



**Family Hub**

**Merton SEND local Offer**

## My Role

To support the planned changes and the rebranding of the local offer, including parent consultation

To work with a range of external services to increase and improve their offer for children with SEND

To encourage more parent/carers to sign up to the Disability Register and the M-Card and be aware of Disability Living Allowance (DLA)

To be involved in the planning of the neurodiverse pathway and the neurodiverse offer

To meet with groups of parents and consult with them on a range of SEND changes and initiatives- (meeting in schools / the family hub / children centres etc)

# WHAT IS THE LOCAL OFFER

The SEND Local Offer provides information about the support and services that Merton families can expect from a wide range of agencies for children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities (SEND) from birth to 25 years old

It covers support and services for children and young people with and without an Education, Health and Care Plan and describes available support and services within Merton, along with some provision outside of Merton, that families may also be able to access

The Local Offer includes information about:

- schools, colleges and further education
- childcare and school holiday provision/clubs
- Health services and Merton Council specific services for children with SEND
- social care
- preparing for adulthood
- leisure activities, clubs and groups
- work and training
- Support and advice services and parent groups

It also includes information about how to access services, such as how to get a referral or an assessment, if required

[www.merton.gov.uk/localoffer](http://www.merton.gov.uk/localoffer)



Family Services Directory ▾

SEND Local Offer ▾

Young Merton ▾

Adult Support Services Directory ▾

Family Hub Directory ▾

Things to do

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# SEND Local Offer

Support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities aged 0-25.



Activities and leisure



Education and childcare



Employment and training



Health

# DISABILITY REGISTER

SEND  
Local Offer

Details provided when you apply for your child to be registered on to the database will be used to:

- Provide you with information on services relevant to children and young people with SEND where you request this when applying or when you update your entry on the register
- Help inform the Local Authority's commissioning decisions and support key partners (e.g. NHS) to understand the needs and demands for services in the

The benefits of joining the register are:

The option to receive regular updates on services and other information relevant to children and young people with SEN and disabilities

The opportunity to have a voice as part of any future Local Authority consultations relevant to children or young people with disabilities and;

If your child/young person meets the eligibility criteria you have the option to apply for a Merton M-Card

To register on the Disability Database you will you need to click "Create an account" to create an account link.

As you are completing your application you will also have the option to receive our regular newsletter - The LO Down.

[Local Directories | Merton's Disability Database for children and young people - Registering and Updating](#)




# Merton's Disability Database for children and young people - Registering and Updating

The London Borough of Merton's Disability Database is a voluntary register for children and young people aged 0 to 18 years who have a disability or special educational need.



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 Is this information correct?

[What is the database for?](#) 

[What are the benefits of registering on the database?](#) 

[How do I register my child to join the Disability Database?](#) 

[How do I update my information on the Disability Database?](#) 

# What is the M-Card and what are the benefits

The M-Card provides recognition of a disability even where this is not obvious. It can help to avoid the need for lengthy explanations when asking for assistance.

It can also allow the card holder to benefit from concessions on some services in the London Borough of Merton and further afield.

If a service provider offers concessions for M-Card holders, you will see a picture of an M-Card next to it in the listings

The benefits of having an M-Card include:

- Priority access, avoiding the need to queue when showing your M-card
- Parking concessions in places where parking is usually restricted (school street scheme restriction zones)
- -Parking outside your child's school for 30 minutes
- Discounted price at Lanterns Arts Centre
- 50% off at Putt in the Park Battersea Park
- -free entry at Battersea Park Zoo

• [Local Directories](#) | [Service Listings](#)



school streets scheme



[Home](#)

# Services

Services (2)

Information and advice (0)

## Category

[Special Educational Needs Local Offer](#) (2)

## Filter by

Filter using postcode

Postcode



Sorted by: Best match ▾

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### School Streets Scheme concession for M-Card holders in Merton

You may now be able to use your child's M-Card to park near their school if it's in an area restricted by the School Streets Scheme. A 'School Street' is a road near a school with restricted access to vehicles at drop-off and pick-up times. The...



Email

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### Parking concessions for M-Card holders in Merton

1. M-Card holders are entitled to 30 minutes parking at school drop-off and pick-up times in pay and display and / or permit



# How can I apply for a M-Card



To be eligible for an M-Card, your child must be under 18 years old and meet one of the following criteria.

Child Tax Credit to include the disabled child element or Universal Credit with child element and additional disabled child element (lower and higher), or

A letter confirming current receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) at Middle or Upper level or Personal Independence Payment for this child, or

A letter from a medical or educational professional confirming there is a complex health need that impacts significantly on getting about or accessing services.

To apply for an M-Card you will need to join the Disability Database. You can do this by visiting our Merton's Disability Database for children and young people - Registering and Updating page and navigating to the How do I register my child to join the Disability Database? section.

[Local Directories | M-Card for children and young people](#)



What are you looking for today?



[Home](#)

## M-Card for children and young people

The M-Card is a concession card issued by London Borough of Merton which provides a quick, easy and discrete way to raise awareness that eligible children and young people have disabilities or Special Educational Needs.

To find out more about all the concessions and benefits available to M-Card holders, please visit the 'Using my M-Card' section - click on the link in the Related Links section of this page



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Is this information correct?

[Where are M-Cards accepted?](#) ▾

[Is my child eligible for an M-Card?](#) ▾

[How do I apply for an M-Card?](#) ▾

# Other concessions for children with SEND

The local offer also includes a wide range of other concessions for children with SEND. In most cases the parent will need to provide evidence (DLA or PIP when 16+). Concessions include:-

- Access scheme (ATG theatres) – free carer entry and better choice of seats
- Bocketts Farm – free carer entry
- Wetland Centre – free carer entry
- Painshill Park – free carer entry
- Crystal Palace Football club – discount ticket entry
- Hobbledown Farm - free carer entry
- Wimbledon Theatre – free carer with an Access membership
- World Rugby Club Twickenham – free carer and discounted child ticket
- Madame Tussands – free carer
- London Zoo – free carer
- London Transport Museum – discounted entry for child and free carer entry

[Local Directories](#) | [Service Listings](#)

# Information & Advice

## **MIASS (Merton Information, Advice and Support Service)**

Is co-commissioned by Merton Council and the NHS to provide free, confidential and impartial information, advice and support to children and young people (aged 0-25) with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) and their parents/carers who live in Merton.

MIASS run drop-in sessions from the following locations:

Church Road Children's Centre. Tuesdays - Term time only - 9:15am-12 noon, 1:00-4:15pm (0-25 years)

Acacia Children's Centre. Thursdays - Term time only - 9:15am-12:00 noon (0-25 years)

## **Family Information and Support Hubs FISH)**

Get help and support from a specialist advisor about: child development; Behaviour and emotions; Relationships; Money; Applying for Benefits and DLA (disability living allowance).

Finding childcare - including funded childcare for children 9 months to 4 years and Wraparound Childcare

FISH run drop in groups Family Hub at:

Church Road Children's Centre – Mondays, 1:30pm-4:30pm.

Family Hub at Acacia Children's Centre – Wednesdays, 9:00am-12:00pm

Or you can book an appointment by following this link

[Local Directories | Family Information and Support Hubs](#)



# Local support groups for parents

**Portage Parenting** is a free early support service for families in Merton. It helps babies and young children (from birth to age 3) with significant additional needs or disabilities. They work with parents to support your child's development – through fun, play-based activities in your home. They also run to parent/child groups in the Children's Centres

<https://directories.merton.gov.uk/kb5/merton/directory/service.page?id=lf3Wz65wRxw>

**The Social Communication Group** programme provides support for children, aged 2- 3 years old, where there are concerns around their social communication, speech and language development or who may have/receive a diagnosis of ASD. Parents attend alongside their child. The groups take place in the Children's Centres

<https://directories.merton.gov.uk/kb5/merton/directory/service.page?id=mGSlaluYvIA&familychannel=0>

**SEND stay and play – Small Steps Together.** A welcoming and inclusive FREE stay and play group for children aged 0-5 with additional needs and/or disabilities and their parents/carers. Held at Church Road Children Centre Tuesdays 1.30 to 3.00pm

<https://directories.merton.gov.uk/kb5/merton/directory/service.page?id=kimCeHb093E>

**Merton Mencap** – provide a range of evening, holiday and weekend groups for children aged 5 to 17. The child must be referred by Merton Council via the Short Breaks Service

<https://www.mertonmencap.org.uk/for-children-and-young-people/>

Kids First Forum – free support group for parents whose child has SEND

Talk Autism – free support group for parents whose child has Autism

MAPS (Merton Autism Parent Service) – monthly group for parent/carers with different themes and keynote speakers

<https://www.mertonmencap.org.uk/for-parents-and-carers/>



# Training for parents

**The Incredible Years Autism and Language Delay Programme (children 2 to 5)** supports parents and carers to understand their child's development and how they can best support them. The 11 week programme focuses on developing language and social skills and promoting children's emotional and self-regulation,

[Local Directories | Incredible Years Autism and Language Delay Parenting Programme](#)

**Triple P – Positive Parenting Programme** – An evidence-based programme offering practical strategies to support parenting and family life.

**Triple P: Under 11** is designed to support parents dealing with children who have challenging behaviours, such as frequent shouting, aggression, or hitting—whether it's directed at family members, furniture, or siblings.

**Triple P: Fearless** is designed for children whose anxiety is affecting their daily life and preventing them, or their family, from engaging in certain activities.

**Triple P: Stepping Stones** is a programme specifically designed for parents of children aged 5 to 11 with developmental or physical disabilities and disruptive behaviour.

**Triple P: Teen** is designed for parents who are finding it difficult to manage their teenager's behaviour.

[Local Directories | Triple P Parenting Programmes](#)

**The EarlyBird Parent Programme (under 5's)** supports parents and carers of pre-school aged children with a diagnosis of autism.

**The EarlyBird Plus Programme is for parents/carers of young people (4-9 years)** with a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) and for the professionals supporting them.

**The Teen Life programme** supports parents and carers of children aged 10-16 with a diagnosis of autism.

The Early Bird and Teen Life programmes are held over approximately six weeks

Places can be booked by emailing Cricket Green school - [office@cricketgreen.merton.sch.uk](mailto:office@cricketgreen.merton.sch.uk)



# SEND pathway (school aged child)

A child is assessed as needing additional support as they are not making expected progress in some areas of their learning. The school will have a range of strategies and interventions (Ordinarily Available) they can use to support the child's progress. In most cases these early interventions are enough for most children, and they will 'catch up' and make progress

If a child is still not making progress the school will discuss with the parent and the child will come under SEN Support. The child will have a more individualised plan based which will include the interventions and strategies that will be used to support the child. 'Ordinarily Available' support will continue. The SENCO will co-ordinate the support. The child will be regularly assessed.

If a child continues to not make progress this is discussed with the parent.. The SENCO will consider seeking advice from other professionals or services available to the school via the 'buy back' service. The child's individualised plan will be adjusted according to any further advice sought or professional reports received. The child continues at the SEN Support level and the graduated approach continues with regular assessments of the child's needs and progress

If a child continues to not make progress the school may decide to apply for an EHC assessment and will discuss this with the parent. If in agreement, the school will make an application to the SEN Team. This will go to the SEN panel for consideration. They will decide whether an EHC needs assessment can be started or whether the school needs to continue to support the child at SEN Support level. If an assessment goes ahead professionals such as an EP, S&LT, etc will assess the child's needs. Other reports from hospitals etc will be included. The EHC needs assessment, once completed, will go back to the SEN panel and a decision made whether the child requires support at an EHCP level (and a finalised EHCP), or whether the child's needs can continue to be met at SEN Support

# Other professionals supporting children with SEND

**The SEN team** - coordinates the assessment of education, health and care needs when it considers that it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made for the child or young person in accordance with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP).

**Merton SEND Support & Inclusion Service (MSSIS)** provide pupil focused interventions in schools to prevent exclusions around behaviour and provide mentoring and training for staff to work with challenging behaviour

**Merton Autism Outreach Service** works in an advisory role with schools, supporting staff in developing their understanding of ASD and sharing tools and strategies to enable pupils to access learning and social opportunities.

**The NHS (CLCH) Speech and Language Therapy (SLT)** is a service that works with young children ((up to 5). They assess, diagnose and provide children and young people with speech, language, communication and/or swallowing problems. A GP, Health Visitor or school can make a referral.

**Merton Language and Learning Support Team** are specialist language and learning teachers and specialist speech and language therapists with expertise in the areas of learning difficulties, specific learning difficulties (dyslexia and dyscalculia) and speech, language and communication issues. Services are provided as part of EHCP statutory requirements or as a 'buy back' service to the schools in the borough

# Other professionals supporting children with SEND

**Educational Psychologists (EPs)** are applied psychologists who are registered with the Health Care Professions Council (HCPC) and work in schools and colleges. They support children with SEND to get the best out of their education. Schools can arrange for a child with SEND to see an EP as part of their 'buy back' service or as part of EHCP statutory requirements.

**Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)** provides a diagnostic service which can support children who are experiencing mental health issues. They can also diagnose ASD or ADHD

**Education Wellbeing Service (NHS)** work in teams covering a "cluster" of between 10 and 15 schools and is led by a senior mental health clinician. They also offer parent workshops in schools and a range of 'webinars' which support parents around toilet training, fussy eating, dealing with their child's anxiety

<https://swlstg.nhs.uk/education-wellbeing-service/etc>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCrRkV84Ib8Jr69Z7ZhjSjCg/videos>

**Community Paediatrics . Paediatricians** based across 4 neighbouring hospitals. They assess children under 5 who have SEND and medical concerns. To access a community paediatrician the parent should see their GP or Health Visitor, or ask another NHS professional to make a referral.

**Early Help co-ordinators (primary schools)** are allocated across several primary schools and can support schools who are working with families who have children with SEND. They advise on the services available through the Early Help model, can support completing an Early Help Assessment (EHA) or DLA application, Char TAF meetings and provide additional support when a child has an Annual Review as part of their EHCP.,



Registered charity no. 1150294



# FREE SPORTS

## Community Club Merton

Try fun, inclusive tennis and a range of sports!

### When

Every Saturday  
(except school holidays)  
1.30pm - 3pm

### Where

Melbury College (Whatley  
Campus), Whatley Avenue,  
London, SW20 9NS



All children with  
SEND welcome

Ages 8+

Free of  
charge

Siblings  
welcome

[Click here to book](#)

E: [dsc@disabilitysportscoach.org.uk](mailto:dsc@disabilitysportscoach.org.uk)  
W: [www.disabilitysportscoach.org.uk](http://www.disabilitysportscoach.org.uk)  
T: 020 7928 4267





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DECATHLON





Scan the QR code to register your interest in representing Merton at the **London Youth Games**



[office@seanmcinnesssportscoaching.com](mailto:office@seanmcinnesssportscoaching.com)

## Open Games

Basketball	Netball	Indoor Rowing
Cross Country	Squash	Cricket
Table Tennis	Aquathlon	Tennis
Athletics	Football	Judo
Volleyball	Swimming	Road Cycling
Diving	BMX	Hockey
Trampolining	Badminton	Kayak Slalom and Sprint

## Inclusive & ParaGames

Inclusive Boccia	ParaGames Trampolining	ParaGames Athletics
Inclusive Basketball	ParaGames Football	ParaGames Swimming

Sean McInnes  
Sports Coaching





**Kids swim free**  
Sessions every week in  
all three Merton Leisure  
Centres

# QUESTIONS

