in developing what we can offer to our local community
- Treating each other with respect

Please look at what is here, in terms of overarching principles and thoughts, and give us any feedback by emailing - [education.sendfeedback@sutton.gov.uk](mailto:education.sendfeedback@sutton.gov.uk) - no particular deadline - this will ultimately be a 'live document' so whenever you can!

### What happens next?

Once we have confirmed the principles, then we will work to clarify and develop associated processes and look at ways to gather feedback to monitor its implementation. We already have feedback from SPCF on possible ways that processes could be improved to reflect the proposed charter principles. We will also be gathering ideas for how to embed these principles into our work.

### Time line:

We aim to have this in place by the end of the Spring 2021 term, consultation feedback allowing. We will then identify any processes for focus and how we can embed these principles into our work, prioritising these over the next terms. When finalised we will share the SEND charter on our Local Offer.