

St. Gregory's RC Primary School
Special Educational Needs Policy
2026 - 2027



We give thanks to God, work together and always try our best

1. Introduction

1.1 This school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all children. The National Curriculum of 2014 is our starting point for planning that meets the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. When planning, teachers set suitable learning challenges and respond to children's diverse learning needs. A minority of children have particular learning and assessment requirements that could create barriers to learning.

1.2 These requirements are likely to arise as a consequence of a child having special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). Teachers take account of these requirements and make provision, where necessary, to support individuals or groups of children and thus enable them to participate effectively in curriculum and assessment activities.

1.3 Children may have SEND throughout, or at any time during, their school career. This policy ensures that curriculum planning and assessment for children with SEND takes account of the type and extent of the difficulty experienced by the child.

2. Aims and objectives

The aims of this policy are:

- To ensure equality of provision for young people with SEND.
- To take into account legislation related to SEND and Inclusion, including the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs (January 2015), the Children and Families Act (2014) and the Equality Act (2010).
- To provide full access for all children to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum.
- To ensure that the needs of young people with SEND are identified, assessed, provided for and regularly reviewed.
- To enable young people with SEND to achieve their potential.
- To work in partnership with parents/carers to enable them to make an active contribution to the education of their child.
- To take the views of the young person into account.

3. Educational Inclusion

3.1 Through appropriate curricular provision, we respect the fact that children:

- have different educational and behavioural needs and aspirations;
- require different strategies for learning;
- acquire, assimilate and communicate information at different rates;
- need a range of different teaching approaches and experiences.

3.2 Teachers respond to children's needs by:

- The school recognises the importance of supporting pupils' social, emotional and mental health needs and will work with families and external agencies where appropriate to promote positive wellbeing.
 - providing support for children who need help with communication, language and literacy;
 - planning to develop children's understanding through the use of all available senses and experiences;
 - planning for children's full participation in learning, and in physical and practical activities;
 - helping children to manage their behaviour and to take part in learning effectively and safely;
 - helping individuals to manage their emotions, including trauma or stress, and to take part in learning

4. Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities

4.1 Children with SEND have learning difficulties that call for special provision to be made. All children may have special needs at some time in their lives.

4.2 In our school the Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities Co-ordinator (SENDCo) is Joanne Douglas. In her role she:

- manages the day-to-day operation of the policy;
- co-ordinates the provision for and manages the responses to children's special needs;

- supports and advises colleagues;
- provides advice on a graduated approach to SEND support staff, supporting and liaising with them and where necessary helping in the completion of Individual Intervention Plans (SEND support plans) and maintains the school SEND register;
- contributes to and manages the records of all children with special educational needs, completing relevant documents;
- tracks the progress of SEND pupils using school based data;
- manages school-based assessment of SEND children and completes the documentation required by outside agencies and the LA;
- acts as a link with parents where appropriate;
- maintains resources and a range of teaching materials to enable appropriate provision to be made;
- acts as a link with external agencies and other support agencies;
- monitors and evaluates the SEND provision and reports through the Head Teacher, to the governing body;
- manages, with the Head Teacher, a range of resources, human and material, linked to children with SEND;
- liaises with potential next providers of education;
- attends the termly central South Tyneside SENCO Network meetings
- works with the Head Teacher and Governors to fulfil the Equality Act

4.3 The Headteacher has responsibility for the day to day management of all aspects of the school's work, including provision for children with SEND. The Headteacher works closely with the SENDco and keeps the Governing body fully informed of SEND issues, providing an annual SEND Information Report. The content of the report is specified at section 6.79 of the *Code Of Practice 2014: 0-25 years*. The SEND Information Report will be replaced with the Inclusion Strategy by December 31st 2026

5. The Role of the Governing Body

5.1 The Governing body does its best to secure the necessary provision for any pupil identified as having SEND. The governors ensure that all teachers are aware of the importance of

providing for these children. They consult the LA and other schools, when appropriate, and report to parents on the success of the school's policy for children with SEND.

5.2 The governing body has decided that children with SEND will be admitted to the school in line with the school's agreed admissions policy.

5.3 The governing body has a member responsible for overseeing SEND in school. Currently this is Emma Little.

6. Allocation of Resources

6.1 The SENDco and Head Teacher are responsible for the operational management of the specified and agreed resourcing for SEND within the school, including the provision for SEND support children and those with an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) plus those children who currently have a statement that will be transferred to an EHCP.

6.2 The Head Teacher informs the governing body of how the funding allocated to support SEND has been employed.

6.3 The Head Teacher and the SENDco meet annually to agree on how to use funds directly related to EHCPs.

7. Assessment

7.1 The school follows South Tyneside's SEND Ranges and Ordinarily Available Provision guidance when assessing need and planning support.

7.2 Early identification is vital. The school uses the SEND Ranges, in line with the LA policy, to identify children's barriers to learning. The class teacher informs the SENDco and the parents at the earliest opportunity to alert them to concerns and enlists the parents' help.

7.3 The class teacher and the SENDCo assess and monitor the children's progress in line with existing school practices and Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice.

7.4 The SENDCo works closely with parents and teachers to plan an appropriate programme of intervention and support.

7.5 The assessment of children reflects as far as possible their participation in the whole curriculum of the school. The class teacher and the SENDCo can break down the assessment into smaller steps in order to aid progress and provide detailed and accurate indicators.

7.6 The Special Needs Register conforms to The Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years. Provision for SEND pupils is either in the category of SEN support or EHCP.

7.7 The school adopts the graduated approach of Assess, Plan, Do, Review, as outlined in the SEND Code of Practice. This process is cyclical and ensures provision is regularly monitored and adapted in response to pupil progress and changing needs. High-quality teaching, adapted for individual pupils, is the first response to meeting SEND. Additional interventions and specialist support are used where appropriate but do not replace quality-first teaching.

7.8 The majority of children with SEND will have their needs met within school. The purpose of an EHCP is to ensure SEND provision meets the needs of the child to secure the best possible outcomes across education, health and social care and, as they get older, to prepare them for adulthood.

8. Access to the Curriculum

8.1 All children have an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is adapted to enable children to:

- Understand the relevance and purpose of learning activities;
- Experience levels of understanding and rates of progress that bring feelings of success and achievement.

8.2 Teachers use a range of strategies to meet pupils' special educational needs and disabilities. Lessons have clear learning objectives and teaching is adapted to meet the needs of individual pupils. Teachers adapt learning activities, resources, communication methods and assessment approaches to ensure pupils can access the curriculum, participate fully in learning and achieve success. Assessment is used to inform the next stages of learning.

8.3 SEND Support Plan which employ a small-steps approach, feature significantly in the provision that we make in the school. By breaking down the existing levels of attainment into finely graded steps and targets, we ensure that children experience success.

8.4 All SEND support plans are reviewed at least each term and targets are discussed at parents/carers' evenings and/or individual appointments.

8.5 We support children in a manner that acknowledges their entitlement to share the same learning experiences that their peers enjoy. The needs of the majority of children will be met in the classroom. Teachers are expected to make every effort to ensure that children with SEND are fully involved in the life of the class. For some children it will be necessary for them to spend some time in small group work or being withdrawn from the classroom for specific, timed activities related to the needs identified. This may be delivered by the teacher, teaching assistant, outside agency or SENDco and will complement classroom work so that the skills, knowledge and understanding will be transferred to the classroom.

See the SEND Information Report for a comprehensive list. Available on our school website under the SEND section.

www.st-gregorys.co.uk

9. Partnerships with parents

9.1 At all levels of the special needs process, the school keeps parents informed and involved. We take account of the wishes, feelings and knowledge of parents at all times. We encourage parents to make an active contribution to their child's education.

9.2 We have regular opportunities for parents to discuss the progress of their child. We inform the parents of any outside intervention, and we share the process of decision making providing clear information relating to the education of children with SEND. Annual reviews are held to meet with parents of children with an EHCP to which involved agencies are invited.

9.3 Children's views will be sought and taken into account during the review process and at other key times throughout the year.

10. Partnership with Other Schools and Professional Agencies

10.1 During the course of the Summer Term, staff meet to discuss the educational needs of children within their class including those with SEND and plan for class transition. We also have a programme of transition with St. Wilfrid's R.C. College; Year 6 teachers meet with the Head of Year 7 and the SENDCo's from both schools in the Summer Term. Appropriate transition arrangements are also carried out for any child who is moving to a different Key Stage 3 school. Early years staff liaise with nursery settings to gather more information around individual pupils and those who may have SEND

10.2 Our school's assigned Educational Psychologist is Sandra Harrison. The SENDco meets with them regularly throughout the year.

10.3 Similarly, a member of the L.A. Nursing Staff is attached to the school to help and advise with any health/medical issues.

10.4 For information about other external agencies which can be contacted for help/advice, please consult the South Tyneside Local offer:

<https://www.southtyneside.gov.uk/article/37862/Special-Educational-Needs-and-Disabilities-SEND->

11. Monitoring and Evaluation

11.1 The SENDCo monitors the movement of children within the SEND system in school.

11.2 The SENDCo is involved in supporting teachers involved in drawing up SEND support plans for children. The SENDCo and the Head teacher hold regular meetings to review the work of the school in this area and determine the correct interventions for individual children. They also discuss the deployment of teaching assistants across the school to best support the needs of SEND and other pupils.

11.3 The school can measure pupil's progress by referring to:

- attainment and progress data collected through the school's assessment systems
- performance against age-related expectations where appropriate
- teacher assessment and professional judgement
- standardised assessments and screening tools

11.4 Adequate progress can be defined in a number of ways:

- closing the attainment gap between the pupil and the pupil's peers
- preventing the attainment gap growing wider
- matches or betters the pupil's previous rate of progress
- ensures access to the full curriculum
- demonstrates an improvement in self-help, social or personal skills
- demonstrates improvements in the pupil's behaviour

12. Complaints Procedure

12.1 If parents/carers have a complaint concerning provision for their child they should discuss this with the class teacher. If this proves unsuccessful the matter should be referred to the SENDCo and/or Head teacher. Should the matter still be unresolved the parents/carers should contact the 'responsible person' on the governing body. (Refer to the Schools Complaints Policy) In our school this person is Mr Paul Scott.

If the complaint remains unresolved the Chair of Governors should be involved and finally the complaint should be taken to the Local Authority and/or Secretary of State.

13. Review

13.1 This policy will be reviewed in September 2027

The school will monitor developments arising from national SEND reform and will update procedures as required by future legislation or statutory guidance.

Approved by Local Governing Committee	
Review	September 2026