

Brookside School

SEND POLICY Updated March 2024

in compliance with
Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice (2015)

SEN POLICY FOR BROOKSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Legislative Compliance

This policy complies with the guidance given in **Statutory Instrument: Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations (Clause 65)**. It has been written as guidance for staff, parents or carers and children with reference to the following guidance and documents.

SEN Code of Practice (which takes account of the SEN provisions of the SEN and Disability Act 2001) September 2015

Equality Act 2010

Children and Families Act 2014

Inclusion Statement

- We endeavour to achieve maximum inclusion of all children (including vulnerable learners) whilst meeting their individual needs.
- Teachers provide differentiated learning opportunities for all the children within the school and provide materials appropriate to children's interests and abilities. This ensures that all children have a full access to the school curriculum.
- Special Educational Need might be an explanation for delayed or slower progress but is not an excuse, and we make every effort to narrow the gap in attainment between vulnerable groups of learners and others.
- We focus on individual progress as the main indicator of success.
- We strive to make a clear distinction between "underachievement" – often caused by a poor early experience of learning - and special educational needs.
 - Some pupils in our school may be underachieving but will not necessarily have a special educational need. It is our responsibility to spot this quickly and ensure that appropriate interventions are put in place to help these pupils catch up.
 - Other pupils will genuinely have special educational needs and this **may** lead to lower-attainment (though not necessarily to under-achievement). It is our responsibility to ensure that pupils with special educational needs have the maximum opportunity to attain and make progress in line with their peers. Accurate assessment of need and carefully planned programmes, which address the root causes of any learning difficulty, are essential ingredients of success for these pupils. These will be provided, initially, through additional support funded from the devolved schools budget.

Aims and Objectives of this Policy

The aims of our SEN policy and practice in this school are:

- To provide curriculum access for all
- To secure high levels of achievement for all
- To meet individual needs through a wide range of provision
- To attain high levels of satisfaction and participation from pupils, parents and carers
- To ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need, through well targeted continuing professional development.

- To work in cooperative and productive partnership with the Local Authority and other outside agencies, to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners.
- To “promote children’s self-esteem and emotional well-being and help them to form and maintain worthwhile relationships based on respect for themselves and others”. (National Curriculum, 2014).

The head teacher and the governing body have delegated the responsibility for the ongoing implementation of this SEND Policy to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO).

The SENCO is responsible for reporting regularly to the head teacher and the governor with responsibility for SEN on the ongoing effectiveness of this inclusion policy.

The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children has strategic responsibility for the inclusion of children who are adopted or in local authority care.

All staff in school have a responsibility for maximising achievement and opportunity of vulnerable learners – specifically, all teachers are teachers of pupils with special educational needs. Staff are aware of their responsibilities towards all vulnerable learners and a positive and sensitive attitude is shown towards all pupils at all times.

The kinds of Special Educational Needs which are provided for in our school:

As an inclusive school we do not seek to closely define the special educational needs for which we will make provision. Historically we have had success in providing for a wide range of different needs, when budget, resources and availability of expertise has allowed.

In admitting pupils with special educational needs we would expect to have informative discussions with both the pupil’s family and the local authority to ascertain the suitability of our provision. We understand that it is initially our responsibility to make provision for a pupil with special educational needs through the school’s devolved SEN budget. Thereafter we are aware of the process of applying for Top-Up Funding if the pupil’s and the school’s needs make that a necessity. As a mainstream school, it would clearly be difficult for us to make provision for pupils whose needs and/or demands are significant, severe or profound – to the extent that it could be argued that they would be most appropriately placed in a special school. However, we do not rule this out and would make a careful assessment of the needs of each pupil in constructive conversation with other agencies.

In agreeing our staged arrangements, the school has taken into account the following statements and definitions:

“Defining achievement in terms of the number of targets on an individual education plan achieved across a given time rarely ensured rigorous evaluation of provision or pupils’ progress. What made the difference to higher outcomes was effective target-setting within the curriculum or personalised programme as part of a whole-school policy on assessment.”

‘Inclusion: does it matter where pupils are taught?’ (Ofsted, 2006a)

“High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will meet the individual needs of the majority of children and young people. Some children and young people need educational provision that is additional to or different from this. This is special educational provision under Section 21 of the Children and Families Act 2014. ”

SEN Code Of Practice (2015: Para 1.24)

This is not necessarily “more literacy” or “more maths” but would be interventions which address the underlying learning needs of the pupil in order to improve his or her access to the curriculum.”

“Achievement for All” (National Strategies: 2009)

Across all the education providers visited, the keys to good outcomes were good teaching and learning, close tracking, rigorous monitoring of progress with intervention quickly put in place, and a thorough evaluation of the impact of additional provision.

Ofsted SEN Review 2010

“Ensuring that schools are clear about their provision that is normally available for all children, including targeted help routinely provided for those falling behind and the additional provision they make for those with SEN, should simplify the process of planning the right help at school level” (p68)

SEN Code of Practice 2014

STAGE 1 Well-differentiated, quality first teaching, including, where appropriate, the use of small group interventions.

- All learners will have access to quality first teaching.
- Some vulnerable learners will have access to carefully differentiated activities or approaches directly related to the school curriculum which are part of our good practice in making teaching and learning accessible to pupils learning at different rates. These will probably be pupils who are underachieving and have been identified by the school as needing to make accelerated progress but will not necessarily be pupils with special educational needs. This is considered to be a differentiation of the usual school curriculum – not a special intervention for pupils with SEN.

Identification and Assessment at Stage 1

Children’s needs should be identified and met as early as possible through :

- the analysis of data including entry profiles, Foundation Stage Profile scores, reading ages, other whole-school pupil progress data
- classroom - based assessment and monitoring arrangements. (Cycle of planning, action and review.)
- following up parental concerns
- tracking individual children’s progress over time,
- liaison with feeder nurseries on transfer
- information from previous schools

- information from other services
- maintaining a provision map for all vulnerable learners but which clearly identifies pupils receiving additional SEN Support from the school's devolved budget or in receipt of Top Up funding. This provision map is updated termly through meetings between the teachers and SENCO.
- Undertaking, when necessary, a more in depth individual assessment - this may include a range of commercially available assessments, carefully chosen to deliver appropriate, useful information on a pupil's needs
- Involving an external agency where it is suspected that a special educational need is significant.

Curriculum Access and Provision for vulnerable learners

Where children are underachieving and/or identified as having special educational needs, the school provides for these additional needs in a variety of ways and might use a combination of these approaches to address targets identified for individual pupils.

- teachers differentiate work as part of quality first teaching
- small group class support/withdrawal time
- individual class support / individual withdrawal
- further differentiation of resources

Monitoring and Evaluation

The monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of our provision for vulnerable learners is carried out in the following ways:

- classroom observation by the SENCO and senior leaders.
- ongoing assessment of progress made by intervention groups
- work sampling on a termly basis.
- scrutiny of planning.
- teacher interviews with the SENCO
- informal feedback from all staff.
- pupil interviews when setting new termly targets or reviewing existing targets
- pupil progress tracking using assessment data (whole-school processes)
- attendance records and liaison with Education Welfare Service.
- regular meetings about pupils' progress between the SENCO and senior leaders

Stage 2 Additional SEN Support

- Pupils will be offered additional SEN support when it is clear that their needs require intervention which is "additional to" or "different from" the well-differentiated curriculum offer for all pupils in the school i.e. they have a special educational need as defined by the SEN Code of Practice 2015.
- It may be decided that a very small number of the pupils on the SEN register will require additional Top-Up funding, for which an application needs to be made to the Local Authority, to ensure their underlying special educational need is being addressed. This may particularly be the case where outside agencies have been involved in assessing the pupil or contributing to their provision. Where the school can evidence that more than £6,000 above the Average Weighted Pupil Unit has, or will need to be, spent on a pupil within any one financial year, in order to meet his or her special educational needs, an application will be made to the Local Authority, with

particular regard to the success criteria and SEN Descriptors published as part of the Local Offer.

- Where a pupil has a significant, severe and sustained need, it may be necessary to enter a multi-disciplinary assessment process with health and social care in order to consider the need for an Education Health and Care Plan.

Stage 3 Education Health and Care Plan

- Pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan (post September 2014) will have access to all arrangements for pupils on the SEN register (above) and, in addition to this, will have an Annual Review of their plan.
- Our school will comply with all local arrangements and procedures when applying for
 - Top-Up Funding
 - An Education Health and Care Planand will ensure that all pre-requisites for application have been met through additional SEN Support using our devolved budget at an earlier stage.
- Our review procedures fully comply with those recommended in Section 6.15 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and with LA policy and guidance - particularly with regard to the timescales set out within the process.

Roles and Responsibilities

Head teacher

- the head teacher is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of all pupils and for making strategic decisions which will maximise their opportunity to learn
- the head teacher and the governing body will delegate the day to day implementation of this policy to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)
- the head teacher will be informed of the progress of all vulnerable learners and any issues with regard to the school's provision in this regard through:
 - analysis of the whole-school pupil progress tracking system
 - pupil progress meetings with individual teachers
 - regular meetings with the SENCO
 - discussions and consultations with pupils and parents

Special Educational Needs Coordinator

In line with the recommendations in the SEN Code of Practice 2015, the SENCO will oversee the day- to-day operation of this policy in the following ways:

- co-ordinating provision for children with special educational needs
 - liaising with and advising teachers
 - managing other classroom staff involved in supporting vulnerable learners
 - overseeing the records on all children with Special Educational Needs
 - implementing a programme of Annual Review for all pupils with an EHC Plan.
- Complying with requests from an Education Health and Care Plan Coordinator to participate in a review
- carrying out referral procedures to the Local Authority to request Top-Up funding and/or an Education Health and Care Plan when it is suspected, on strong evidence arising from previous intervention (additional SEN support from devolved

budget), that a pupil may have a special educational need which will require significant support

- overseeing the smooth running of transition arrangements and transfer of information for Year 6 SEN pupils
- evaluating regularly the impact and effectiveness of all additional interventions for all SEN learners
- meeting **at least** termly with each teacher to review and revise learning objectives for all SEN learners in their class
- liaising and consulting sensitively with parents and families of pupils on the SEN register, keeping them informed of progress and listening to their views of progress, in conjunction with class teachers
- attending area SENCO network meetings and training as appropriate.
- liaising with the school's SEN Governor, keeping him/her informed of current issues regarding provision for learners with Special Educational Needs
- liaising closely with a range of outside agencies to support SEN learners.

Class teacher

- liaising with the SENCO to agree :
 - which pupils in the class have SEN
 - which pupils are underachieving and need to have their additional interventions monitored, but do not have special educational needs.
 - which pupils require additional support because of a special educational need and need to go on the school's SEN register. Some of these pupils may require advice/support from an outside professional
 - securing good provision and good outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners by :
 - providing differentiated teaching and learning opportunities
 - ensuring there is adequate opportunity for pupils with special educational needs to work on agreed targets which are genuinely "additional to" or "different from" those normally provided as part of the differentiated curriculum offer and strategies". (SEN Code of Practice 2015)
- ensuring effective deployment of resources – including teaching assistant support - to maximise outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners.

Assessing and Reviewing pupils' progress and the effectiveness of our educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs

- Depending upon the stage of support as outlined above, the progress of our pupils will be assessed and reviewed through
 - The school's generic processes for tracking the progress of all pupils
 - Termly evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions on the Child Profile.
 - At least termly evaluation of whether pupils in receipt of Top-Up Funding and/or with Education Health and Care Plans are meeting their individual targets which have been written to address their underlying special educational need.
 - Annual review of Education Health and Care Plans are prescribed in the SEND Code of Practice (September 2015)

How children and young people with SEN are enabled to engage in activities available for children and young people in the school who do not have SEN

- As an inclusive school, we do everything we can to ensure that pupils of all abilities and needs are fully included in the life of the school.
- Where appropriate and legitimate, we endeavour to provide different ways for all learners to access the same learning experience, rather than withdrawing pupils and providing an entirely different activity.
- Our deployment of additional staffing and resources funded from our devolved additional needs budget through the Local Offer, ensure that all curriculum experiences are available to all pupils in the school (eg educational visits, extra-curricular activities), particularly where a voluntary financial contribution from parents is required for the activity to run. This is in compliance with the Equality Act 2010.
- All lesson planning seeks to address the learning needs of all pupils in the class. Teachers receive regular training and support to ensure they are skilled in differentiating the curriculum for vulnerable learners. When subject coordinators monitor planning, work and progress data and when they or senior leaders carry out observations of teaching and learning in classrooms, particular attention is given to whether the ongoing learning offer is inclusive.

Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and about how specialist expertise will be secured.

- In accordance with Section 6 of the SEN Code of Practice 2014, our Special Educational Needs Coordinator is a qualified teacher working at our school and has statutory accreditation.
- The SENCO will regularly attend local network meetings
- All staff will be trained in how to best support all vulnerable learners in order to maximise their achievement as part of the school development plan and annual schedule of continuous professional development. Specific training needs will be identified and met through the appraisal/performance management process.
- Specialist advice and expertise in relation to assessment and support of individual pupils will be commissioned by the school , accessing, as far as possible, services available as part of the Local Offer.
- All staffing appointments to support vulnerable learners will be carried out in accordance with equal opportunities legislation, employment law, safer recruiting policy and best practice. All vacancies will be competitively advertised to ensure our school employs staff of the highest calibre.

Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured.

- When specialist equipment or a high level of staffing support is required to support a pupil with special educational needs, our school will fund this as additional SEN support up to £6,000 per annum for each individual pupil. Thereafter, if the cost is higher and the provision of these facilities is likely to be prolonged, the school will apply to the Local Authority for Top-Up Funding.

- Specialist equipment and expertise in relation to its use will be purchased/hired/ commissioned by the school subject to the usual guarantees, service level agreements and quality assurance criteria.
- All staffing appointments to support vulnerable learners will be carried out in accordance with equal opportunities legislation, employment law, safer recruiting policy and best practice. All vacancies will be competitively advertised and recruited.

Partnership with Parents/Carers

The school aims to work in partnership with parents and carers. We do so by:

- working effectively with all other agencies supporting children and their parents
- giving parents and carers opportunities to play an active and valued role in their child's education
- making parents and carers feel welcome
- encouraging parents and carers to inform school of any difficulties they perceive their child may be having or other needs the child may have which need addressing
- instilling confidence that the school will listen and act appropriately
- focusing on the child's strengths as well as areas of additional need
- allowing parents and carers opportunities to discuss ways in which they and the school can help their child
- agreeing targets for all pupils, in particular, those not making expected progress and, for some pupils identified as having special educational needs, involving parents in the drawing-up and monitoring progress against these targets
- keeping parents and carers informed and giving support during assessment and any related decision-making process
- making parents and carers aware of the Information and Advice services available as part of the Local Offer.

Involvement of Pupils

We recognise that all pupils have the right to be involved in making decisions and exercising choice. In most lessons, all pupils are involved in monitoring and reviewing their progress . We endeavour to fully involve all pupils by encouraging them to:

- state their views about their education and learning
- identify their own needs and learn about learning
- share in individual target setting so that they know what their targets are and why they have them,
- (for some pupils with special educational needs) monitor their success at achieving the targets on their Pupil Profile.

How our school involves other bodies, including health and social care bodies, local authority support services and voluntary sector organisations in meeting children and young people's special educational needs and supporting their families

- Our school will identify sources of support as they develop and evolve as the Local Offer is defined through Education, Health and Social Care (including the establishment of joint commissioning arrangements).
- We seek to respond quickly to emerging need and work closely with other agencies including :
 - Social Care
 - CAMHS
 - Educational Psychology Service
 - Sensory Impairment team
 - Local NHS services
 - Speech and Language Therapy Service
 - Child Development Team
 - Cheshire West Safeguarding Children Partnership
- In accordance with the SEND Code of practice 2015 we invite all relevant agencies to annual review meetings, transition meetings and specific provision planning meetings involving pupils with special educational needs in our school. For pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans, we comply fully with requests from independent facilitators to provide information and cooperate fully with other agencies.
- We have a clear point of contact within the school who will coordinate the support from outside agencies for each pupil. Most often this will be the SENCO but in some cases it can be another member of staff who we have identified as a key worker e.g. Pastoral Manager

Arrangements for supporting children and young people in moving between phases of education and preparing for adulthood (effective transition)

- We will ensure smooth transition into our school from the previous phase of education and from our school into the next phase of education.
- We will ensure early and timely planning for transfer to a pupil's next phase of education and, in the year before the year in which they leave, will offer transition meetings to all pupils with Education Health and Care Plans.
- Support for the pupil in coming to terms with moving on will be carefully planned and will include familiarisation visits. Pupils will be included in all "class transition days" to the next phase but may also be offered additional transition visits.
- Pupils and parents will be encouraged to consider all options for the next phase of education and the school will involve outside agencies, as appropriate, to ensure information is comprehensive but easily accessible and understandable. Accompanied visits to other providers may be arranged as appropriate.
- Parents will be given a reliable named contact at the next phase provider with whom the SENCO will liaise

Admission Arrangements

No child will be refused admission to school on the basis of his or her special educational need, ethnicity or language need. In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we will not discriminate against disabled children and we will take all reasonable steps to provide effective educational provision (*see Admission policy for the school, as agreed with the Local Authority*)

Arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school.

Complaints

If there are any complaints relating to the provision for children with SEN these will be dealt with in the first instance by the class teacher and SENCO, then, if unresolved, by the head teacher. The governor with specific responsibility for SEN/inclusion may be involved if necessary. In the case of an unresolved complaint the issue should be taken through the general Governors' complaints procedure (see separate Complaints Policy)

Inclusion of pupils who are Looked After in Local Authority Care

Our school recognises that :

- Children who are looked after in local authority care have the same rights as all children but may have additional needs due to attachment issues, early neglect, separation and loss, trauma and many placement moves. These barriers to learning can affect their educational outcomes and their personal, social and emotional development.
- There are commonly understood reasons (Social Exclusion Unit Report :2003] why children who are looked after in local authority care often fail to make expected progress at school :
 - Placement instability
 - Unsatisfactory educational experiences of many carers
 - Too much time out of school
 - Insufficient help if they fall behind
 - Unmet needs - emotional, mental, physical
- There is a statutory requirement for all schools to have a designated teacher (DT) for looked after children. (The name of the current designated teacher at our school is Mrs Van Gordon). The responsibilities of our designated teacher include:
 - monitoring the progress of children who are 'looked after' to ensure that they have the best life chances possible and access to the full range of opportunities in school
 - ensuring that children who are 'looked after' have access to the appropriate network of support
 - checking that the statutory Personal Education Plan (PEP) has been arranged and that it is regularly reviewed, at least every six months

- ensuring that information concerning the education of children who are 'looked after' is transferred between agencies and individuals
- preparing a report on the child's educational progress to contribute towards the statutory review. (These are usually held at six monthly intervals or more frequently if there is a concern)
- discussing feedback from the statutory review (chaired by the Independent Reviewing Officer) with social workers and, where necessary, the carers and a member of the Virtual School team.
- liaising with the child's social worker to ensure that there is effective communication at all times
- celebrating the child's successes and acknowledge the progress they are making.

Our school will work closely with the county's The Virtual School (VS) for Children which promotes the educational needs of Looked After Children and monitors admissions, PEP completion, attendance & exclusions.

Appendix

Link to Cheshire West and Chester Local Offer:

- livewell.cheshirewestandchester.gov.uk