

St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School

SEND Offer



“Doing our best for God”

Our Mission Statement

To offer opportunities and experiences which will enable the individual (adult or pupil) to grow towards the realisation of his/her full potential.

To foster sound personal relationships among its members - staff, pupils, parents and governors - in a Christian environment.

To affirm the place of worship, prayer and liturgy in the educational experience.

To recruit parental help to sustain the development of good relationships.

To initiate projects to broaden the school's role in the parish and wider community.

Special Educational Needs Information

St Bernadette's staff supports all children on their journey through the school to help them achieve the best outcome for them as individuals.

Some children on their learning journey, at times may need additional support to achieve their targets in:

- ✚ Communication
- ✚ Interactions with adults and children
- ✚ Cognition and learning
- ✚ Social, emotional, mental health and resilience
- ✚ Sensory needs
- ✚ Physical needs

The roles and responsibilities of the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

Mrs. Dowling is an experience SENDco. She has the national SENDco qualifications.

In her role as SENDco, Mrs. Dowling is responsible for the operation of the SEN policy and co-ordination of the provisions to support individual children with SEN. Liaising with staff to monitor pupil's progress and to arrange further interventions where progress is slower than expected. Mrs. Dowling has contact with external agencies who can offer more specialized advice to support individual child in their learning,

What is Blackpool's Local Offer?

The local offer came into force in March 2011 - as a local offer of all services available to support children with Special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.

This information is help parents, children and staff to find out what is available in the Blackpool Local Authority to support children and their families.

Some of your questions answered

How does St Bernadette's Catholic Primary School know if children need extra support?

We know that children in St Bernadette's need help by:

- Parents/carers, teacher or the child tell us that they have concerns and are seeking help.
- The child is making less progress than expected.
- The child's behaviour or progress has changed.
- Pupil progress is monitored by Senior Management with the class teachers. This ensures that children who are not making the expected progress can where appropriate receive additional support.

What should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

- Initially talk to your child's class teacher about your concerns.
- Mrs. Dowling can be available by appointment to discuss concerns with you and the class teacher.

What support will my child receive at St Bernadette's if they are identified as having special educational need?

- Each child's needs will be assessed and planned at the pupil progress meetings. The support could be having extra time with the teacher or teaching assistant. Working in small groups with intervention worker/ Family support worker.
- Parents /Carers are expected to take an active part in the SEND support meetings which are arranged at least once a term. Appointments with the class teacher/SENDco can be made if you wish to discuss your child's progress with the support put in place.
- If your child has needs that relate to more specific areas of their education than school will use plan-do review to set targets and review your child's progress.
- Review meetings are held to evaluate your child's progress and to help inform future planning and support
- Your child may need specialist support from other professional agencies such as, Speech and Language Therapist (often referred to as SALT), Educational Psychologist (Ed Psy), Child Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS), Primary Mental Health Workers (PMHW). Referrals will only be made with your consent.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

- If your child is identified as being a child with special educational needs, their work will be differentiated by the class teacher to enable them to access the curriculum more easily.
- A Teaching Assistant may be allocated to work with your child 1:1 or in small focus groups.
- If your child has more complex needs which requires a range of interventions and external agencies to support them, then a more detailed Assess - Plan - Do - review document will be produced.
- The access-plan-review plan will be formed through a joint review meeting. It is the opportunity for the child, parents, school and other agencies to put forward their views and aspirations for the child.
- A plan with measurable targets, strategies, resources and action to support the child in school will be agreed by everyone. These will be reviewed at meetings held termly.

What additional physical resources will be available for my child?

- As a school we respond to the needs of our pupils and we purchase resources that have been suggested specific to the needs of individual children.
- If appropriate specialist equipment may be used to support the pupils e.g. concentration cushions, easy to use scissors, specialised cutlery, putty to support fine motor skills.

How will I know how my child is doing?

- You will be able to discuss your child's progress at our regular parent's consultation meetings.
- Appointments can be made through the school office to arrange a more detailed meeting with the class teacher and/or the SENDCO.
- There will be a Statutory Annual review meeting for children who have more complex or higher level of needs and have a ECHP held once a year usually at the end of the school year.
- Any additional assessments will be shared with parents/carers at meetings in school and as a formal report.

What support is available if my child displays exceptional, severe or very complex needs?

- If your child's needs are exceptional, severe or complex and require a higher level of resourcing and coordinated approach then a Statutory Assessment of SEN can be commenced through the Blackpool Local Authority
- An assessment of the level of resourcing the child currently receives from the school, and evidence of a coordinated response over time will be made. If there is evidence of the child's needs being significantly greater than peers of the same age, and will be are long term and require specialist resources or provision to achieve long term positive outcomes.

What is an Education Health and Care Plan?

- If the Statutory Assessment process finds evidence to match the criteria set then an Education Health and Care Plan will be launched. This has replaced the use of Statements in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2014.
- This is a very detailed plan which is led by the Blackpool Local Authority. The child, parents/carers, school, external professionals are all invited to add their views and aspirations to the plan.
- There is a statutory Yearly Review

What are the specialist services and expertise available at or accessed by school?

At times it is necessary to consult with outside agencies to receive their more specialised expertise.

The agencies that can support school, parents and child include one or more of the following:

- Educational Psychologist
- Cognition & Learning Advisory Teacher
- Children Services
- Severe and Complex Learning Difficulties Advisory Service
- Physical Difficulties Team
- Sensory Impairment Team
- Looked After Children Service
- Post-Adoption Services
- CAMHS
- SEMH Advisory Teachers
- School Nurse
- Paediatricians (Victoria Hospital)
- NHS Speech and Language Service (SALT)
- The Linden Centre (Bereavement)
- DEN (Domestic Abuse Support)
- Community police

How will the school prepare and support my child when joining St Bernadette's or transferring to a new school?

Many strategies are in place to enable pupils' transition to be as smooth as possible.

- Discussion between the previous or receiving schools prior to the child joining/leaving St Bernadette's
- Visits are arranged for pupils who need extra time in their new school.
- A Parent/carer meeting can be arranged with the SENDCO before your child starts.
- High School staff/ SENDCO's visit St Bernadette's to ensure key information is passed on. Where a child has specialised needs staff from the receiving school will be invited to a formal review.
- In-house transitions between year groups and key stages are well managed. Pupils are able to visit their new classrooms and meet key members of staff.
- Meetings are arranged with parents/carers, SENDCO, current and future class teachers in order to ensure that good practice is shared.

How accessible is the school environment?

As a school we are happy to discuss individual access requirements.

- All classrooms are accessible from the playground.
- We have a disabled toilet, which is available for pupil, staff and visitors.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

Activities and school trips are available to all.

- Risk assessments are carried out and procedures put in place to enable all children to participate.
- However, if it is deemed that an intensive level of 1-1 support is required, either a Teaching Assistant or parent/carer may be asked to accompany the child.

How are the schools' resources allocated and matched to the children's Special

- The SEN budget is allocated each financial year. The money is used to provide additional support or resources dependent upon individual needs.
- Resources may include deployment of staff depending upon individual circumstances.

What support will there be for my child's overall wellbeing?

The school offers a wide variety of pastoral support for pupils who are encountering emotional difficulties.

These include:

- Members of staff are readily available for pupils who wish to discuss issues or concerns.
- The Family Support Worker is available to offer short and long term support to pupils and families.
- We have Pupil Voice, who support their peers in establishing practices in anti-bullying and friendships.
- Intervention programmes are available to support pupils' emotional well-being and social skills.

Pupils with Medical Needs

St Bernadette's has a duty of care to all our pupils.

- If a pupil has a medical need then a detailed Medical Care Plan is compiled with support from the school nurse and in consultation with parents/carers. These are discussed with the staff involved.
- Staff access the necessary medical training in response to pupils needs including; epi-pen use, procedures to support a pupils with a diagnosis of Epilepsy and Diabetes training.

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If you wish to discuss your child's educational needs or are unhappy about something regarding your child's schooling please contact the school office to arrange a meeting. We hope that this has answered any queries you may have but do not hesitate to contact the school if you have further questions. Telephone 01253 353641 or e mail admin@st-bernadette.blackpool.sch.uk for further information.

Signed: Olivia Dowling (SENCo)
Alexis Satterthwaite (Headteacher)

Date: November 2024

Review Date: November 2025