

Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School

Special Education needs and Disability Policy



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Mission Statement

At Sacred Heart Primary School, We serve our diverse community with open and honest hearts.

Through our thoughts, words and actions, we share God's love with all.
A place where everyone is loved and valued, we strive to always be the best that we can be.

We at Sacred Heart Primary School are committed to making our best endeavours to meet the special educational needs of pupils and ensuring that they achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes. In line with our mission statement "In Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, we strive to ensure happy, and secure community with Christ at our centre working and worshipping together. Our mission is to send out confident and caring children ready to achieve their full potential." Every teacher is a teacher of every child, including those with SEND.

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (September 2014) 3.65 and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (September 2014)
- Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014)

This policy has been created by the school's SENCO, Mrs Nixon, and is to be used initially for consultation purposes with governors, staff and parents & carers of pupils with special educational needs and disability.

Aims

We value all the children in our school equally and we recognise the entitlement of each child to receive the best possible education. Within a caring and mutually supportive environment we aim to:

- Build upon the strengths and achievements of the child
- Create an environment in which all individuals are valued, have respect for one another and grow in self-esteem.
- Give equal access to all aspects of school life through academic, social and practical experiences. This will allow all children to experience success regardless of SEN, disability or any other factor that may affect their attainment. This is in so far as it is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving their special educational provision and the effective education of their fellow pupils.
- Ensure that effective channels of communication are sustained so that all persons including parents and carers are aware of the pupil's progress and Special Educational Provision (SEP) made for them.
- Assess children regularly so that those with SEN are identified as early as possible.
- Enable pupils with special educational needs to make the greatest progress possible.
- Work towards developing expertise in using inclusive teaching and learning strategies.

Objectives

In order to achieve our aims and to ensure that children with special educational needs achieve their full potential and make progress we will:

(See action plan.)

Broad Areas of Need

These four broad areas give an overview of the range of needs that may be planned for.

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical impairment.

The purpose of identification is to work out what action the school needs to take, not to fit a pupil into a category. We identify the needs of pupils by considering the needs of the whole child, which will include not just the special educational needs of the child or young person.

There are occasions when progress and attainment are affected by factors other than special educational needs. For example:

- Having a disability
- Attendance and punctuality
- Health and welfare
- Using English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
- Being a Looked After Child

Where this is the case, appropriate provision will be made, but this does not automatically necessitate the child receiving Special Educational Provision (SEP).

A Graduated Approach to SEN Support

The school is committed to early identification in order to meet the needs of children with SEN.

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their

class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff. Teachers' ongoing assessment will provide information about areas where a child is not progressing satisfactorily. These observations may be supported by formal assessments such as Baseline Assessment, SATs or the use of PIVATS. Teachers will then consult the SENCO using a cause for concern referral to consider what else might be done – the child's learning characteristics; the learning environment, the task and the teaching style should always be considered. Progress for children will be achieved by focussing on classroom organisation, teaching materials, teaching style and differentiation. If subsequent intervention does not lead to adequate progress then the teacher will consult the SENCO to review the strategies that have been used. This review may lead to the conclusion that the pupil requires help that is additional to or different from that which is normally available. This would constitute Special Educational Provision (SEP) and the child would be registered as receiving SEN Support. We seek to identify pupils making **less than expected progress** given their age and individual circumstances. This can be characterised by 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
- fails to make progress with wider development or social and emotional needs
- fails to make progress in self-help, social and personal skills

The school will use the graduated approach as advised in the Code of Practice 0-25 Years – 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review'. This process is initiated, facilitated and overseen by the SENCO, whilst the class teacher is responsible for carrying out the process of assessing, planning, doing and reviewing. Where external agencies are involved, the SENCO will be responsible for liaising with those agencies. The SENCO will also provide advice and guidance throughout the process, and may carry out some additional assessment. The SENCO will update all records of provision and impact of that provision. The teacher will maintain the personalized plans and keep them updated.

ASSESS - The teacher and SENCO will consider all of the information gathered from within the school about the pupil's progress, alongside national data and expectations of progress. This will include formative assessment, using effective tools and early assessment materials. From this, we identify the child's current attainment, achievements and learning profile. This may involve taking advice from the SENCO, external specialists and may include the use of diagnostic and other assessments to determine the exact areas of need and strategies recommended. Where external specialists are involved directly with the pupil, parental consent will be sought first. Information may also be gathered using person-centred tools to discover what is important to the pupil and how best we can support them.

PLAN – Pupils and parents will be involved in the planning process as much as possible. Person-centred tools may be employed to facilitate this. This means that the pupil and their parents/carers are supported in the planning process to arrive at goals and plans that make them key players in the learning process. This will be used to ascertain aspirations and outcomes for the child in the short and longer term. A review date will also be set.

DO- The strategies and interventions agreed in the plan will be implemented and progress monitored using the school's usual assessment systems, plus specific tracking of progress through any interventions. Progress may be measured through assessment scores and/or through qualitative observations.

REVIEW- The progress of the pupil will be reviewed at the end of the specified period of intervention. This review will form the basis of further assessment and planning. Meetings with pupils and parents happen at least termly.

The school's Local Offer can be found on the school website www.sacredheartprimaryschool.co.uk

This indicates the type of provision the school currently offers to pupils with SEN and disability. It is reviewed annually. The level and type of provision decided on for individual pupils is that which is required to meet the planned outcomes.

Statutory Assessment of SEN

If the school is unable to meet with all of the agreed provision from its existing resources, finance and staffing expertise; and the outcomes for the child are not improving despite SEN Support, then the school may request a statutory assessment from the Local Authority, which may lead to an Education, Health and Care Plan.

The school will provide the evidence about the child's progress over time, documentation in relation to the child's SEN Support and any action taken to deal with their needs, including any resources or special arrangements in place.

This information may include:

- the child's individual plans (TLP)
- SEN support plan
- records of reviews with pupils and parents, and their outcomes
- Early Help Assessment (if applicable)
- medical information where relevant
- National Curriculum attainment, and wider learning profile
- educational and other assessments, e.g. Educational Psychologist
- Views of the parent and the child
- Involvement of outside agencies

If the Local Authority (LA) agrees to a Statutory Assessment, it must assess the education, health and care needs of that child. The LA must request advice and information on the child and the provision that must be put in place to meet those needs from:

- parents/ carers and/ or child
- the school
- an educational psychologist
- health
- social care
- anyone else that parents/ carers request
- a specialist teacher for the visually impaired or hearing impaired, if appropriate

From this information, it must then be decided whether or not to issue an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). Further information can be found on the LA website www.lancashire.gov.uk

Annual Review of the EHC Plan

All Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plans must be reviewed at least annually (or every six months

for children under five). The SENCO initiates the process of inviting relevant people to the meeting. This will include the pupil, parents, and others close to the child whom the pupil or parents would like to attend. Relevant professionals from within the school and external agencies will also be invited, as will a representative from the Local Authority (LA).

The review will be person-centred, focusing on:

- Progress towards agreed outcomes
- What we appreciate and admire about the child
- What is important to the child now
- What is important to the child in the future
- How best to support the child
- Questions to answer/issues we are struggling with
- The action plan going forward

Any amendments to the EHC Plan will be recorded. The SENCO will document the outcomes of the meeting, and will ensure the updated plan and review documentation are sent to the LA within the statutory timescales.

Criteria for exiting Special Educational Provision

A child may no longer require SEP, where they;

- make progress significantly quicker than that of their peers
- close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- make significant progress with wider development or social and emotional needs, such that they no longer require provision that is additional to or different from their peers
- make progress in self-help, social and personal skills, such that they no longer require provision that is additional to or different from their peers

This would be determined at the review stage.

Supporting pupils and families

Local Offer and SEN Information Report

Lancashire Local Authority's Local Offer can be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk. This policy forms part of the school's SEN Information Report.

The school is committed to working closely with parents, and several initiatives have been developed in the past year to strengthen home-school partnerships. Parents meet regularly with school staff to share concerns, celebrate successes, and discuss progress.

Parents are informed about the Information, Advice and Support Services (SENDIASS), formerly the Parent Partnership Service, and are supported in accessing external agencies where appropriate.

Parents will be involved at every stage of their child's education through regular communication with the class teacher and, where appropriate, the SENCO. They will be encouraged to take part in setting targets for personalised plans, with home activities provided to support learning as needed.

Parents and pupils will be invited to target-setting meetings and regular progress reviews. For children with EHC Plans, parents, the pupil, and relevant professionals will also be invited to the statutory annual review meeting.

The Governors' Annual Report will inform all parents about changes to the SEN Policy, as well as progress on previous targets and the new targets set for the coming year.

Medical concerns will always be discussed first with parents/carers. If additional support is required, the school nurse will be contacted, and where appropriate, the child may be referred for assessment via their GP.

If a teacher has concerns about a child's welfare, they should consult the SENCO and/or the Headteacher, who is also the Child Protection Co-ordinator.

Depending on the child's specific needs, a range of agencies may be involved, such as:

- Occupational Therapist
- Speech and Language Therapist
- Physiotherapist
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)
- The Traveller Service

Child Protection

The School's Child Protection Co-ordinator is Mrs. L. Scanlon.

The School's Child Protection Governor is Mr. Michael Crowther.

Admissions

Pupils with special educational needs will be admitted to Sacred Heart Primary School in line with the school's admissions policy. The school is aware of the statutory requirements of the Children and Families Act 2014 and will meet the Act's requirements. The school will use their induction meetings to work closely with parents to ascertain whether a child has been identified as having, or possibly having special educational needs. In the case of a pupil joining the school from another school, Sacred Heart Primary School will seek to ascertain from parents whether the child has special education needs and will access previous records as quickly as possible. If the school is alerted to the fact that a child may have a difficulty in learning they will make their best endeavours to collect all relevant information and plan a relevant differentiated curriculum. The Admissions policy is available on the school website.

When a pupil transfers to another school, transfer documents, including full records of their special educational needs, will be sent to the receiving school. On transfer to secondary school the Year 6 teacher and SENCO or learning mentor will meet with the SENCO of the receiving school to discuss SEN records and the needs of the individual pupils. An invitation will be issued for a representative of the receiving school to attend the transition review meeting held in Year 6.

Medical Needs

The school recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some children with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Some may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational

provision and the SEND Code of Practice (2014) is followed. The school's policy on medical needs can be found on the school website at <https://sacredheart.mecmat.org/send-information>

Monitoring and evaluation of the Policy

This policy will be reviewed annually and updated in the light of new developments. Progress will be monitored and evaluated via the action plan. Progress on the annual targets will be reported in the Annual Governors Report to Parents.

Training and resources

Governors will ensure that there is a suitably qualified SENCO who has the time necessary to undertake the role. Time is identified for staff to review pupil progress, discuss pupil curriculum needs and to transfer information between classes and phases. Teacher Assistant time is allocated to ensure pupils receive the individual support outlined in the individual plans and teachers are responsible for ensuring this takes place and is monitored.

The Governors ensure that time is allocated to allow for monitoring of provision and pupil progress. Training for teachers and teacher assistants is provided both within school and through other professional development activities.

- The school uses funding to provide external professional advice and support for individual pupils in line with their statements and in relation to needs.
- The governors will ensure that they are kept fully abreast of their statutory responsibilities by attending training and receiving regular updates from the Headteacher or the SENCO.
- The SENCO will keep abreast of current research and thinking on SEN matters.
- The SENCO will be supported to enhance their knowledge, skills and abilities through courses or from the support of other professionals.
- The SENCO will disseminate knowledge or skills gained through staff meetings, whole school INSET or consultation with individual members of staff.
- External agencies may be invited to take part in INSET.
- SEN training is included within INSET days and staff meetings to reflect the needs of the school and individual staff members.

Allocated Funding

The school allocates funding to ensure appropriate provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). This includes:

- Teaching assistant support to facilitate learning and inclusion.
- Licences for specialist programs, such as Lexia, to support literacy development
- Access to specialist teachers and Educational Psychologist services to assess and support pupils' needs.
- Staff training to enhance expertise in meeting the needs of pupils with SEND.
- Targeted interventions and resources to address individual pupil needs.
- Provision of alternative learning spaces or programmes to ensure all pupils can access education at their level.

This approach ensures that resources are used effectively to improve outcomes and promote inclusion for all pupils with SEND.

Funding received for a statement/ Education Health Care Plan is allocated to ensure appropriate provision.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The SEN Governor, Mrs Donna Rowley-Smith, will support the Governors to fulfil their statutory obligations by ensuring:

- The Curriculum Committee receives a report at every curriculum meeting to update progress on SEN issues,
- The SEN policy is reviewed annually,
- The governors' annual report details the effectiveness of the SEN policy in the last year, any significant changes to the SEN policy, why they have been made and how they will affect SEN provision,
- The school prospectus explains how the school implements the special educational needs statutory requirements reflecting what the school has in place and actually provides for pupils with special educational needs.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is the school's designated 'responsible person' for managing Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision. They keep the Governing Body informed about the school's SEN provision and work closely with the SENCO, the Special Needs Governor, and staff to ensure the effective day-to-day implementation of the school's SEN policy.

The Headteacher and SENCO collaboratively identify areas for development in SEN provision and contribute to the school's improvement plan, ensuring that all pupils with SEN receive appropriate support to achieve their full potential.

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)

Mrs Nixon Qualifications: BA Hons, QTS, CCRS.

The SENCO is responsible for:

- co-ordinating SEN provision for children.
- liaising with and advising teachers
- maintaining the school's SEN register and overseeing the records of all pupils with special educational needs
- liaising with parents of children with special educational needs
- liaising with external agencies including the educational psychology service and other support agencies, medical and social services and voluntary bodies
- consultation with the class teacher to ensure that TLPs are written and that reviews take place.

Role of Class Teacher and Support Staff

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff. Both the teaching staff and the support assistants have an integrated role in curriculum planning and in supporting the child's learning. They are fully involved in the identification, curriculum differentiation and assessment of pupils with SEN. They work together with the SENCO to formulate and review TLPs and to maintain a class SEN file that is kept in the classroom for reference by staff including supply staff and students as appropriate.

Storing and managing information

The confidential nature of SEND information is fully recognised at Sacred Heart Primary School. Electronic files are stored on the school's system.

Reviewing the policy

The policy will be reviewed as part of the school's evaluation cycle. The policy is due for review September 2026

Accessibility

The DDA, as amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001, placed a duty on all schools and LAs to plan to increase over time the accessibility of schools for disabled pupils and to implement their plans. Sacred Heart Primary School publishes its accessibility plans within its Local Offer and its Inclusion policy. These can both be found on the website at <https://sacredheart.mecmat.org/send-information>

Complaints

The school's complaints procedure for SEN mirrors the general school complaints policy.

If a parent or carer has a concern about the special provision made for their child, they should initially discuss it with the class teacher.

If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily, parents may take the following steps:

- Discuss the concern with the class teacher and SENCO
- Discuss the concern with the Headteacher
- For more serious or ongoing concerns, raise the issue in writing with the SEN Governor, who will inform the Chair of the Governing Body

This process ensures concerns are addressed promptly and fairly, with clear lines of communication for parents and carers.

Parents are informed about the Information, Advice, and Support Services (SENDIASS) and are supported in accessing these services to help them engage effectively with the school and external agencies regarding their child's special educational needs.

Bullying

Bullying is taken very seriously at Sacred Heart Primary School. To view the school's policy on anti-bullying, see the school's website at www.sacredheart primarieschool.co.uk

Statistically, children with SEND are more likely than their peers to experience bullying.

Consequently, staff and governors at Sacred Heart Primary School endeavour to generate a culture of support and care among pupils.