

School: Lakenheath Community Primary School

Specialist Unit: Hedgehogs -Reception/KS1 specialist unit

Number of places: 12



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Description of Unit

Hedgehog Class supports up to 12 children aged 4 to 7 with speech, language, learning, and other complex needs. The class is led by four members of staff: the school's SENCo, who holds the National SENCo Qualification, and two highly experienced Teaching Assistants who lead teaching and learning. They are supported by an additional Teaching Assistant to ensure high-quality provision. Located at the rear of the school, the classroom has its own outdoor area, toilets, intervention room, and sensory space. We provide personalised learning in a calm, supportive environment, focusing on communication, social skills, emotional regulation, and independence. While the adult-to-child ratio is high, 1:1 support is not routinely provided.

Overview

Children in Hedgehog Class follow a weekly timetable with specialist lessons tailored to their needs. They take part in personalised maths, phonics, and literacy sessions, alongside activities that support their individual Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) goals, such as mark making, bucket time, motor skills, and cooking. The class follows a structured routine, using work stations for individual tasks as well as group activities that encourage social interaction and collaboration. We work closely with outside agencies, including Speech and Language Therapy (SALT) and Occupational Therapy (OT), to provide tailored support for each child. Our focus is on developing independence, social skills, and confidence. We share the school's ethos centred around the 6 Rs: Resourceful, Relationships, Resilience, Reflective, Risk-taker, and Respect, which guide all we do. Children wear school uniform according to the dress code, with reasonable adjustments made for sensory needs. Hedgehog Class is fully integrated into the wider school community. When appropriate, pupils may join mainstream lessons and activities, helping them build confidence, friendships, and a sense of belonging.