

Reviewed: August 2016

## Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

### INTRODUCTION

Our School promotes high standards and all pupils, regardless of their particular needs, are offered inclusive teaching, which enables them to make the best possible progress and develop as valued members of our school community.

We offer a range of provision to support children with (e.g. *communication and interaction, cognition and learning difficulties, social, mental and health problems or sensory or physical needs*). We have high expectations of all children and staff and we believe that it is the entitlement of all children to have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

### COMPLIANCE

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (January 2015) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE May 2014
- SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (January 2015)
- Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014)
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (April 2014)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers Standards 2012

The main changes from the SEN Code of Practice (2001) are as follows:

- now covers 0-25 year olds and includes guidance relating to disabled children and young people as well as those with SEN
- focuses on the participation of parents, children and young people (CYP) in decision making
- focuses on high aspirations and improving outcomes for children
- gives guidance on joint planning and commissioning to ensure close cooperation between education, health and social care.
- gives guidance on publishing Local Offer for support
- gives guidance for education on a graduated approach to identifying and supporting CYP with single Special Educational Needs (SEN) Support - replacing School Action and School Action Plus
- for children with more complex needs a coordinated assessment process and the new 0-25 Education, Health and Care plan (EHC plan) replace statements and Learning Difficulty Assessments (LDAs)
- there is a greater focus on support that enables those with SEN to succeed in their education and make a successful transition to adulthood

## **Definition of 'SEND'**

The Special Education and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years (2015) states:

*Xiii A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.*

*Xiv A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:*

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or*
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions*

The definition of disability in the Equality Act (2010) states children with '*...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term (more than 12 months) and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities*'. This includes children with sensory impairments as well as long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy and cancer.

It also states that schools must make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services, to ensure that disabled children and young people are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

## **Broad Areas of Need (See Appendix 1)**

There are four broad areas of need:

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties
- Sensory and/or Physical Needs

When children are assessed and identified with SEND, we ensure that their needs are met and additional support is given where required, either within school or in collaboration with specialist external agencies. Children with SEN are taught and managed sensitively with a view to promoting their inclusion in all school activities as far as this can be reasonably arranged as well as promoting independence.

All children have access to a challenging curriculum, which is broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated.

When additional specialist advice and support, beyond what is offered in school, is necessary, we contact the appropriate external agencies and work closely with them to promote the child's well-being and development. Our Local Offer provides further information about the agencies we work with.

## **Identification of 'SEN'**

A key principle under the Code is that there should be no delay in making any necessary SEN provision in early years as delay at this stage can give rise to learning difficulty and subsequently to loss of self-esteem, frustration in learning and to behaviour difficulties. The Code states that:

*“Early action to address identified needs is critical to the future progress and improved outcomes that are essential in helping the child to prepare for adult life”.*

Some children arrive at our school with identified SEN, in which case the SENCO/Headteacher will liaise with the previous school, nursery or setting to ensure there is a smooth transition and continuity of provision.

If, during a child's time at our school, teachers have concerns about pupil progress or attainment, parents will be contacted to discuss these concerns so they can share their views. There is a period of monitoring and review, including an analysis of the child's progress compared with peers, national data and expectations of progress. Following this, and in consultation with all relevant staff at school the child (if appropriate) and the child's parents, a child may be identified as having SEN and appropriate provision will be made.

If parents have any concerns about their child they should contact their class teacher in the first instance. Alternatively, they may make an appointment to see the SENCO/Head teacher.

Many children may be subject to this period of monitoring and review for a short time, receiving time-limited and targeted interventions until they have progressed sufficiently to work at age-related expectations.

## **SEN Support**

Where a child is identified as having SEN we work in partnership with parents to establish the support the child needs. Once a child's needs have been discussed by relevant parties they are recorded and decisions made about the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment for that child. The views and wishes of the child and their parents are central to these discussions.

An Intervention and Support Plan is written. This is aimed at removing barriers to learning and putting effective special provision in place that is implemented and reviewed termly at least termly. Parents are invited to discuss this plan; their child's progress and the support and targets.

We adopt a graduated approach with four stages of action: assess, plan, do and review this means:

- **Assess** - in identifying a child as needing SEN support, the class teacher, working with the SENCO/Headteacher, the child (if appropriate), and the child's parents, carries out an analysis of the child's needs. This assessment draws on the teacher's assessment and experience of the child, their previous progress and attainment, as well as any other available (rate of progress, attainment, and behaviour etc.). This assessment should be reviewed regularly. In some cases, outside professionals from health or social services may already be involved with the child. With the agreement of the parents, these professionals should liaise with the school to help inform the assessments.
- **Plan** - Where it is decided to provide additional / SEN support, and having formally notified the parents, the class teacher and the SENCO/Headteacher agree, in consultation with the parent, the desired outcomes. Interventions and/or support are put in place, the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, and a clear date for review recorded. All teachers and support staff who work with the child are made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. This should also be recorded on the school's information system.
- **Do** - The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a daily basis. With support from the SENCO/Headteacher, they oversee the implementation of the interventions or programmes agreed as part of additional / SEN support. Where the interventions involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher, they should still retain responsibility for the child. The SENCO/Headteacher should support the

practitioner /class teacher in assessing the impact of the action taken, in problem solving and advising on the effective implementation of support.

- Review - The effectiveness, impact and quality of the support / interventions is reviewed, in line with the agreed date, by the practitioner / class teacher and SENCO/Headteacher, taking into account the child's parents and the child's views. This should feed back into the analysis of the child's needs. They revise the support in light of the child's progress and development, deciding any changes to the support and outcomes. Parents should have clear information about the impact of the support and interventions provided, enabling them to be involved in planning next steps.

This cycle of action is revisited. At agreed times parents are engaged with the setting, contributing their insights to assessment and planning. Intended outcomes are shared and reviewed with the child (if appropriate) and parent as well as the school.

## **Our school's graduated approach to SEN**

### **Level 1:**

Quality First Teaching (QFT)

Children receive inclusive quality first teaching (QFT) which may include the provision of differentiated classwork. Some children at this level may be on a monitoring list, their progress being carefully tracking and reviewing.

### **Level 2:**

Additional School Intervention

Continued or increase concern may lead to children receiving additional, time-limited and targeted interventions to accelerate their progress to age-related expectations. These interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching. The SENCO/Headteacher and class teachers will work closely with any support staff to plan and assess the impact of the support and interventions and to link them to classroom teaching. At this stage children from other agencies may be sought.

### **Level 3:**

High Need

Where a child continues to make less than expected progress, despite interventions, they receive highly personalized interventions to accelerate their progress and enable them to achieve their potential. When appropriate, specialist outside agencies support this. The SENCO/Headteacher and class teachers work with specialists to select effective teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions in order to support the child's progress. If support is not impacting on the child's progress and this is still of significant concern, the school, after consultation with parents and other professionals, will request an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment from the Local Authority. Parents can also request an EHC Needs Assessment.

## **Home School Partnership**

At Our school we recognize that parents know their children best. Parents are always welcome to discuss their child and their views are respected and their concerns are taken into consideration at all stages of the SEN procedure.

All parents/carers are invited to meet with their child's class teacher at least once a term as well as receiving regular telephone updates, half termly progress reports and a full End of Placement Report.

All pupils at the PRU are identified as having SEN will be invited to a further review once a term at which their child's progress, Intervention and Support Plan detailing the additional support, interventions and targets are discussed and agreed.

### **Pupil Views**

Children's views matter to us.

All children are aware of their termly targets and are encouraged to self-review against these. As part of the review process, SEN pupils, are also asked about their views on their strengths, the areas in which they feel they would like to develop and the support they would like to receive. As seen in the regularly updated Assertive Mentoring/Coaching Logs.

For their annual review children with Statements of SEN or EHCPs are asked more formally about their views, their learning, their targets and the support and interventions they are given by a member of the Inclusion Team.

In order to ensure the most effective 'SEND' provision, the SENCO /Head teacher has the following procedures in place:

- Weekly meetings with the SLT
- Weekly meetings with all class teachers
- Half termly meetings with all class teachers to discuss children on the SEN register and their provision, as well as further meetings and discussion as required.
- Pupil progress meetings
- Regular meetings with the Teaching Assistants.

### **Staff Development:**

The school is committed to providing INSET and staff development and SEN is a regular part of this. We monitor, review and develop all teachers and support staff's understanding of strategies to identify and support pupils with 'SEND'.

### **Conclusion:**

Our intention is to provide the opportunity for all children, including those with SEND, to progress towards achieving their full potential. The partnership between home and school is highly valued and children's views are listened to.

### **Related policies**

This policy should be read in conjuncture with other school policies particularly:

- Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Looked After Children Policy
- Complaints Policy

\_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**

\_\_\_\_\_ **Date**

