

Gusford Primary School

"Together we believe, learn and achieve."

SEND Policy

Persons Responsible: Mrs. L. Hook

Policy Review: May 2020

Next Review: May 2021



The *Active Learning* Trust

All children are entitled to an appropriate education, one that is appropriate to their needs and that promotes high standards and the fulfilment of potential. This should enable them to:

- achieve their best
- become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and
- make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training

At Gusford we use our best endeavours to :

- identify pupil's SEN so that barriers to learning can be removed
- make sure that a child with SEN gets the support they need – this means doing everything we can to meet every child's needs
- ensure that children with SEN engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEN
- ensure that all pupils, including those with SEN, have access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of equipment and services, for pupils with SEN or disability, to prevent them from being put at a disadvantage
- ensure that pupils with SEN or a disability are not discriminated against
- promote equality of opportunity and good relations
- involve parents and carers and children in all decisions made about support

Definition of SEND

A child has a special educational need or disability if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability that means he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided by others of the same age in mainstream schools.

Identifying Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Within the SEN Code of Practice 0-25 guidance, there are 4 main areas of need:

1) Communication and interaction

Speech, Language and Communication Needs (SLCN)

Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

2) Cognition and Learning

Specific Learning Difficulty (SpLD)
Moderate Learning Difficulty (MLD)
Severe Learning Difficulty (SLD)
Profound and Multiple Learning Difficulty (PLM)

3) Social, Emotional and Mental Health

4) Physical and/or Sensory

Visual Impairment (VI)
Hearing Impairment (HI)
Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI)
Physical Disability (PD)

There are many factors which may also impact on progress and attainment, but which are not SEN. These include:

- Disability (The Code of Practice outlines the “reasonable adjustments” duty for all settings and schools provided under current Disability Equality legislation – these alone do not constitute SEN)
- Attendance and punctuality
- Health and welfare
- EAL
- Being a child in care
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium grant

Student and Family Support (SaFS)

At Gusford, we have a team of people whose responsibility it is to identify pupils in need of additional help and to provide appropriate support to enable pupils to make good progress.

The team consists of:

SEN Team:

Mrs. Hook – SENCO
Mrs. Sparrow – Assistant SENCO
Mrs. Nainthy – SEN Learning Support Assistant
Mrs. Chilvers – SEN Learning Support Assistant
Mrs. Watts – Learning Support Assistant

Family Engagement Team (FET)

Mrs. Mann
Mrs. Wright

At Gusford School, **Quality First teaching**, provided by the class teachers, is of paramount importance. The SEN Code of Practice states that pupils are only identified as SEN if they do not make adequate progress once they have received intervention and adjustments alongside the personalised teaching that we provide. This can be characterised as progress which:

- is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- fails to match or better the child’s previous rate of progress
- fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers
- widens the attainment gap

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress of the pupils in their class, including those that

access support from teaching assistants or learning support staff or outside agencies. High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step to responding to those pupils who may have SEN.

We regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. The SENCO routinely reviews the progress of all pupils and may conduct additional assessments in order to identify possible barriers to learning for those pupils who are not making adequate progress.

When considering if a child needs to be placed on the SEN register, the SENCO, teachers and support staff work closely to gather relevant information about the child. The school's data is used as well as additional assessments to find out where exactly the child's needs lie. In some cases, it may be necessary to involve outside agencies and other professionals. We liaise with our Family Engagement Team to gain information about health and social care needs where relevant. We also liaise with parents to gain their views of the needs of their child.

Placing a child on the SEN register

If a child is placed on the Special Needs Register, an Individual Education Plan (IEP) is drawn up indicating specific targets for the child to work towards and the additional support required to help the child meet these targets. All class teachers and teaching assistants receive copies of IEPs, as do parents and carers. Sometimes it is necessary to refer to external agencies or other professionals such as a speech and language therapist. Information and advice obtained from such professionals feeds into the IEP targets, the interventions and review.

Class teachers remain responsible for working with the child on a daily basis. Whenever interventions involve other teaching away from the main class, the class teacher remains responsible for the child's progress. All staff that work with each child, work closely together to plan and assess the impact of interventions.

In a small number of cases it may be necessary to seek further assessment of a child's needs through an application for an Education Health Care needs assessment, (EHC). This plan brings together a child's education, health and social care needs. The SENCO works closely with colleagues and parents in these cases.

The effectiveness of intervention and its impact on pupil progress is reviewed regularly. When evaluating the impact on pupil progress the SENCO works closely with the teacher, alongside parents to revise support in light of changes of need and progress. Where a child has a Statement or EHCP, formal reviews are undertaken annually.

Managing the SEN register

In order to manage the pupils on the SEN register, the SENCO regularly monitors the needs of the children on it. Where necessary, provision and support is adapted or changed to reflect the changing needs of the child. The SENCO is responsible for keeping the register up to date and for ensuring that relevant reports from other professionals are shared with staff working with the child and parents. The level of provision given to each child on the register is based on the child's individual needs. In addition to the SEN register the SENCO maintains a monitoring list of children who may be at risk of underachieving. The progress of these children is monitored very closely and if the decision is made that additional support may be required then the child, in consultation with parents, may be added to the SEN register.

If, as a school, we are unable to meet the needs of a child with SEN we will include other professionals. We work closely with other professionals to support the needs of children in our school. The costing of such input is the responsibility of the headteacher and the monitoring of these services and their input lies with the SENCO.

If we identify that that additional funding and support is needed then we can apply for further funding from the Local Authority. We use the advice and guidelines from Suffolk County Council to assess the needs of the child to determine whether their needs meet the criteria for receiving additional funding.

Where a child has been placed on the SEN register, even after their needs have been resolved and subsequent support has been removed we consider carefully whether a child should be removed from the SEN register entirely. If a child has not required additional support for 6 months then they are removed from the register and placed on the monitoring list, if all parties are in agreement that additional needs have been met.

Thrive

Gusford has 2 licensed Thrive practitioners; Mrs. Sparrow and Mrs Keys.

Thrive is a systematic approach to the early identification of emotional development needs in children and young people. The program is designed to build resilience and resourcefulness, decrease the risk of mental illness, reinvigorate learning provision and help children who are at risk of underachieving or exclusion, to stay in school and re-engage with learning.

Supporting Families

Gusford school has a Family Engagement Team who liaise closely with the SENCO to discuss needs for children and families. The Family Engagement Team works with parents and children to support them in a range of ways. They have access to and information about a wide range of agencies who can also offer specialist support and advice.

Tests

Children with SEN are able to access exams within the school using a range of modified resources and with additional support. We are able to put in place specific access arrangements in accordance with STA guidelines. Children may have the following support to help them access tests:

- reader
- extra time
- rest breaks
- working 1:1 with an adult or as part of a smaller group
- access to modified test materials for children with visual impairments

The responsibility for organising access arrangements for SEN pupils is shared between the Deputy Headteacher, class teacher and SENCO.

Transition

To ensure a smooth transition from class to class, teachers meet to discuss the needs of each pupil in their class. In addition to this, pupils spend time with their new teacher which gives them an opportunity to get to know each other and their new surroundings. Some pupils may need some additional support with transition and the SENCO, alongside other colleagues, ensures that these pupils are involved in a range of activities during the second half of the summer term, to help them prepare for the change. Additional visits are also organised for vulnerable pupils due to move to high school. The SENCO works closely with SENCOs of receiving high schools to ensure that information is shared about each SEN child's needs and to discuss how provision will continue or alter. Parents are also given the opportunity to discuss their child's needs with the receiving high school.

Monitoring and Evaluation of SEND

The SENCO carefully monitors and reviews the quality of provision we offer to all pupils. This is done by regularly revising IEPs, provision maps, interventions and pupil support. We have a SEN governor who supports the SENCO to monitor attainment and progress of SEN pupils.

Resources and Training

We receive a fixed sum for each pupil within the school and may receive top-up funding depending on the level of need of pupils. There are also other sources of funding which can be obtained. For example, for those pupils who are looked after by the Local Authority and those pupils who are in receipt of free school meals.

Staff training and development needs are closely monitored by the senior leadership team. In order to maintain and develop the quality of teaching and provision to respond to strengths and needs of all pupils, all staff are encouraged to undertake training as part of their on-going professional development. We work across the school to share expertise and good practices.

Roles and Responsibilities

Parents / Carers

Parents and carers play a crucial role in supporting the education of their child and have a responsibility to engage with their child's school when it consults with them on decisions affecting their child and to inform the school of any changes to circumstances that may affect their child.

Class teacher

In the first instance, the class teacher will be responsible for deliver high quality teaching differentiated for individual pupils; identifying any possible SEN concerns and liaising with parents and the SENCO.

SENCO

Gusford school has a SENCO: Mrs Hook, and an Assistant SENCO: Mrs Sparrow. The SENCOs' responsibility is to co-ordinate and evaluate the provision for SEN pupils, liaise with parents and other professionals to ensure that a child's needs are identified and met and to make relevant referrals for specialist provision where appropriate.

Mrs Sparrow is the designated teacher for Looked After Children (LAC).

Head teacher

The head teacher has overall responsibility for the strategic development of SEN policy and provision and the management and deployment of staff and resources.

SEN Governor

The SEN governor's responsibility is to liaise regularly with the SENCOs about developments in SEN. Monitoring should be undertaken so that statutory requirements for meeting SEN within the school are met.

The Governing Body

The governing body is responsible for ensuring that the school fulfils its statutory duties. It will establish and review this policy having regard to the Code of Practice on the identification and assessment of special educational needs. It will hold the head teacher to account for the provision of children with SEND. It will ensure that governors receive appropriate training to fulfil their roles.

The Local Authority

The local authority must consult parents of children with SEN in the development of its policies. Where a child requires and EHC needs assessment, it must ensure that the child's parents are fully included in the process from the start, are fully aware of their opportunities to offer views and information and are consulted about the content of the EHC Plan.

Dealing with Complaints

In the first instance, any parent or carer with a concern about the implementation of the SEN policy should speak to their child's class teacher or the SENCO. If they wish to pursue a complaint they should contact the head teacher and follow the school's complaints procedure. If the complainant remains concerned after following the complaints procedure, he or she should ask the Department for Education's School Complaints Unit to take up the matter.

This Policy has been written in reference to the following relevant documents:

- SEN Code of Practice 2014
- Equality Act 2010

Other relevant policies:

- Behaviour Policy
- Equal Opportunities Policy
- Inclusion Policy

For more information about the provision for SEND pupils at Gusford, refer to the SEN Offer on the Gusford website: www.gusford.suffolk.sch.uk

Appendix

Roles and Responsibilities.

The Governing Body will:

- do its best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil with SEN
- ensure that, where the 'responsible person' (the head teacher) has been informed by the LEA that a pupil has special educational needs, those needs are made known to all who are likely to teach them
- ensure that teachers in the school are aware of the importance of identifying and providing for those pupils who have special educational needs
- consult the LEA and the governing bodies of other schools, when it seems to be necessary or desirable in the interests of co-ordinated special educational provision in the area as a whole
- ensure that a pupil with special educational needs joins in the activities of the school together with pupils who do not have special educational needs, so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving the special educational provision their learning needs call for and the efficient education of the pupils with whom they are educated and the efficient use of resources
- report to parents on the implementation of the school's policy for pupils with special educational needs
- have regard to the Code of Practice when carrying out its duties toward all pupils with special educational needs
- ensure that parents are notified of a decision by the school that SEN provision is being made for your child.

The SENCO, working closely with senior management and fellow teachers should:

- ◆ have responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy and for co-ordinating provision for pupils with SEN, through School Action, School Action Plus and Statements
- ◆ liaise with and advise fellow teachers
- ◆ maintain the school's SEN register and oversee the records on all pupils with special educational needs.
- ◆ contribute to the in-service training of staff
- ◆ liaise with external agencies including the LEA (SNOs), the educational psychology service and other support agencies, medical and social services and voluntary bodies
- ◆ manage Learning Support Assistants where they are employed to provide special needs support
- ◆ liaise with parents of children with special educational needs
- ◆ be closely involved in the strategic development of the SEN policy and provision to raise the achievement of pupils with SEN

The head teacher and all school staff

The head teacher has the responsibility for the day to day management of all aspects of the school's work, including provision for children with SEN. The head teacher should keep the governing body informed and work closely with the school's SENCo.

All staff should be involved in the development of the school's SEN policy and be fully aware of the school's

procedures for identifying , assessing and making provision for pupils with SEN.