



St. John's C. of E.

Blackpool's First Free School 1817

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Policy

Last updated: October 2023

Person Responsible for Policy: Mr. M. Corser

Next Review Due: September 2024

Introduction

At St. John's C.E. Primary School we regard each of the children in our care as special and unique individuals; and we adhere to the ethos that - *"Everyone Matters in God's World"*

We recognise the entitlement of every child to have full access to a broad, balanced and differentiated curriculum, irrespective of gender, race, colour, religion or particular needs.

The new Code of Practice (2014) states that:

"A pupil has SEND where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age".

We aim to provide quality learning experiences within a happy, purposeful, stimulating environment where each child is encouraged and inspired to fulfil his or her potential. Our aim is to develop the whole child intellectually, physically, emotionally, socially and spiritually. We strive to foster a caring family atmosphere where children take responsibility for their actions and we expect high standards of behaviour and respect for other people and their possessions.

This policy will act as an "umbrella" policy for other school policies in that, along with the aims of the school, it will provide the philosophical framework for them, giving guidance on planning, teaching and assessment with specific reference to children who have special educational needs. This policy document is designed for all teaching and teaching support staff, school governors, inspection teams and LEA advisor/inspectors. Copies are available on the school Google Drive (whole school information) and can be made available to Governors, students on placement and parents on request. A hard copy is available in the Policy folder held in the main office.

Principles

The Head Teacher, Staff, and Governors at St. John's are committed to the integration of children with Special Needs.

We aim to provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum, but also to offer small group support, or individual help, where children have specific needs.

As a Church school, we aim to develop an ethos of care, empathy, and understanding. This is essential when dealing with children with Special Needs, whose confidence and self-esteem we aim to build.

All children will be valued, and we aim for all children to experience success, and achievement, and to reach their full potential.

All our objectives have regard to the School Mission Statement.

Objectives

In order to meet the special educational needs of our children at St John's, we aim to:

- Identify those children who have SEND as early as possible,
- Provide the appropriate interventions when a child is identified as having SEND,
- Use quality first teaching and a variety of teaching styles. We cater for different learning styles to allow children with SEND to fully access the curriculum,
- Assess, monitor and keep records of the progress of children with SEND,
- Use resources effectively to support children with SEND,
- Work with outside agencies who provide specialist support and teaching for children with SEND,
- Inform and involve the parents of children with SEND so that we can work together to support our children,
- Encourage active involvement by the children themselves in meeting their needs,
- Provide ongoing training for all staff working with children with SEND,
- Support the Every Child Matters agenda within the school.

Admission Arrangements

All admissions to the school are based upon the school's 'Admissions Policy'.

There is no special unit attached to the school.

Children experiencing difficulties will be supported within the classroom by their Class Teacher and TA through quality 1st teaching and may be supported by one of the Blackpool Inclusion Team, or receive Specialist Support as a result of the graduated approach.

Miss Lauren Blackburn is the Governor with responsibility for SEND at St John's CE Primary School. She has regular contact with the Senior Management of the school to keep up to date with and monitor the school's SEND provision. School must make an annual report to parents on the current SEND provision.

Mr Michael Corser (SENC0) is responsible for the arrangements for SEND provision throughout the school.

- Has responsibility for the day to day operation of the SEND Policy
- Maintains a register of children with SEND, and ensures that the records of children with SEND are up to date.
- Works closely with both teaching and support staff in co-ordinating provision for our SEND children
- Works closely with our inclusion support assistants employed to support children with SEND throughout the school
- Works closely with parents of children with SEND
- Liaises with outside agencies to gain advice and support for children with SEND
- Leads staff training on SEND issues

The SEND support staff consist of:

Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO): - Mr Michael Corser

Assistant SENCO:- Miss Jodie Shorrock

Children and Family Engagement Manager: Mrs Kate Taylor

The school employs learning support assistants to support the SENCO in delivering learning programmes to children with SEND throughout school. They are deployed as follows:

Teaching Assistants (TAs) work with individual children and with small groups to develop specific skills identified by the class teacher. They meet with the Assistant SENCO and SENCO on a regular basis to discuss resources, approaches and progress.

The SENCO and Assistant SENCO carry out diagnostic assessments of individual children. They plan and review targets with children, class teachers, teaching assistants and parents in both key stages at the beginning and end of each review cycle. Children with Education Health Care Plans are supported on an individual basis or in small groups by TAs employed by the school. This is funded from the delegated funding by the LEA and 'topped up' by Blackpool Education Authority.

The school employs a Family Engagement Manager who works on a daily basis in school with individuals and small groups to support their emotional and behavioural needs.

A specialist learning support assistant supports children in school with their speech and language.

Support Agencies may provide additional support and advice. These include:

The Blackpool Inclusion Team
Educational Psychologists
Early Years Support Team
Speech & Language Specialists
School Nurse
CAMHS
Occupational Therapists
Family Support Workers

The school is also assigned a SEND Officer and a SEND Advisory Teacher from the Inclusion Team, their role is to support the school and work closely with the SENCO in all matters relating to SEND.

The school has a small teaching room/office called The Hive, situated on the first floor and two Intervention rooms on the second floor: The View and The Zone. The Learning Mentor has a room on the ground floor.

Access to the National Curriculum

All class teachers and the SEND Team carry out an ongoing process of assessment, planning and review that recognises each child's strengths as well as areas for improvement.

A rigorous tracking system is in place to identify children who are not making the required level of progress. Strategies to enable access are:

- adaptation of the curriculum to match tasks to ability
- quality first teaching
- activities that offer challenge at all abilities
- use of a range of teaching styles which recognise the individual learning styles of the children in the class
- use of TAs to provide additional support within lessons
- small intervention group and 1:1 teaching by the SEND staff
- accessibility to resources to support pupils with sensory or physical difficulties
- alternative means of accessing the curriculum through ICT, and use of specialist equipment
- use of positive behaviour modification strategies within the classroom and as part of the whole school Behaviour Policy
- access to extra-curricular clubs and wider school opportunities
- In-Service training for all staff on the needs of children with SEN

Initial Identification

At St John's CE Primary School, we identify children with SEND as early as possible, through regular contact with our feeder Early Years settings and by assessment at the start of Reception. Throughout the school we monitor and track the progress of all children by an ongoing process of planning, teaching and assessment. Children with SEND may be identified at any stage of this process during their school life.

In Reception and Years 1 and 2 the assessments used are:

- Baseline scores at the start and end of Reception
- Phonics screening
- NELI Language Screening
- Termly Teacher Assessment and progress meetings
- End of Key Stage 1 SATs tests
- Sandwell Numeracy test
- SNAP Maths Assessment
- Wellcomm Speech and language assessment
- Salford reading Test
- Single Word Spelling Test

In Key Stage 2 the assessments used are:

- ongoing profiles of progress towards objectives in all curriculum areas
- termly assessments and progress meetings
- annual Teacher Assessment sheets for both core and foundation subjects
- the end of Key Stage 2 SATs tests.
- Salford Reading Test
- Single Word Spelling Test
- SNAP Maths Assessment

The tests used in school for diagnostic purposes are

- British Picture Vocabulary Scale (BPVS)
- Letters and Sounds phase assessments
- Sandwell Numeracy assessment test
- Salford Reading Test
- Single Word Spelling Test
- Other tests may be accessed if required

Physical or medical difficulties are discussed when pupils are admitted to the school, and entered on the Admissions card which is signed by the parents. The Class Teacher is informed, and the information is passed on to the SENCO. If the medical problem is likely to affect the child's ability to learn, such as Hearing/Visual Impairment, the SENCO will record the details, and ensure that staff are aware of any likely difficulties after liaison with parents and the School Nurse.

Learning difficulties are initially identified based upon the Class Teacher's professional judgement. Concerns are registered with the Special Needs Co-ordinator. Parents are contacted to discuss any problems.

Assessment is initially based upon the National Curriculum statements, Reading/Spelling Tests, BPVS, Foundation Stage Profile or Baseline Assessment on entry.

Children moving in from other areas who are experiencing difficulties will be assessed to identify any areas of weakness.

Triggers for further intervention are:

We recognise that there is a wide range of SEND among our children and match the level of intervention to each child's needs. The trigger for further intervention is "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.

Graduated Approach

This Graduated Approach was developed to support the process of meeting the individual needs of all children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities. Details of the Graduated Approach can be accessed at <https://www.fyidirectory.co.uk/blackpool-local-offer>

Quality First Teaching

All children will receive Quality First Teaching from their class teacher. The curriculum will be differentiated to meet the needs of individual children and groups of children.

Where concerns are identified regarding individual children, the following stages are followed to identify the individual needs of a child and apply the most appropriate strategies to best support them.

Who would be involved at each stage of the Graduated Approach?

- Initial Observations
Class teacher, support staff
- First Concerns 1
Class teacher, support staff, parents/carers, child or young person
- First Concerns 2
Class teacher, support staff, parents/carers, child or young person
- SEN Support 1
SENCo, class teacher, support staff, parents/carers, child or young person (possible school nursing team)
- SEN Support 2
SENCo, class teacher, support staff, parents/carers, child or young person, external professionals
- Complex
SENCo, class teacher, support staff, parents/carers, child or young person, external professionals

First Concerns 1

First Concerns 1 outlines specific, additional and time-limited interventions provided for some children who are falling behind the age expected level. Interventions are often targeted at a group of pupils with similar needs.

First Concerns 2

First Concerns 2 is targeted provision for a small percentage of children who either require a high level of additional support/specialised provision in order to address their needs or is for children who have been identified for an intervention designed to accelerate progress.

SEND Support

At these stages the school SENCO will submit a referral to the Inclusion Team to involve external professionals in supporting the school, the child and their family.

Roles and Responsibilities

Class Teachers

- The Class Teacher is responsible for the initial identification of a pupil's SEND through observation of classroom practice and on-going assessment.
- It is the Class teacher's responsibility to inform the SENCO of their concern. A decision will be made together, to implement action.
- The Class Teacher must invite parents/guardians to a meeting to discuss concerns, and decide on a plan of action.
- At this meeting, a review meeting will be arranged to review progress.
- The Class teacher must keep the SENCO informed of any developments between reviews.

SENCO 's Role

- It is the SENCO's responsibility to collect and collate all available material and information held by the school. They may also undertake or arrange further assessment.
- The SENCO must monitor the work of the Class Teacher, to ensure that appropriate strategies have been formulated, and resources are available.
- The SENCO must ensure that there are adequate resources to meet the needs of all pupils experiencing difficulties.
- Provide advice and support to the Class Teacher, and contact outside agencies for advice if necessary.
- Arrange additional support where appropriate, and as the budget allows.
- The SENCO reviews progress twice each year.
- Is responsible for all relevant paperwork for external agencies etc.
- Liaises with outside agencies to provide support and advice for the pupil, parent and teacher.

- Is responsible for the Provision Map in association with any outside agencies.
- Continues to monitor all paperwork and work files etc.
- In consultation with the Head Teacher, and outside agencies, makes the decision to proceed to request formal assessment, where necessary.
- To pass on detailed information about Year 6 children to the relevant High Schools. The High School SENCO's are contacted at the start of the summer term to discuss transition to High school. Transition books, photographs and visits are made to suit individual needs.

If the child fails to progress sufficiently, a request may be made to the PSAM panel to consider the need for statutory assessment.

The LEA considers the need for an Education and Health Care Plan, and if appropriate, makes arrangements to monitor and review provision.

Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP)

Statutory Assessment helps us gain information about a child's special educational needs and enables us to determine the level of support needed following the graduated approach.

This is usually needed when a child has severe and complex needs that can't be met by the resources normally available to schools.

The school will work alongside parents and the relevant local authority departments (as well as other professionals) to make a referral for an EHCP where appropriate.

One Page Profile

Children identified as having Special Needs with an EHCP have a One Page Profile and other children on the SEND register have a Learning Profile. Information is stored and accessible to all staff on Google Drive and EduKey. At this stage, the child's Class Teacher will remain responsible for providing the child with appropriate differentiated work.

The 1PP should give information about the child's strengths and weaknesses, and how the targets may be achieved, and who will be responsible.

Learning Profile

If a child fails to make adequate progress after two reviews, or if a specific problem is identified, appropriate action will be taken. This may mean calling in a Specialist e.g. the Educational Psychologist, Student Support team, Visually Impaired Specialist Teacher etc. or simply updating with new targets.

If a small group of children have similar needs, a Group Plan may be written, with targets for the group.

Progress will be reviewed regularly, at least twice a year, and more often if necessary. The parents, Class Teacher, Head Teacher, SENCO and any Specialist involved may be invited to the Review. The child, where appropriate will be consulted as to how he/she views the programme.

The SENCO will regularly monitor all of the children on the Special Needs Register. Regular testing is carried out in school for assessment purposes, and copies of all test results are studied carefully. If children are falling behind, appropriate action will be taken. Sometimes this additional support may only be necessary for a short period.

Governors

The Governors will be kept informed of all items regarding SEND on a regular basis, through reports submitted by the SENCO, discussions with staff where required and access to the school website.

The Governing Board evaluates the success of SEND provision through reports from the Governor with responsibility for SEND, and updates to the Full Governing Board from the SENCO. The Head Teacher's report to the Governing Board also covers SEND developments.

The Governing Board, through the School Development Plan, ensures that relevant Inset for Staff is provided.

Parental Involvement

We aim to fully involve parents, and ask them to co-operate by hearing reading, helping with spellings and supporting home learning. Parents are welcome to help in school.

The parents and carers of children with Special Needs are welcome to come in to share information or concerns with Mr Corser, Miss Shorrocks and Mrs. Galloway or the class teacher.

We actively seek to develop strong relationships with parents/carers of children with SEND, parents may make appointments to see their child's class teacher or the SENCOs (Mr Corser and Miss Shorrocks) to discuss their child's needs at any time. There is also an opportunity for parents to have an informal discussion at the start or end of the day with teachers or the SENCOs. Parents/Carers also have the opportunity to attend teacher/parent consultation appointments and where a review or other meeting is being held regarding their child, parents will be invited to attend these meetings.

Parents are also signposted to the Local Offer that encompasses a number of agencies and organisations that can support families. Blackpool Special Educational Needs and Disability Information Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) is a statutory service. The service offers free independent, confidential and impartial information, advice and support to children and young people with special educational needs (SEND), and those with disabilities, and their parents or carers who have children and young people 0-25 years. The school website also contains relevant information to support families and is updated on a regular basis.

Resources

Resources are constantly reviewed and updated. Children learn at different rates, in a variety of ways. We aim to provide a multi - sensory approach to learning, especially for those children with a specific learning difficulty.

We aim to provide resources at the appropriate interest level, but also the correct reading level. We have added to existing resources, supplementing popular schemes, and investing in new material. Each class is also provided with a YELP box which contains a range of resources to support the specific needs of children.

The allocation of funds for Special Educational Needs has equal status with other subjects.

Practice

Our aim is to integrate the child with Special Needs so that he/she feels a valued member of the school.

We aim to do this by: -

- providing opportunities for success at all levels.
- providing a supportive environment where the child is not afraid to make mistakes.
- differentiating the tasks so that there is a good match between the child's ability and the task.
- being flexible in our teaching styles - not all children learn in the same way - the child should be taught the way he/she can learn.
- celebrating success - make the child feel important by sharing in their achievements.
- providing staff with relevant training to support children with specific needs.

Complaints

The SENCO, Mr. Michael Corser, will in the first instance, deal with complaints from parents of pupils with Special Educational Needs.

If the parents wish to pursue the matter further, the Head Teacher should be approached. Please refer to the Complaints Policy for more information.