

**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



STLS also deliver a wide range of training sessions for parents and carers of children and young people with special educational needs. These courses are held at Ifield School, Smile Centre.

Most courses are free, although some do have a nominal charge to cover some administrative costs.

<https://www.ifieldschool.com>



## **Specialist Support in Gravesham**

### **Gravesham STLS Team**

District Co-ordinator

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Gravesham District Administrators

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Early Years Specialist Teachers

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Specialist Teachers

Helen Cottage

Jason Owen

Julie Hawkins

Ruth Cubitt

Claire Noordally

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

The STLS team are based at the Smile  
Centre, Ifield School, Cedar Avenue,  
Gravesend DA12 5JT  
Telephone: 01474 536924

# **Specialist Teaching and Learning Service (STLS)**

## **Gravesham District**



## **Information for parents and carers**

## About Gravesham 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

## 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?

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 if a Specialist Teacher 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 parents and carers as necessary.
- Attending a multi-agency meeting.