

Policy for Special Educational Needs / Disabilities (SEND) 2024-25

POLICY ON IDENTIFYING, ASSESSING AND PROVIDING FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND/OR DISABILITIES

GUIDING PRINCIPLES

All our pupils have the right to an education which is appropriate to them as individuals. As far as possible therefore it is our aim to minimise the difficulties that pupils will experience. We aim to achieve this by adopting three principles that are essential to developing a more inclusive curriculum.

Three principles for inclusion:

Setting suitable learning challenges – We aim to give every pupil the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible

Responding to pupils' diverse learning needs – We take into account the different backgrounds, experiences, interests and strengths which influence the way in which pupils learn when we plan our approaches to teaching and learning

Overcoming potential barriers to learning and assessment for individuals and groups of pupils – We recognise that a minority of pupils will have particular learning and assessment requirements that will create barriers to learning if we do not address them through special arrangements.

In making provision for pupils with Special educational needs our policy objectives are:

- to ensure that our duties, as set out in the Equality Act 2010, are fully met to enable pupils with special educational needs and disabilities to join in the normal activities of the school along with pupils who do not have special educational needs;

- to ensure the school has an Accessibility Plan in line with statutory guidelines.
- to ensure that all pupils gain access to a broad and balanced curriculum and have an equal opportunity to receive an education that is appropriate to their needs;
- to identify the needs of pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs (SEN) as early as possible;
- to use our resources as efficiently and equitably as possible when assessing and meeting the special educational needs of our pupils;
- to provide a graduated approach in order to match educational provision to pupils' needs;
- to develop a partnership with parents/carers in order that their knowledge, views and experience can assist us in assessing and providing for their children;
- to take into account the ascertainable wishes of the children concerned and involve them in decision making in order to provide more effectively for them;
- to make reasonable adjustments to enable children with disabilities to access the whole school curriculum including school trips and out of hours activities and learning.
- to ensure effective collaboration with Local Authority (LA) services, health services and social care in order to ensure effective action on behalf of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities;
- to ensure that all staff are aware of their responsibilities towards children with special educational needs and are able to exercise them;
- to carry out the above promptly and with sensitivity in order to avoid embarrassment or further disadvantage to the children we are seeking to help

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

In attempting to achieve the above objectives, the Governors, the Principal, the SENCo, the Inclusion Manager and the staff will take all reasonable steps within the limit of the resources available to fulfil the requirements outlined in this policy document.

Governors – will fulfil their statutory duties towards pupils with special educational needs as prescribed in sections 66 to 69 of the Children & Families Act 2014. In order to do this, they will develop and monitor the school's SEN policy and Accessibility Plan and ensure provision is an integral part of the school development plan. All governors, with the SEN governor or committee of governors taking the lead, will be knowledgeable about the school's SEN provision, including how funding, equipment and personnel are deployed. The governors will monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEN provision and ensure all staff are appropriately trained and qualified.

The role of the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo)

Mrs Fenton is the school's named SEND coordinator. Mrs Fenton is the school's Inclusion Lead and has overall responsibility for the day to day management of SEN provision, including the operation of this and co-ordinates provision for pupils with SEN by working closely with staff, parents/carers and other agencies; providing professional guidance to colleagues with the aim of securing high quality teaching; monitoring the quality of teaching and standards of pupils' achievement, and by setting targets for improvement; collaborating with curriculum co-ordinators to ensure learning for all children is given equal priority; ensuring that proper records are kept; contributing to the in-service training of staff; using available resources to maximum effect. The SENCo will keep the governing body fully informed about the working of this policy, taking account of the requirements listed by OFSTED in the Handbook for the Inspection of Schools. She will encourage all members of staff to participate in training to help them to meet the objectives of this policy.

All staff should be fully aware of the contents of this policy and, in particular, of the procedures described below. Appropriate in-service training will be made available.

ADMISSIONS

The school aims to meet the needs of any pupil whom the parent wishes to register at the school as long as a place is available and the admission criteria are fulfilled. This currently includes pupils with disabilities who we anticipate might attend. The currently agreed admissions policy of the Governors makes no distinction with regard to pupils who have SEND. No pupil can be refused admission solely on the grounds that s/he has SEND except where the pupil is the subject of an EHCP under the Children and Families Act 2014 and the Local Education Authority has indicated that the provision required is incompatible with that available at our school.

Where a pupil due for admission is known to have special educational needs, the SENCo will gather appropriate information from any school the pupil has been attending and from other agencies known to have been involved. The donating school is responsible for providing this information.

SPECIAL FACILITIES

The school has ramped access for wheelchair users, a lift to the upper floor and fully equipped disabled toilet/changing facilities for children with special physical needs.

RESOURCES

When the Governing Body approves the school's budget, consideration will be given to the resources allocated to meeting special educational needs. The annual SEND report to parents (available on the school's website) will also include this information. The Principal, Business Manager, SENCo and Inclusion Manager will manage the allocated funds and will ensure that the best use is made of these resources through Provision Mapping. It is now a mandatory requirement that schools fund up to the first £6000 of any SEN support required.

STAGES OF INTERVENTION AND PROVISION

Access to the school's broad and balanced curriculum is achieved for pupils by differentiation of work by teachers through Quality First teaching. Pupils falling just below national expectations will usually benefit from a variety of accelerating learning programmes. When a pupil is consistently and significantly falling behind normal expectations, specifically focused interventions will be implemented (SEN Support).

SEN Support

This follows an ASSESS, PLAN, DO, REVIEW model of graduated intervention.

An important feature of SEN Support is the collection of all known information about the pupil and that those in regular daily contact with the pupil should attempt to deal with the concerns raised. When a teacher, member of the support staff or SENCo identifies a pupil with special educational needs they will provide interventions ADDITIONAL TO or DIFFERENT FROM those provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum offer. Consideration will be given when setting homework that it is also differentiated according to the pupil's speed of working. The triggers for intervention will be concerns about the individual pupil who, despite receiving differentiated learning opportunities;

- makes little or no progress
- shows signs of difficulty in developing literacy and numeracy skills that result in significantly poor attainment in line their peers
- show persistent emotional difficulties which continue despite management techniques generally used in the school
- has significant sensory or physical problems that impact on their ability to learn
- has communication and/or relationship difficulties which continue despite differentiated approaches to the curriculum.

The parents/carers of the pupil will be informed as soon as concerns emerge and will be consulted with by appropriate staff, and the views of the pupil sought. All information about the pupil from within the school, together with any additional information from the parents will be considered. The SENCo will undertake further assessment of the pupil as appropriate and may use outside specialists to enhance the provision being made. The SENCo will facilitate the collection of all available information about the pupil. Information will be collected from;

- within the school, using qualitative data from teaching and support staff
- progress tracking information
- parents/carers and the pupil.

All staff will be involved in providing further help to pupils. The class teacher and pupil will discuss their learning and future targets in a termly learning conversation. The interventions, conversations and resulting targets will be recorded on the pupil's Learning Conversations form, of which a copy of which will be sent home each term and discussed at parent's evening. If you have any queries related to the interventions please do not hesitate to contact the class teacher or SENCo.

Pupil Progress meetings are held each term. This is a meeting where the class teacher meets with the Principal and team leader to discuss the progress of the pupils in their class. This shared discussion may highlight any potential problems in order for further support to be planned which will be discussed and implemented by the SENCo.

A request for additional advice from external services may be made at this stage. It is anticipated that the decision to seek further advice will be taken by the SENCo in consultation with teaching staff, parents and pupil.

Specialist assessment arrangements may need to be made and the Educational Psychology Service involved at this time.

Progress may be such that the pupil is no longer giving cause for concern and can revert to being subject to the usual differentiated curriculum available to all pupils.

However, if the pupil or young person:

- continues to make little or no progress in specific areas over a long period of time
- continues working at National Curriculum levels substantially below that expected of pupils of a similar age
- continues to have difficulty in developing literacy and numeracy skills
- has emotional difficulties, which substantially and regularly interfere with their learning or that of the class, despite having an individualised programme
- has sensory and/or physical needs, and requires additional specialist equipment, and/or regular advisory visits from an outside agency
- has ongoing communication or relationship difficulties which impedes social

- development and acts as a barrier to learning
- is receiving at least £6,000 of support and any pupil premium to which they are entitled

then a statutory assessment may be sought from the Local Authority

School Request for a Statutory Assessment (Education, Health, Care Plan – EHCP)

The SENCo will again take a leading role and will provide information including:

- the school's action through Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycles
- individual progress plans for the pupil
- records of regular reviews for at least a twelve-month period
- an individual provision map
- the pupil's health, including a medical history where relevant (including Individual Health Care Plans – See Medical Policy)
- tracking of progress in National Curriculum levels
- attainments in literacy and numeracy
- educational assessments from an advisory specialist support teacher and/or educational psychologist
- views of the parent and child
- involvement of other professionals
- involvement of the social services or education welfare services
- pupil attendance details
- recent hearing and vision checks

Where there is agreement to proceed, the LA will take the lead in assessing and determining the provision that must be made to meet the pupil's special educational needs. The school's role here is to continue to support the pupil and this remains the case if the LA decides not to draw up an Education, Health and Care Plan following an assessment.

Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

If the LA does draw up an Education, Health and Care Plan then the school's role is as follows.

1. The SENCo will implement the recommendations
2. Short-term targets will be set and reviewed at least three times a year. The strategies to meet those targets will record only that which is ADDITIONAL TO or DIFFERENT FROM the differentiated curriculum.
3. Progress will be formally reviewed by holding an annual review meeting.
4. The SENCo will;

- seek written advice from parents and professionals
 - ascertain the views of the pupil
 - convene the review meeting
 - prepare a review report for the LA
5. Those to be invited at least two weeks before the meeting are;
- the pupil's parent/carer
 - relevant teacher/s and TA/s
 - representative of the LA
 - the pupil
 - where appropriate representatives of health and social services, other professionals closely involved and, in the year of transfer to further education, SENCo or representatives from colleges/sixth form colleges etc.
6. The review report will be copied to parents, LA and other relevant professionals no later than 10 days after the meeting or at the end of term, whichever is the earliest.

The Annual Review in Years Five and Six

The annual review in Year Five should be held no later than the end of the Spring Term. The review should suggest amendments to the pupil's Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) if required. The Plan once amended will be used to inform the consultation for secondary schools in the following Autumn Term. The secondary school placement for all children with EHCPs will be decided by February. Following this, planning for transfer to secondary school will be undertaken. Part of this process will be arranging the Year Six annual review in the Spring Term or as early as possible thereafter, to which the SENCo or their representative from the receiving secondary review will be invited. This must be a person centered review and a one page profile written to go with the pupil to secondary school.

INCLUSION

We are fully committed to the principle of inclusion and the good practice which makes it possible. Our policy, as set out in this document, will enable pupils with SEN to be an integral part of our school community.

Regardless of the stage pupils have reached, all pupils will be given full access to the full range of activities the school has to offer. This will be achieved by careful consideration of the needs of each pupil and by either modifying activities or by providing support that will help the pupil to participate in them. Pupils will only be withdrawn when:

- The child will benefit from some intensive individual work on a cross curricular skill (e.g. reading).
- It is clearly inappropriate, or medical advice indicates that it is unsafe for the pupil to participate and some alternative has to be arranged.

Neither of the above will compromise the general principle that all children will be able to participate in a broad and balanced curriculum, including the National Curriculum.

INVOLVING PUPILS AND PARENTS/CARERS

The views of parents/carers will be sought at all stages of assessment and provision. The views of the child will be ascertained and the pupil will be directly involved in the process. All communication involving decisions about a pupil will be recorded and dated. Letters to parents regarding decisions about their child will have a section to be signed and returned.

Staff will get to know the parents of pupils with SEN and will encourage them to work with us in helping their child. Parents and teachers can, by working together, build up a more complete picture of a pupil and his/her needs. We intend that parents will feel able to ask about our provision and express their concerns to us. In return we will seek their help regarding work that they can do with their child at home.

Records will be kept of all who are parents and/or have parental responsibility for each pupil. When this involves adults in more than one household we will deal directly with the parent who has day to day responsibility for the pupil. We will seek to involve all parents and those who have parental responsibility in decisions about their child, while appreciating the sensitivities that may arise.

SERVICES FOR PARENTS OF CHILDREN WITH SEN

The LA has made arrangements to provide impartial information and advice on SEN matters to the parents/carers of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The overall aim of the service is to empower parents to play an active and informed role in their child's education. They provide a range of useful information which is available directly from the service on their website. This can be accessed at the following link: [Manchester IASS](#)

CHANGING SCHOOLS

When a child leaves us to transfer to another school, the SENCo will forward relevant information about the child's needs and the efforts we have made to meet them.

Where a pupil is moving to a local school this will be achieved, wherever possible, by inviting a representative from the receiving school to the last review meeting that is held under the staged procedures described above. We maintain good links with schools who receive our pupils and this is particularly so in respect of pupils with SEN or disabilities

WORKING WITH OUTSIDE AGENCIES

The Inclusion Lead, will oversee and liaise with Health Services, Social Care and other relevant professionals working with pupils in the school. Health Care planning will follow the protocol agreed by Health and Education. The Inclusion Lead, will ensure that staff have relevant training and that there are procedures in place to support pupils.

COMPLAINTS

If you have any complaint about the special educational provision we make for your child please speak to the SENCo, Inclusion Lead, Principal, or to a member of the governing body. If you speak to a governor s/he will, in the first instance, refer the matter to the Principal. The Principal will investigate and will contact you within 5 school days. If they have not resolved the matter to your satisfaction it will be referred to the Governing Body who will consider the complaint at their next meeting and will contact you within 5 school days from the date of that meeting. It is the responsibility of parents/carers who have concerns regarding the special needs provision for their child to initiate this procedure.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

The Governors will ensure that SEN provision is an integral part of the school development plan and will evaluate the effectiveness and success of this policy in the light of the policy objectives detailed under the heading "Guiding Principles". In order to achieve this, Governors will monitor:

- The standards and progress obtained by pupils with special educational needs.
- The number of children at SEN support and those with an EHCP in each year group.
- The movement of pupils on SEN support and EHCP across the categories as recorded on the school's provision map.
- The level and pattern of help provided at each stage (i.e. average time allocated and the balance of in-class and withdrawal help) as evidenced in the provision map.
- Case examples selected from all stages of pupils with special educational needs especially those who are Children in Care.

- The views of parents expressed on stage forms and any complaints received.
- The extent to which pupils' views are reflected on Learning Conversation forms.
- Details of visits by specialist teachers, educational psychologists and other agencies.
- Staff views on in-service training opportunities and the training opportunities available.

SEN INFORMATION REPORT

The school will publish an annual report on SEN on its website containing the information required by the Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations 2014. This will include further information about the local offer, which can be found at: [Manchester Local Offer](#)

REVIEW OF POLICY

	Date	Name of owner/author
Policy amended	July 2024	Leah Fenton (SENCO)
Policy ratified by Local Governing Bodies		
Next Annual Review Date	July 2025	