



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy



Boughton Primary School

An Academy

September 2024

An Academy

PERSON RESPONSIBLE FOR POLICY:	<i>MRS MARY JAMES</i>
TO BE REVIEWED:	<i>SEPTEMBER 2025</i>

At Boughton Primary the named personnel with designated responsibility for SEND are:

SENDCo	Head Teacher	SEND link governor
<i>Miss Charlotte Page</i>	<i>Mrs Mary James</i>	<i>Mrs Suzanne Williams</i>

Contact details for our SENDCo: senco@boughtonacademy.co.uk

Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the statutory [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#) and the following legislation:

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENDCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- The [Equality Act 2010](#) (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it
- The [Governance Handbook](#), which sets out governors' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- The [School Admissions Code](#), which sets out the school's obligation to admit all pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs

This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

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1. Aims and objectives

This special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy aims to:

- Ensure our school fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding pupils with SEND
- Set out how our school will:
 - Support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
 - Provide pupils with SEND access to all aspects of school life so they can engage, as much as possible, in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEND
 - Help pupils with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best
 - Help pupils with SEND become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
 - Communicate with pupils with SEND and their parents or carers and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Communicate with, and involve, pupils with SEND and their parents or carers in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Ensure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

2. Vision and values

At Boughton Primary we will provide all pupils with access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

We are committed to making sure all our pupils have the chance to thrive and supporting them to meet their full potential.

We are focused on creating an inclusive environment, where provision is tailored to the needs and abilities of pupils, no matter how varied.

We focus on individual progress as the main indicator of success.

We strive to make a clear distinction between underachievement (often caused by a different early experience of learning) and SEND.

3. Inclusion and equal opportunities

At our school we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that pupils with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

4. Definitions

4.1 Special educational needs

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a **learning difficulty or disability** if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

Some pupils may be underachieving (not reaching their potential) but will not necessarily have a special educational need. It is our responsibility to accurately identify this and ensure appropriate interventions are in place to narrow any learning gap.

4.2 Disability

Pupils are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

The school will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

4.3 The four areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into four broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than one area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	<p>Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or do not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
Cognition and learning	<p>Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Specific learning difficulties, which impact one or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia • Moderate learning difficulties • Severe learning difficulties • Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder • Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder • Suffered adverse childhood experiences <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>
Sensory and/or physical	<p>Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment <p>These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

5. Roles and responsibilities

5.1 The SENDCO

The SENDCO at our school is Charlotte Page.

She will:

- › Inform any parents that their child may have SEND and then liaise with them about the pupil's needs and any provision made
- › Work with the Head Teacher and SEND governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- › Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEND, including those who have EHC plans
- › Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- › Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEND support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils
- › Liaise with SLT regarding the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- › Be a point of contact for external agencies, e.g. the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to ensure that appropriate provision is provided
- › Liaise with prior or next providers of education to make sure that a smooth transition is planned
- › When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: ensure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEND and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner
- › Work with the Head Teacher and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- › Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate
- › With the Head Teacher, monitor & identify staff who training needs regarding SEND, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- › With the Head Teacher, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- › Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- › With the Head Teacher and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching.

5.2 The board of governors

The governing board is responsible for making sure the school carries out its statutory duties, though this can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- › Co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer
- › Do all it can to make sure that every pupil with SEND gets the support they need
- › Make sure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who don't have SEND
- › Inform parents when the school is making special educational provision for their child
- › Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any pupils with medical conditions
- › Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum

- › Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- › Provide an annual report for parents on their child's progress
- › Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for pupils with SEND
- › Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in a SEND information report
- › Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans
- › Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENDCO for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- › Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND

5.3 The SEND link governor

The SEND link governor is Mrs Suzanne Williams.

The SEND link governor will:

- › Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing board meetings
- › Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- › Work with the Head Teacher and SENDCO to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

5.4 The Head Teacher

The Head Teacher will:

- › Work with the SENDCO and SEND link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- › Work with the SENDCO and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- › Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND, and their progress
- › Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils
- › Make sure that the SENDCO has enough time to carry out their duties
- › Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register
- › Advise the LA when a pupil needs an EHC needs assessment, or when an EHC plan needs an early review
- › With the SENDCO, monitor & identify any specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- › With the SENDCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- › With the SENDCO and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching.

5.5 Class teachers

In line with the Code of Practice (2014), **EVERY** teacher is a teacher of SEND.

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- › Planning and providing Quality First Teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach
- › The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- › Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- › Working with the SENDCO to review individual pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- › Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- › Communicating with parents regularly to:
 - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them
 - Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
 - Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school
 - Listen to the parents' concerns and agree their aspirations for every child

5.6 Parents or carers

The school recognises that parents and carers are the children's first educators.

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a pupil on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the pupil's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- › Made to feel welcome and given the opportunity to play an active and valued role in their child's education
- › Invited to termly meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child
- › Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in the pupil's needs
- › Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the pupil, focusing on strengths as well as needs
- › Given an end of year report on their child's progress

The school will take into account the views of the parent or carer in any decisions made about the pupil.

5.7 The pupil

Pupils will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the pupil, as appropriate to age and stage:

- › Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- › Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- › Attending review meetings – if appropriate
- › Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The pupil's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

6. SEN information report

The school publishes a SEN information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school.

The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

7. Our approach to SEND support

7.1 Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. We will also consider any evidence that the pupil may have a disability and if so, what reasonable adjustments the school may need to make.

Class teachers will regularly observe and assess the progress of all pupils and identify any whose progress:

- › Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- › Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- › Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- › Widens the attainment gap

This may include progress in areas other than academic attainment, for example, wider development or social needs.

Potential short-term causes which impact on behaviour & attainment will be considered, such as bullying, bereavement and other factors. Staff will take particular care in identifying and assessing SEND where pupils' first language is not English

Teachers' first step will be to use quality-first differentiated teaching, in order to target areas for development.

If progress does not improve, the teacher will raise the concern with the SENDCo. They will have an initial discussion about possible causes of the lack of progress and barriers to learning.

7.2 Consulting and involving pupils and parents

The school will put the pupil at the heart of all decisions made about special educational provision. The class teacher will involve parents at the earliest possible stage, in order to maximise progress, whether or not there is an identified SEND.

An early discussion will take place, with the following aims:

- › Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- › We take into account any concerns the parents have
- › Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- › Everyone is clear on what the next steps are

Notes of these early discussions will be added to the pupil's record and given to their parents.

We will notify parents if it is decided that a pupil will be added to the SEND register, due to an identified need, or further investigations into difficulties.

7.3 The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a pupil has been identified as having SEND or needing SEND provision due to an unmet/unidentified need, we will take action to remove any barriers to learning, and put effective special educational provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.

1. Assess

The pupil's class teacher and the SENDCO will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. The views of the pupil and their parents will be taken into account. The school may also seek advice from external support services.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

2. Plan

In consultation with the parents and the pupil, the teacher and the SENDCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the pupil's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded within an Individual Education Plan (IEP).

Parents will be made aware of the planned support and interventions, and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

3. Do

The pupil's class teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. They will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

The SENDCO will support the teacher in further assessing the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

4. Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents and pupils
- The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil

The teacher and the SENDCO will revise the outcomes and support in light of the pupil's progress and development, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents.

7.4 Levels of support

School-based SEN provision

Pupils with identified needs or awaiting assessment will be placed on the school's SEND register. These pupils have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the pupil's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible.

The provision for these pupils is funded through the school's notional SEND budget.

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code K.

Education, health and care (EHC) plan

Pupils who need more support than is available through school-based SEND provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the pupil, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

The provision for these pupils will be funded from the school's notional SEND budget, and potentially from the LA (from the high-level needs funding block of the dedicated schools grant).

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code E.

7.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- › Tracking pupils' progress, using the assessments undertaken in all classes, or individualised assessment against pupil targets
- › Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- › Using pupil questionnaires
- › Monitoring by the SENDCO & SEND governor
- › Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans, which includes the opportunity for parent feedback

8. Expertise and training of staff

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff. The Head Teacher and the SENDCO will continuously monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

9. Links with external professional agencies

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary the school will work with external support services such as:

- Speech and language therapists
- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians
- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- School Attendance Support Officers
- Social services

10. Admission and accessibility arrangements

No pupil will be refused admission on the basis of SEND. Pupils who have SEND will be admitted under the same criteria as any other pupil applying for a school place (see Admissions Policy). In line with the Equality Act (2010), we will not discriminate against children with disabilities and will take all reasonable steps to provide effective educational provision.

10.1 Admission arrangements

The school has an agreed Published Admission Number (PAN) of 30 children for entry in Reception. Places will first be allocated to children who have an Education, Health Care (EHC) Plan that names the school as offering the appropriate provision.

Pupils with SEND, without an EHCP, are subject to the same admissions criteria as all other pupils.

10.2 Accessibility arrangements

Our school's accessibility plan can be found on the school website. We endeavor to ensure that disabled pupils are not treated less favourably than other pupils.

We follow the recommendations from outside agencies and specialists, to provide the facilities, services or support required, budget permitting.

11. Complaints about SEND provision

Where parents have concerns about our school's SEND provision, they should first raise their concerns informally with the class teacher. We will try to resolve the complaint informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve their concerns, parents should contact the SENDCo.

If a concern remains unresolved, parents should follow the procedures outlined in the school Complaints Policy.

If the parent or carer is not satisfied with the school's response, they can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the pupil themselves.

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the [SEN Code of Practice](#).

To find out about disagreement resolution and mediation services in our local area, visit the West Northants Local Offer web page.

12. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

12.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our objectives set out in section 1.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- › All staff's awareness of pupils with SEND at the start of the autumn term
- › How early pupils are identified as having SEND
- › Pupils' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- › Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- › Comments and feedback from pupils and their parents

12.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by the SENDCO, in liaison with the Head Teacher, **every year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the full governing board.

13. Links with other policies and documents

This policy links to the following documents:

- › SEN information report
- › The local offer
- › Accessibility plan
- › Behaviour policy
- › Equality information and objectives
- › Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- › Attendance policy
- › Safeguarding / child protection policy
- › Complaints policy