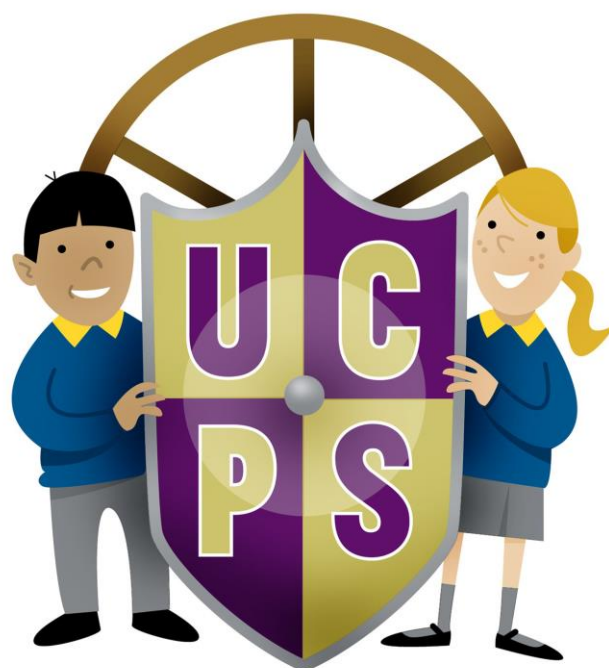


Usworth Colliery Primary School



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy 2025 - 2026

Approved by:	FGB	Date:	November 2025
Last reviewed on:	18 th November 2025		
Next review due by:	November 2026		

Policy on Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)

2025- 2026

Introduction:

The Governing Body and the Headteacher have overall responsibility for the school's Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy.

The school's Headteacher is Mrs A. Forster.

The school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo) and ASD Resourced Provision (ARP) Lead Teacher is Mrs S. Jones. The school's Assistant SENDCo is Georgia Skeen.

The Governor responsible for SEND is Mrs R. Walker.

The day-to-day implementation of this policy falls to the staff in the school.

This policy is informed by the following legislation and aims to reflect the inclusive philosophy of the school:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (January 2015)
- The Equality Act (2010)
- The Children's Act (1989)
- The Disability Discrimination Act (1995)
- Removing Barriers to Achievement (2004)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (including 2005 amendments to the Disability Discrimination Act).
- LA Policy and Guidelines.
- School Admission Policy
- Usworth Colliery Primary School SEND Information Report to Parents.

This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies and national guidelines to include child protection and safeguarding, admissions, complaints, behaviour, attendance and punctuation, single equality scheme, teachers' standards and the National Curriculum of England etc.

At Usworth Colliery Primary School we believe that every child has the right to a broad and balanced curriculum. The National Curriculum 2014 is our starting point for planning that meets the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. Some children have barriers to learning that mean they have special or additional needs and require particular action by the school. Teachers take account of the individual needs of all pupils and make provision, where necessary, to support individuals or groups of children, thus enabling them to participate effectively in curriculum and assessment activities.

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

The Disability Discrimination Act identifies the fact that some pupils with disabilities may have learning difficulties that call for special educational provision. However, not all children defined as having a disability will require this provision. A child with Asthma or diabetes, for example, may not have special educational needs, but may still have rights under the Disability Discrimination Act. We will assess each child as required, and make the appropriate provision, based on their identified needs.

Aims:

The aims of this policy are:

- Adopt a whole school approach to the identification, assessment and provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).
- View our SEND provision as an ongoing, developing process.
- To identify at the earliest opportunity, all children that need special consideration to support their needs (whether these are educational, social, physical or emotional)
- Ensure that teaching staff are aware of and are sensitive to the needs of all pupils, teaching pupils in a way that is most appropriate to their needs.
- Incorporate Special Educational Needs procedures including SEND Support Plans into curriculum planning and make suitable provision for children with SEND to fully develop their abilities and therefore maximise access to the curriculum.
- Continue to develop and maintain effective partnerships between school, parents and carers and outside agencies to ensure a multi-disciplinary approach to the resolution of issues.
- To work in partnership with parents, pupils and relevant external agencies in order to provide for children's special educational needs
- Encourage children, parents and carers to participate in decision-making.
- Ensure that assessment and record-keeping systems provide adequate means of recording attainment and achievement.
- Help all pupils achieve to the best of their abilities, despite any difficulty or disability they may have and give every child the entitlement to a sense of achievement.
- To regularly review the policy and practice in order to achieve best practice.

Educational inclusion

In our school, we aim to offer excellence and choice to all our children, whatever their ability or needs. We have high expectations of all our children. We aim to achieve this through the removal of barriers to learning and participation. We want our children to feel that they are a valued part of our school community. 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.

Teachers respond to children's needs by:

- Providing support for children who need help with communication, language and literacy;

- Planning to develop children's understanding through use of all their senses and of varied 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, particularly trauma and stress, and to take part in learning.

Special Educational Needs

Children with Special Educational Needs have learning difficulties that call for special provision to be made. All children may have special needs at some time in their lives. Children have a learning difficulty if:

- They have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age;
- They have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities that are provided for other children of the same age.
- The four areas of need are:

Communication and Interaction
Cognition and Learning
Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
Sensory, Medical and/or physical needs

Many of the children who join us have already been in early education. In some cases, children join us with their needs already assessed. All children are assessed when they enter our school, so that we can build upon their prior learning. We use this information to provide starting points for the development of an appropriate curriculum for all our children.

Usworth Colliery Primary School operates a graduated approach to identifying SEND. If our assessments show that a child may have a learning difficulty, we use a range of strategies that make full use of all available classroom and school resources. The child's class teacher will offer interventions that are different from or additional to those provided as part of the school's usual working practices. The class teacher will keep parents informed and draw upon them for additional information. The SENDCo/ Assistant SENDCo, will become involved when the teacher has undertaken full assessment and intervention strategies and the teacher and parents feel that the child would benefit from further support. The SENDCo/ Assistant SENDCo will then take the lead in facilitating further assessments of the child's needs.

We will record the strategies used to support the child. Support Plans show the area of need, the outcomes set for the child, the provision and the teaching strategies to be used. It will also indicate the date for the plan to be reviewed. In most cases, this review will take place at least three times per year. Discussions and meetings, such as parental consultations, will also form part of this process.

If the Support Plan review identifies that support is needed from outside services, we will consult parents prior to any support being actioned. In most cases, children will be seen in school by external support services. This may lead to additional strategies or strategies

that are different from those used in class already. External support agencies will provide information for the child's new Support Plan. The new strategies in the Support Plan will, wherever possible, be implemented within the child's normal classroom setting. The SENDCo/ Assistant SENDCo will organise and chair any SEND review meetings that are required, inviting all professionals involved with the child.

If the child continues to demonstrate significant cause for concern, a request for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) statutory assessment will be made to Together for Children (TfC) in collaboration with the parents. A range of written evidence about the child and their needs will be submitted to support the request.

In our school, the SENDCo and Assistant SENDCo:

- 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;
- Oversees Continuous Professional Development (CPD) for all staff in relation to SEND with the Headteacher;
- Oversees the records of all children with special educational needs;
- Acts as the link with parents;
- Acts as the link with external agencies and other support agencies;
- Monitors and evaluates the special educational needs provision, and reports to the Senior Leadership Team and the governing body;
- Manages a range of resources, both human and material, to enable appropriate provision to be made for children with special educational needs;
- Contributes to the professional development of all staff.

The role of the governing body

The governing body has due regard to the SEND Code of Practice when carrying out its duties toward all pupils with special educational needs.

The governing body has identified a governor to have specific oversight of the school's provision for pupils with special educational needs. The SEND governor ensures that all governors are aware of the school's SEND provision, including the deployment of funding, equipment and personnel.

Allocation of resources

The SENDCo is responsible for the operational management of the specified and agreed resourcing for special needs provision within the school, including the provision for children with Education Health and Care Plans.

The Headteacher informs the governing body of how the funding allocated to support Special Educational Needs has been employed.

The Headteacher and the SENDCo meet at least annually to agree on how to use funds directly related to Education Health and Care Plans.

Assessment

At Usworth Colliery Primary School we know that early identification of needs is vital. The school follows the Assess, Plan, Do, Review cycle to ensure that robust and timely identification, assessment and support is given. The class teacher informs the parents at

the earliest opportunity to alert them to concerns and enlist their active help and participation.

The class teacher assesses and monitors children's progress in line with existing school practices. This is an ongoing process. Interventions and provisions are recorded for all pupils.

The SENDCo/ Assistant SENDCo works closely with parents and teachers to plan an appropriate programme of support for those children on the SEND register.

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

Together for Children (TfC) seeks a range of advice before making an Education Health and Care Plan. The needs of the child are considered to be paramount in this.

Access to the curriculum

Every child has an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is delivered through Quality First Teaching to enable them to:

- Understand the relevance and purpose of learning activities;
- Experience levels of understanding and rates of progress that bring feelings of success and achievement.
- Use a range of appropriate support materials in order to access learning alongside their peers.

Teachers use a range of strategies to meet children's special educational needs. Lessons have clear learning objectives; work is matched appropriately to children's needs and levels of attainment, and we use assessment to inform the next stage of learning.

Support Plans, which employ a small-steps approach, feature significantly in the provision that we make in the school. By breaking down long term targets into finely graded steps, we ensure that all children experience success.

We support children in a manner that acknowledges their entitlement to share the same learning experiences that their peers enjoy. Wherever possible, we do not withdraw children from the classroom. There are times, though, when to maximise learning, we ask the children to work in small groups, or in a one-to-one situation outside the classroom on specific and targeted interventions in line with their Support Plans and/or advice from external professionals e.g. physiotherapy, Speech and Language Therapy.

Partnership with parents

The school works closely with parents in support of children with special educational needs. We encourage an active partnership through an ongoing dialogue with parents. The school SEND Information Report and the school prospectus contains details of our policy for special educational needs, and the arrangements made for these children in our school; these documents are published on the school's website. There is also a named governor for Special Educational Needs.

We have regular meetings to share the progress of special needs children with their parents/carers. This may be in the form of parental consultation with a class teacher or review meetings with the SENDCo/ Assistant SENDCo. We inform parents of any outside intervention, and we share the process of decision-making by providing clear information relating to the education of their child(ren).

Pupil participation

In our school, we encourage children to take responsibility, to become independent and to make decisions. This is part of the culture of our school and relates to children of all ages. The work throughout school recognises the importance of children developing social as well as educational skills.

Children may be involved at an appropriate level in setting targets as part of their learning journey. Children are encouraged to make judgements about their own performance against their targets where appropriate. We recognise the success that children have in many aspects of school life.

The voice of the child is recorded in line with Together for Children documentation in the EHCP process.

Monitoring and review

The SENDCo monitors the movement of children within the SEND system in school. The SENDCo provides staff and governors with regular summaries of the impact of the policy on the practice of the school.

The SENDCo/ Assistant SENDCo is involved in supporting teachers in devising Support Plans for children. The SENDCo/ Assistant SENDCo meets regularly with class teachers to review the needs in class and provide support, advice or action when needed.

The SENDCo/ Assistant SENDCo and the Headteacher hold regular meetings to review the work of the school in this area. The SENDCo/Assistant SENDCo and named governor with responsibility for special needs also hold regular meetings.

The governing body reviews this policy annually and considers any amendments in light of the annual review findings. The SENDCo/ Assistant SENDCo reports the outcome of the review to the full governing body.

Complaints Procedure

The school's complaints procedure is outlined in the school complaints policy which is on the school's website or which can be obtained from the school office. The SEND Code of Practice outlines additional measure which Together for Children must set out for preventing and resolving disputes. These will be explained to parents if required.

Reviewed – September 2025

Next Review – September 2026