

Merton Children's Services: Glossary of Terms (June 2018)

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
903		See 'SSDA 903'.
AA	Authorised Absence	Absence from school authorised by the school - either the child is too ill to attend or the school has given advance permission. See also 'UA'.
Acacia Centre		Community Centre in Mitcham offering a range of activities for all ages. It is the location of one of Merton's children's centres, and the adventure playground. See also 'APG' and 'Children's Centre'. Formally known as the Intergenerational Centre
Academy	Academy schools	Publicly funded schools which operate outside of local authority control, described by government as independent state-funded schools.
ADCS	Association of Directors of Children's Services	National leadership association in England for statutory directors of children's services and other children's services professionals in leadership roles.
ADHD	Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder	Attention deficit hyperactivity disorder is a group of behavioural symptoms that include inattentiveness, hyperactivity and impulsiveness.
ALDCS	Association of London Directors of Children's Services	Pan-London body representing all of London's statutory Directors of Children's Services
Alternative Education		Education provided to children who cannot attend a mainstream or special maintained school.
Annex A	The Ofsted Single Inspection, Annex A data and documentation. (see also Single Inspection)	The Ofsted Single inspection framework requires all local authorities to produce comprehensive child level data and a set of supporting documents for presentation to inspectors in week one of the inspection.
APG	Adventure Playground	Play area offering children and young people opportunities for supervised adventurous play.
APS	Average point score	In education the conversion of attainment levels to scores; applies to a school or individual pupil.
ARP	Additionally Resourced Provision	Discrete resource in schools to support children with a Statement of Special Educational Need. See also 'Statement'.
ART	Access to Resources Team	Service area in the Children, Schools and Families Department, Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion Division, responsible for commissioning placements for looked after children and certain pupils with SEN. See also 'SEN'.
ASC	Adult social care	
ASD	Autistic Spectrum Disorder	Type of Special Educational Need in the 'Communication and Interaction Needs' category. See also 'SEN'.
ASQ		
BAAF	British Association of Adoption and Fostering	London-based charity offering resources for those wishing to adopt, and to professionals working in adoption.
BAME	Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic	Terminology used to describe people of non-white descent. See also 'BME'.
BASW	The British Association of Social Workers	The professional association for Social Workers the UK.
BESD	Behaviour, Emotional and Social Difficulty	Category of Special Educational Need. See also 'SEN'.
BME	Black and Minority Ethnic	Terminology used to describe people of non-white descent. See also 'BAME'.

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
Bond Road	Bond Road Family Centre	Team within the Children's Social Care, delivering family support services.
BRAG	Blue, Red, Amber, Green	System of prioritising referrals to Merton's Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) - Blue (no significant concern), Green (low level concern), Amber (significant concern but immediate action not required), Red (immediate action required). See also 'MASH'.
Brightwell	Brightwell Respite Care House	Merton's residential care home offering specialist care for children with complex needs, severe learning disabilities and autism including overnight, after school, weekend and school holiday short breaks. See also 'Short Breaks'.
C&F Act	Children and Families Act 2014	Far reaching changes to child and family law which aims to improve: protection of vulnerable children, support for children in care (including extending care to age 21), the adoption system, the system of support for children with special educational needs and disabilities, support for children whose parents are separating, and help for parents to balance work and family life.
C4EO	The Centre for Excellence and Outcomes in Children and Young People's Services	Collaborative centre that gathers and shares the best available knowledge and evidence of 'what works' to contribute to improving outcomes for children, young people and their families.
CAF	Common Assessment Framework	Assessment tool used across the children's workforce to help practitioners develop a shared understanding of a child or young person's needs so that they can be met quickly and effectively. See also 'CASA'.
CAFCASS	Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service	National non-departmental public body which advises family courts and supports children in the court process.
CAIT	Child Abuse Investigation Team	Metropolitan Police Service responsible for investigating child abuse cases.
CAMH	Child and Adolescent Mental Health	
CAMHS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service	Service for children and adolescents who are experiencing mental health problems.
CareFirst		Former management information system for Merton Children's Social Care, before the introduction of Mosaic. See also Mosaic
CASA	Common and Shared Assessment	Updated version of the Common Assessment Framework to be implemented in Merton Children's Services from April 2013. See also 'CAF'.
CCG	(Merton) Clinical Commissioning Group	Merton Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for planning and buying healthcare services for the people who live or work in the borough; made up of local GPs and health professionals.
CES	Corporate Equalities Scheme / Strategy	Merton Council's Strategy to promote equality across race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation and religion and belief. Titled as a 'Scheme' from 2010-13, and as a 'Strategy' from 2013.
Children Act 1989		Act, relating to children, with a wide range of provisions including local authority responsibilities for providing services for children in need (CIN), children requiring protection, and LAC. See also 'LAC' and 'CIN'.
Children Act 2004		Act which makes provision for a children's commissioner and for Directors of Children's Services.
Children's Centre		Early years service for children aged 0-5 and their families offering childcare, family support and child health services
Children's Trust Board		

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
CIB	Continuous Improvement Board	
CIC	Children in Care	See 'LAC'.
CICC	Children in Care Council	Forum for looked after children and young people to discuss their needs and views and inform service planning and delivery. See also 'LAC'.
CIN	Child(ren) in Need	Defined by the Children Act 1989 as children aged under 18 needing local authority services to achieve or maintain a reasonable standard of health or development, and / or to prevent significant or further harm to health or development, and / or are disabled.
CLA	Children Looked After	See 'LAC'.
CLCH	Central London Community Health Care NHS Trust	The commissioned provider of community health services in Merton for children, young people and families including: health visiting; school nursing; speech and language therapy; physiotherapy; occupational therapy.
CME	Children missing from education	Child of statutory school age who is not registered at an educational provision; not registered as being 'educated other than at school' (e.g. home schooling); out of education for more than 20 calendar days.
Continuous Improvement		Management culture in Merton's children's services which seeks to continuously improve processes and services, informed by performance management, inspection outcomes, research, and best practice.
Contracts and School Organisation		Service area in the Children, Schools and Families Department, Education Division.
Corius		Mosaic dashboard reporting tool.
CP	Child Protection	Activity undertaken to protect specific children who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. This is part of the broader remit of children's safeguarding. See also 'Safeguarding'.
CPC	Child Protection Conference	Case conference held following a Child Protection investigation, to enable professionals in the case to assess the information and plan how to safeguard and promote the welfare of the child.
CPD		Training and development for those working in children's services including schools.
CPP	Child Protection Plan	Plan detailing how a child will be protected and their health and development promoted; written and managed by the professionals working with the child and family.
CRB	Criminal Records Bureau	National body which carries out checks on people working with children.
CQC	Care Quality Commission	Responsible for ensuring that hospitals, care homes, GPs, dentists and home based services meeting national standards; this is done by inspecting services and publishing findings.
CSC	Children's Social Care	Shortened term for the Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion Division in Merton Council's Children, Schools and Families Department.
CSC&YI	Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion [Division]	Division in Merton Council's Children, Schools and Families Department.
CSE	Child Sexual Exploitation	Exploitative situations, contexts and relationships where young people (or a third person or persons) receive 'something' (e.g. food, accommodation, drugs, alcohol, cigarettes, affection, gifts, money) as a result of them performing, and / or another or others performing on them, sexual activities.

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
CSF	Children, Schools and Families [Department]	Department in Merton Council responsible for children's social care and education.
CTB	Children's Trust Board	
CVA	Contextual Value Added	Statistic which shows the progress children have made whilst attending a particular school, which takes into account the circumstances of children attending the school including their age, gender, ethnicity, and economic background.
CWD	Children with Disabilities	Children with disabilities are children 'in need' as defined by section 17(10(c)) of the Children Act 1989 and are entitled to a range of support services depending on their circumstances.
CYP	Children and young people	
CYPP	Children and Young People's Plan	Multi-agency document setting out the priorities of the Children's Trust to commission and provide services for children and young people. See also 'Children's Trust Board'.
CYPWBM	Child and Young Person Wellbeing Model	Framework used across Merton's Children's Trust to identify need and secure appropriate services. See also 'Children's Trust Board'.
DfE	Department for Education	Government department for education and children's social care since 2010.
DfES	Department for Education & Skills	Government department 2001-2007.
Early Help		
Early Years and Children's Centres		
Ebacc	English Baccalaureate	Introduced in 2010 as a performance measure recognising where pupils have secured a C grade or better across a core of academic subjects – English, mathematics, history or geography, the sciences and a language.
ECCA	Equalities and Community Cohesion Action [Group] or [Plan]	Merton's Children, Schools and Families Department working group and strategy which promotes equality of service delivery and access across race, gender, disability, age, sexual orientation and religion and belief.
ECM	Every Child Matters	Framework of outcomes, introduced by the previous government, that are key to well-being in childhood - be healthy, stay safe, enjoy and achieve, positive contribution, and economic well-being (DfES 2004). See also 'DfES'
Education [Division]		Division in Merton Council's Children, Schools and Families Department.
Education Inclusion		Service area in the Children, Schools and Families Department, Education Division.
EET	Education, Employment and Training	Term used in relation to monitoring the number of young people aged 16-18 who are in education, training or employment. See also 'NEET'.
EFA	Education Funding Agency	Department for Education's delivery agency providing revenue and capital funding for education for learners between the ages of 3 and 19, or up to 25 for those with learning difficulties and disabilities. Also responsible for the delivery of building and maintenance programmes for schools, academies, Free Schools and sixth-form colleges.
EGYV	Ending Gang and Youth Violence	Used to refer to the national Home office team or the cross Government Report (November 2011) on the causes of gang and youth violence and proposal for prevention. Used locally to refer to the EGYV peer review process.

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
EHC plan	Education, Health and Care Plan.	From 1 September 2014 the system of statutory support and assessment for children and young people age 0-25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities, brought about by the Children and Family Act 2014. The EHC plan replaces the SEN Statement and the Learning Difficulty Assessment. See also 'C&F Act', 'statement' and 'LDA'
EHCP	Education, Health and Care Plan.	See EHC plan above
EI	Early Intervention	See 'EIS'
EIP	Early Intervention and Prevention	See 'EIS'
EIS	Early Intervention Services	Providing support services at an early stage to improve outcomes for children and families and prevent the need for the involvement of more specialist services at a later stage. In Merton we have replaced this term with Early Help. See also 'Early Help'.
ELG	Early Learning Goals	
Enhanced	Enhanced level service	Service provided to children and families assessed as being at the enhanced level of need (medium level) on the Merton Well Being Model. See also 'MWBM'.
EOTAS	Educated other than at school	Education which takes place outside of a formal school setting.
EPS	Education Psychology Service	Team within the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Integrated Service responsible for the statutory assessment and statementing procedures for children with special educational needs (SEN). See also 'SEN'.
ESF	European Social Fund	European Union funding for initiatives which improve employment opportunities and help raise standards of living.
ETE	Employment, Training and Education [Team]	Team within Targeted Adolescent Services, supporting young people at risk of not engaging with education, training or employment. See also 'Targeted Adolescent Services'
EWS	Education Welfare Service	Team within the Education Inclusion Service area primarily responsible for the support and management of school attendance. See also 'Education Inclusion'.
Exclusion		When a school 'excludes' a child from attending on disciplinary grounds, through the procedure set out in the 2002 Education Act and related Government Guidance. See also 'Fixed Term Exclusion' and 'Permanent Exclusion'.
Extranet		Internal web based system for schools and early year's settings.
EYFS	Early Years Foundation Stage	Set of learning and development requirements to be delivered by schools and childcare settings from age 2-5 (end of reception year in school).
EYFSP	Early Years Foundation Stage Profile	Formal assessment of a child's learning and development at the end of the Reception year. See also 'Reception' and 'EYFS'.
FDAC	Family Drug and Alcohol Court	The Family Drug and Alcohol Court (FDAC) is run by Coram and the Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust. FDAC is a new way of dealing with care proceedings when parental substance misuse causes harm to children.
FE	Further Education	Education offered by sixth forms and colleges beyond the statutory school age.

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
FGM	Female Genital Mutilation	Procedures that intentionally alter or cause injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons. It has no health benefits for girls or women, can lead to serious health problems, and is a violation of their human rights.
Fixed Term Exclusion		When a school 'excludes' a child from attending for a specific period of time. This can be for one or more periods, and for up to 45 days, in one academic year. See also 'Exclusion' and 'Permanent Exclusion'.
FOI	Freedom of Information	Request made to the local authority for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
Free schools		Schools which are set up by groups of parents, teachers, charities, trusts, religious and voluntary groups and which are then established as academies and funded as such. See also 'academies'.
FSD	Family Services Directory	Merton website which provides details of a broad range of services for families in Merton. See also 'Local Offer'.
FSM	Free School Meals	Free school meals are provided for children whose families are in receipt of benefits such as income support or income based job seeker's allowance.
FSP	[Early Years] Foundation Stage Profile	See 'EYFSP'.
FTE	First Time Entrant (to Youth Justice)	Young person who commits an offence and enters the youth justice system for the first time.
FTE	Full Time Equivalent	Term used in school finance to count the number of pupils who attend full time, calculated as 25 hours per week.
GLA	Greater London Authority	
GLD	Good Level of Development	Assessment of progress being made in early Key Stages at school.
HE	Higher Education	Commonly used to refer to post-18/19 education in Universities or colleges.
HFP	Helping Families Programme	A model used in the Transforming Families Team which takes a systemic approach to supporting high risk complex families' working in partnership with the family to 'ensure a shared and common purpose, from the very first contact. See also TF.
HI	Hearing Impairment	Type of Special Educational Need in the 'Sensory and / or Physical Needs' category. See also 'SEN'.
ICPC	Initial Child Protection Conference	First Case Conference held when there has been a child protection investigation. See also 'CPC'.
IDACI	Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index	Measure, in a local area, of the proportion of children under the age of 16 that live in low income households.
IEP	Individual Education Plan	Individualised plan for learning for children with Special Education Needs or Disability.
IGC	Intergenerational Centre	Former name of the Acacia Centre. See also 'Acacia Centre'.
IMD	Indices of Multiple Deprivation	Measure of the level of deprivation in an area.
IRO	Independent Reviewing Officer	Responsible for quality assuring the care planning process for looked after children (LAC) and children with a child protection plan (CPP), and ensuring that his / her current wishes and feelings are given full consideration. See also 'LAC' and 'CPP'
IYSS	Integrated Youth Support System	Database which tracks young people's (aged 16-19) engagement in education, training and employment. See also 'EET' and 'NEET'.
Joint Commissioning & Partnerships [Service]		

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
JSNA	Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	
JTAI	Joint Targeted Area Inspections	
JMC	Jan Malinowski Centre	A day centre for people with learning disabilities.
KS1	Key Stage 1	Legal term for schooling in maintained primary schools during Year 1 and Year 2.
KS2	Key Stage 2	Legal term for schooling in maintained primary schools during Years 3-6.
KS3	Key Stage 3	Legal term for schooling in maintained secondary schools during Years 7-9.
KS4	Key Stage 4	Legal term for schooling in maintained secondary schools during Years 10-11.
LA	Local authority	
LAC	Looked After Children	Child who is looked after by the state. This includes those who are subject to a care order or temporarily classed as looked after on a planned basis for short breaks or respite care. The term is also used to describe 'accommodated' children and young people who are looked after on a voluntary basis at the request of, or by agreement with, their parents.
LDA	Learning Difficulty Assessment	Assessment setting out the additional learning support a young person will need when continuing into post-16 education or training. Replaced by Education, Health and Care Plans from 1 September 2014. See also 'EHC' plan.
LLDD	Learners with Learning Difficulties and Disabilities	
LGFL	London Grid for Learning	Consortium of the 33 London local authorities and 2,500 schools working together to provide extensive and cost effective ICT services.
LiR	Learning Improvement Review	A review of a serious case, that does not meet the statutory threshold for a Serious Case Review (SCR), but where it is indicated that analysis of the case will provide a 'window' into the multi-agency safeguarding system, and inform improvements. See also SCR.
Local Offer		Merton website of information about the special educational provision for children and young people with SEN which the local authority expects to be available. This is a statutory duty of the local authority under the Children and Families Act 2014. See also 'C&F Act' and 'FSD'
LSCB	Local Safeguarding Children Board	See 'MSCB'.
MAPPA	Multi-Agency Public Protection Arrangements	Arrangements for the management, by the responsible authorities, (Probation, Prison Service and the Police) of registered sex offenders, violent and other types of sexual offenders, and offenders who pose a serious risk of harm to the public
MARAC	Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference	Multi-agency meeting where information is shared on the borough's highest risk domestic abuse cases.
MASH	Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub	Single point of contact to children's services where there is a concern about a child and their family. Staff in the MASH are from a range of agencies - children's social care, police, health, education - and combine their knowledge to make the most appropriate and informed decisions to keep children safe from harm.
MASH and Child Protection		Service area in the Children, Schools and Families Department, Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion Division.
MAOS	Merton's Autism Outreach Service	

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
MCCG	Merton Clinical Commissioning Group	Merton Clinical Commissioning Group is responsible for planning and buying healthcare services for the people who live or work in the borough; made up of local GPs and health professionals.
MEP	Merton Education Partnership	
MI	Motivational Interviewing	An approach to counselling work with adolescents and families to support engagement and facilitate behaviour change.
MIASS	Merton Information, Advice and Guidance support service	Local providers of impartial advice and guidance in use of the Local Offer to parent / carers and young people with regard to the identification of special educational needs.
MLD	Moderate Learning Difficulty	Type of Special Educational Need in the 'Cognition and Learning Needs' category. See also 'SEN'.
MLLST	Merton's Language and Learning Service	Provide expertise in the areas of learning difficulties, specific learning difficulties (dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia) and speech, language and communication issues.
MOPAC	Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime	Function of Mayor of London. Funding source.
MSI	Multi-Sensory Impairment	Type of Special Educational Need in the 'Sensory and / or Physical Needs' category. See also 'SEN'.
MSI	Merton School Improvement [Service]	Service area in the Children, Schools and Families Department, Education Division.
MST	Multi Systemic Therapy	Intensive family therapy in the home to young people with complex clinical, social and educational problems with the aim of preventing family breakdown.
MVSC	Merton Voluntary Sector Council	Support and advice to the voluntary and community sector in Merton.
MWBM	Merton Well Being Model [alternative for CYPWBM]	Framework used across Merton's Children's Trust to identify need and secure appropriate services. See also 'Children's Trust Board'.
MYP	Merton Youth Parliament	Forum for young people aged 11 – 19 years (or 25 for disabled young people) which ensures that young people's views are listened to and inform decisions about service developments.
NC	National Curriculum	Set of subjects and standards used by primary and secondary schools so children learn the same things. It covers what subjects are taught and the standards children should reach in each subject.
NDCS	National Deaf Children's Society	
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training	Term used in relation to monitoring the number of young people aged 16-18 who are not in education, training or employment. See also 'EET'.
NFA	No Further Action	Decision made about a case that is referred to the MASH process, where it is decided that there is no child protection concern. See also 'MASH'.
NICE	The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence	
NQSW	Newly Qualified Social Worker	Social worker who is in the first two years of post-qualification.
NRPF	No recourse to public funds	People who are subject to immigration control and have no entitlement to welfare benefits, Home Office support for asylum seekers or public housing.
NtG	Narrowing the Gap	Programme hosted by the Local Government Association which aimed to 'Narrow the Gap' in outcomes between vulnerable and excluded children and others, against a context of improving outcomes for all.
NVQ	National Vocational Qualification	Work based awards that are achieved through assessment and training.

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
Ofsted	Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills	Regulatory body for services which care for children and young people, and those providing education and skills for learners of all ages.
OMP	Offender Management Panel	Multi agency panel that manages young people and adults who are a concern in the borough, as they are at a high risk of reoffending, and causing serious harm.
ONS	Office for National Statistics	UK's largest independent producer of official statistics and the recognised national statistical institute of the UK.
OTH	Other difficulty / disability	Type of Special Educational Need. See also 'SEN'.
PA	Persistent Absence	When a pupil is absent from school for 15% or more of the academic year.
PD	Physical Disability	Type of Special Educational Need in the 'Sensory and / or Physical Needs' category. See also 'SEN'.
PEP	Personal Education Plan	Individualised plan for learning for looked after children. See also 'LAC'.
	Permanent Exclusion	When a child is excluded permanently from school and removed from the school roll. See also 'Exclusion' and 'Fixed Term Exclusion'
PF	Private Fostering	Private fostering is when a child under the age of 16 (under 18 if disabled) is cared for by someone who is not their parent or a 'close relative'. This is a private arrangement made between a parent and a carer, for 28 days or more. Close relatives are defined as step-parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, uncles or aunts (whether of full blood, half blood or marriage / affinity).
PH	Public health	The responsibility for public health is now in local authorities. The Public Health team in Merton work closely in partnership with the support of Merton Clinical Commissioning Group. See also 'CCG'.
PI	Performance Indicator	Measure of success of activities within an organisation or service. These will include measure of process, quality, outcome, perception and value for money.
PLO	Public Law Outline 2014	Children and Families Act 2014 makes changes to Part 12 of the Family Procedure Rules 2010 and requires that all care proceedings are completed within a maximum of 26 weeks. See also 'C&F Act'.
PMLD	Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty	Type of Special Educational Need in the 'Cognition and Learning Needs' category. See also 'SEN'.
PPP	Policy, Planning and Performance [Service]	Service area in the Children, Schools and Families Department.
PPYPG	Promote and Protect Young People Group	Multi-agency group tasked with identifying and responding to issues of known or suspected child sexual exploitation in Merton.
PRU	Pupil Referral Unit	Local authority maintained establishment that provides education for children who are excluded, sick, or otherwise unable to attend a mainstream or special maintained school. See also 'Exclusion'.
PSHE	Personal, Social and Health Education	Part of the national curriculum in secondary schools, a planned programme of education aimed at equipping young people with the knowledge, understanding, attitudes and practical skills to live healthily, safely, productively and responsibly. See also 'NC'.
PVI	Private, Voluntary and Independent [Sector]	Term used to describe organisations outside of the local authority. Commonly used in reference to nurseries and schools.
QA	Quality Assurance	Assessing the quality of service delivery by a standard set of criteria, or 'quality framework'.
QAPD	Quality Assurance and Practice Development [Service]	See Quality Assurance and Practice Development.
Quality Assurance and		Service area in the Children, Schools and Families Department, Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion Division.

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
Practice Development		
RAG	Red, Amber, Green	Rating system used to identify the level of success achieved against a performance measure
RCPC	Review Child Protection Conference	Case conference which is held within 3 months of the Initial Child Protection Conference. See also 'CPC' and 'ICPC'
Reception		First year of statutory schooling, which in Merton begins in the September of the academic year in which the child turns age 5.
R&I	Research & Information [Team]	Team in the Children, Schools and Families Department, policy, Planning & Performance Service dealing with statutory returns, data and reporting needs across the department.
RI	Racist Incident	Incidents in schools, recorded by schools and reported to the local authority, involving racist bullying / racism.
RI	Requires Improvement	Ofsted categorisation used within the inspection of local authority Social Care functions and within the schools inspection framework.
RPA	Raising Participation Age	Increasing the age to which all young people in England must continue in education or training, requiring them to continue until the end of the academic year in which they turn 17 from 2013 and until their 18th birthday from 2015.
S17	Section 17	Section 17 of the Children Act 1989 which covers Children in Need (CIN).
S41	Section 47	Section 47 of the Children Act 1989 which covers Children suffering or likely to suffer, significant harm.
Safeguarding		Range of activities which seek to: protect children from maltreatment; prevent impairment of children's health or development; and ensure children are growing up in circumstances consistent with the provision of safe and effective care. See also 'Child Protection'.
Safeguarding & Care Planning	Safeguarding & Care Planning [Service]	Service area in the Children, Schools and Families Department, Children's Social Care and Youth Inclusion Division.
SaLT	Speech and Language Therapy	Assessment and treatment of speech, language and communication problems in children and young people to enable them to communicate to the best of their ability.
School Action (A)		This may involve extra teachers, different learning materials, special equipment or a different teaching strategy. This term has been replaced with 'School Support' since the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014 came into force. See also 'School Support'.
School Action Plus (P)		Process of support implemented when 'School Action' has not been able to help a child with learning difficulties to make adequate progress. At this level the school will seek external advice from agencies including the local authority support services, health services and children's social care. This term has been replaced with 'School Support' since the provisions of the Children and Families Act 2014 came into force. See also 'School Support'
SCR	Serious Case Review	In some instances where a child has suffered harm, a serious case review is carried out to see what lessons can be learnt about how local professionals and organisations worked together and to make recommendations so that the welfare of children is better protected in future. See also LiR.
SDQ	Strengths and difficulties questionnaire	Completed by the main carer of a looked after child, and used in the local authority data collection on the emotional health and well-being of looked after children. This data is submitted to the Department for Education as part of the SSDA 903 return. See also 'SSDA 903'.

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
SEAL	Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning	Programme in schools which implements a holistic approach to promoting the social and emotional skills that underpin effective learning, positive behaviour, regular attendance, staff effectiveness and the emotional health and well-being of all who learn and work in school.
SEF	Self Evaluation Framework	Framework by which an organisation, service or team can evaluate their own performance. Often used to refer to the document produced as a result of undertaking a 'self evaluation' of the organisation, service or team in readiness for an inspection.
SEMH	Social, Emotional and Mental Health	Formerly known as BESD. Category of Special Educational Need. See also 'SEN'.
SEN	Special Educational Needs	Pupils who have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of pupils of their age, or have a disability which means that they cannot make full use of the general educational facilities provided for pupils of their age.
SENCO	Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator	The designated teach in schools or lead in early years establishments responsible for oversight of children with SEND.
SEND	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.	Term used to describe children and young people with SEN (see 'SEN') and disabilities (see 'CWD').
SENDIS	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Integrated Service	Service area in the Children, Schools and Families Department, Education Division.
SFR	Statistical First Release	DfE data release for schools and educational attainment statistics.
SGO	Special Guardianship Order	Secures permanent care for a child by a family member, such as grandparent, aunt or uncle, while maintaining a legal relationship with the birth family.
Short Breaks		Previously known as 'respite care' short breaks give children and young people with disabilities the chance to do something they enjoy, while giving parents time away from caring.
SIF	Single Inspection Framework	See 'Single Inspection'.
Single Inspection		The Ofsted inspection of services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers (single inspection framework) and reviews of Local Safeguarding Children Boards.
SLA	Service Level Agreement	Formal document that defines a working relationship between parties to a service contract.
SLCN	Speech, Language and Communication Needs	Type of Special Educational Need in the 'Communication and Interaction Needs' category.
SLD	Severe Learning Difficulty	Type of Special Educational Need in the 'Cognition and Learning Needs' category. See also 'SEN'.
SMART Centre (The)		See 'PRU'.
SN	Statistical Neighbours	Local authorities who have a similar demographic profile to the London Borough of Merton, and thus make useful comparators to Merton.
SOA	Super Output Area	Set of geographical areas, (defined after the 2001 Census) of consistent size, whose boundaries will not change, suitable for the publication of data such as the Indices of Deprivation (IMD). See also 'IMD'.
SoS	Signs of Safety	A strengths-based, safety-organised approach to child protection casework used across Merton's children's services.
Specialist	Specialist level service	Service provided to children and families assessed as being at the specialist level of need (highest level) on the Merton Well Being Model. See also 'MWBM'.
SpLD	Specific Learning Difficulty	Type of Special Educational Need in the 'Cognition and Learning Needs' category. See also 'SEN'.
SPA	Single Point of Access	See 'SPoA'.

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
SPoA	Single Point of Access	Single point of access to CAMHs to streamline referrals.
SSDA 903		Annual statistical return to the Department for Education about children looked after children. See also 'LAC'.
STA	Standards and Testing Agency	Executive agency of the Department for Education, now responsible for the development and delivery of all statutory assessments from early years to the end of Key Stage 3. See also 'Key Stage 3'.
Statement	Statement of Special Educational Needs	Document setting out the needs of a child with a learning difficulty and specifying the extra help they should get to meet these needs. Replaced by Education, Health and Care Plans from 1 September 2014. See also 'EHC' plan.
SWLSEP	South West London School Effectiveness Partnership	Partnership between the London boroughs of Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton, Wandsworth and Croydon to support their capacity for school improvement, through co-operation and joint project work.
TA	Teacher Assessments	Judgement made by teachers on a pupil's progress and performance made at the end of Key Stage 2 and 3. See also 'Key Stage 2' and 'Key Stage 3'.
TAC	Team Around the Child	Multi-disciplinary team of practitioners established on a case-by-case basis to support a child, young person or family, using the common assessment framework. See also 'CAF' and 'CASA'.
TAF	Team Around the Family	See 'TAC'.
TaMHS	Targeted Mental Health in Schools	School based project aiming to improve the mental and emotional health in children and young people, focussing on both staff training, and interventions with pupils.
Targeted Local Authority Inspection	Targeted Local Authority Inspection	A 'deep dive' inspection by Ofsted in a local authority where there are concerns, or where there is effective practice which other Local Authorities could learn from. This focuses on children who are at risk of a specific type (or types) of harm, or the support and care of children looked after and / or care leavers. See also: Single Inspection, Joint Targeted Area Inspection, DV, and CSE.
TASC	Team for Autistic Spectrum and Communication Conditions	Team within the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Integrated Service responsible for supporting children living in Merton who have a diagnoses of Autistic Spectrum Disorder, or communication disorder, and who are attending mainstream schools.
TF	Transforming Families	Merton's implementation of the national Troubled Families Initiative, which aims to address persistent worklessness, offending and anti social behaviour in families, and low school attendance. In Merton this type of intensive work with families was previously delivered by FIP (Family Intervention Project).
Think Family		A whole family approach to interventions to support and improve outcomes for children and young people. This is also a key priority in the MSCB Business Plan: Think Family – to support children and adults in our most vulnerable families to reduce risk and ensure improved outcomes. See also: MSCB.
Tightrope (Model)		A tool used by Merton's Youth Justice Team which supports workers to engage young people in discussions to identify concerns and strengths.
TOM	Target Operating Model	A statement of how an organisation will deliver its services within a certain structure at a future point in time.
TP	Teenage Pregnancy	Service responsible for delivering advice and guidance to young people on contraception and sexual health, sex and relationships and support to pregnant teenagers and teenage parents
UA	Unauthorised Absence	Absence from school not authorised by the school. See also 'Authorised Absence'.

Acronym / jargon	In full	Brief description (where necessary)
UASC	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children	
Universal		Service provided to children and families assessed as being at the universal level of need (lowest level) on the Merton Well Being Model. See also 'MWBM'.
UPN	Unique Pupil Number	Unique identifying number assigned to school pupils.
URN	Unique Reference Number	Unique identifying number assigned educational establishments.
VA	Value Added	See 'CVA'.
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls	
VBS	Virtual Behaviour Service	Team within the Education Inclusion Service area supporting pupils with behaviour problems in school. See also 'Education Inclusion'.
VCS	Voluntary and Community Sector	Organisations and community groups with charitable objectives providing not for profit services.
VCT	Vulnerable Children Team	Team within the MASH and Child Protection [Service], delivering 'enhanced' level services to children aged 5-18. See also 'MASH and Child Protection' and 'Enhanced'.
VI	Visual Impairment	Type of Special Educational Need in the 'Sensory and/or Physical Needs' category. See also 'SEN'.
VIG	Video Interactive Guidance	
Virtual School	Virtual School for Looked After Children	See 'Virtual School for LAC'.
VRQ	Vocationally Related Qualifications	Widely recognised professional qualifications, enabling learners to improve their knowledge, skills and understanding of specific areas of employment.
VS	Virtual School for Looked After Children	See 'Virtual School for LAC'.
YA	Young Advisors	Merton Young Advisors are teams of young people aged between 13-19 who are trained and supported to work with community leaders and decision makers to ensure that young people participate in community life, and inform local decision making and service developments.
YISP	Youth Inclusion Support Panel	Panel which identifies and supports young people, aged 8 to 13 who are at a high risk of offending and antisocial behaviour.
YJB	Youth Justice Board	Executive non-departmental public body overseeing the youth justice system in England and Wales. It works to prevent offending and reoffending by children and young people under the age of 18, and ensures that custody for them is safe, secure, and addresses the causes of their offending behaviour.
YJS	Youth Justice Service	Team within Targeted Adolescent Services. See also 'Targeted Adolescent Services'
YMT	Young Merton Together	Web based publication for Merton's Children's Trust.
YOT	Youth Offending Team	Merton team which is part of the criminal justice system, and also works with young people at early stages of offending, or who may be at risk of crime or anti-social behaviour.
YP	Young person	

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