

SEND AND INCLUSION POLICY

Reviewed: June 2025

Next Review Date: June 2026

Statutory Policy: Yes

Required on Website: Yes

Approved By: Local Governing Body

Related Documents: Equal Opportunities Policy, Bullying & Cyber-bullying Policy, Admissions Policy, Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Educational Visits Policy, Behaviour Policy, Our Local Offer, Complaints Policy, First Aid Policy, Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs Policy and Teaching & Learning Policies



1. Aims and objectives

Our special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) policy aims to:

- Make sure our school fully implements national legislation and guidance regarding pupils with SEND
- Set out how our school will:
- Support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
- Provide pupils with SEND access to all aspects of school life so they can engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEND
- Help pupils with SEND fulfil their aspirations and achieve their best
- Help pupils with SEND become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
- Communicate with pupils with SEND and their parents or carers and involve them in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND
- Communicate with, and involve, pupils with SEND and their parents or carers in discussions and decisions about support and provision for the pupil
- Make sure the SEND policy is understood and implemented consistently by all staff

2. Vision and values

Our school is committed to providing an appropriate and high-quality education for all of the children in our school. We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs and disability, are entitled to a broad and balanced academic and social curriculum which is accessible to them, and to be fully included in all aspects of school life. We are committed to maximum inclusion commensurate with meeting individual needs, the highest quality of education for all children and the efficient use of resources.

This policy describes the way we meet the needs of children who experience barriers to their learning, which may relate to sensory or physical impairment, learning difficulties or emotional or social development, or may relate to factors in their environment, including the learning environment they experience in school. We aim to identify these needs as early as possible and to provide teaching and learning contexts which enable every child to achieve to his or her full potential.

At our school the learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of all students and staff are of upmost importance. We aim to promote a sense of community and belonging, ensuring that the culture, policies and practices in the school respond to the diversity of the pupils. These differences make the school a richer environment for all. We believe that Inclusion is about equal opportunities for all learners regardless of their:

- Ability
- Age
- Gender
- Ethnic origin
- Religious belief
- Impairment
- Looked after status
- Social, economic or cultural background (this includes asylum seekers and refugees, young carers and those at risk of disaffection and exclusion)

3. Legislation and guidance

This policy and our information report are based on the statutory [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#) and the following legislation:

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN coordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report.
- The [Equality Act 2010](#) (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- The [Public Sector Equality Duty](#) (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it
- The [Governance Handbook](#), which sets out governors' responsibilities for pupils with SEND.
- The [School Admissions Code](#), which sets out the school's obligation to admit all pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs.
- This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

At our school we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that pupils with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a **learning difficulty or disability** if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

5.2 Disability

Pupils are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

The school will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	<p>Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or do not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
Cognition and learning	<p>Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers.</p> <p>A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia• Moderate learning difficulties• Severe learning difficulties• Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder• Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder• Suffered adverse childhood experiences <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>
Sensory and/or physical	<p>Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment• A physical impairment <p>These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The SENCO

The SENCO at our school is Mrs Liz Knox, she is a qualified senior teacher.

They will:

- Inform any parents that their child may have SEN and then liaise with them about the pupil's needs and any provision made.
- Work with the headteacher and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school.
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans.
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching.
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils.
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively.
- Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to ensure that appropriate provision is provided.
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned.
- When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school, or institution in a timely manner.
- Work with the headteacher and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate.
- With the headteacher, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.
- With the headteacher, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers.
- Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy.

6.2 The Governing body

The governing board is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out:

- Do all it can to make sure that every pupil with SEND gets the support they need
- Make sure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who don't have SEND
- Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any pupils with medical conditions
- Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- Provide an annual report for parents on their child's progress
- Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for pupils with SEND
- Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in a SEN information report
- Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans
- Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND

6.3 The SEND link governor

The SEND link governor is Mrs Joanne Cervantes

The SEND governor will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing board meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- Work with the headteacher and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

6.4 The headteacher

The headteacher will:

- Work with the SENCO and SEND link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school.
- Work with the SENCO and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND, and their progress.
- Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils.
- Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register.
- With the SENCO, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.
- With the SENCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer.
- With the SENCO and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison, with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching.

6.5 Class teachers

Each class teacher, with support from the SENCO, is responsible for:

- Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach.
- The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching.
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development.
- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report.
- Liaising and contributing to communication with parents regularly to:
 - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them.
 - Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes.
 - Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil, and the school.
 - Listen to the parents' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil.

6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a pupil on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the pupil's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- Invited to termly meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child.
- Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in the pupils' needs.
- Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the pupil.
- Given a termly report on the pupil's progress.

The school will take into account the views of the parent or carer in any decisions made about the pupil.

6.7 The pupil

Pupils will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the pupil:

- Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions
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The pupil's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

7. SEN information report

The school publishes a SEN information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school. The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

8. Our approach to SEND support

8.1 Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. We will also consider any evidence that the pupil may have a disability and if so, what reasonable adjustments the school may need to make.

Class teachers will regularly assess the progress of all pupils and identify any whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- Widens the attainment gap
- We follow a graduated wave approach to SEND

Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as bullying or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for pupils whose first language is not English.

8.2 Consulting and involving pupils and parents

Our school has positive attitudes to parents/carers and values their important role in their child's education. Parents/carers are always informed when their child is placed on the SEND list and the graduated response, outlined in the Code of Practice, is explained to them. They are fully involved in the review process. Written information is in accessible formats and sufficient notice is given for meetings to enable parents/carers time to prepare.

These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- We take into account any concerns the parents have
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- Everyone is clear on what the next steps are

8.3 The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a pupil has been identified as having SEN, we will take action to remove any barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.

1. Assess

The pupil's class teacher and the SENCO will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. The views of the pupil and their parents will be taken into account. The school may also seek advice from external support services.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

2. Plan

In consultation with the parents and the pupil, the teacher and the SENCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the pupil's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded on our management information system.

Parents will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions, and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

3. Do

The pupil's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. The SENCO, teacher and teaching assistant will all work closely to ensure links to classroom teaching.

4. Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents and pupils
- The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil

The teacher and the SENCO will revise the outcomes and support in light of the pupil's progress and development, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents.

8.4 Levels of support

Our wave system approach to SEND ensures children can move in either direction depending on their presenting needs:

Wave 1: Early identification and support by QFT (Quality first teaching) includes reasonable adjustments to support a need. Children then make expected progress.

Wave 2: Children are still not making expected progress despite reasonable adjustments. QFT and short interventions are required. Baseline assessments help staff to identify appropriate short-term intervention and discussions are held with parents and pupils.

Wave 3 - School based SEN provision: Ongoing specific longer-term support to address child's SEND. It is at this stage a child, with the agreement of parent/carer will be put on the SEN register.

The SENCO, class teacher, parent and pupil decide on the action needed to help the child to progress in the light of their earlier assessments. SEND Support interventions are provided that are **additional to** or **different from** those provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum. The SENCO and class teacher will:

- Draw up a support plan that is pupil friendly, setting targets to ensure that progress is tracked and achievement identified and celebrated
- Monitor and review the pupil's attainment and progress on a termly basis
- Consult the pupil and parent at each support plan review

SEND Support might include the following:

- Provision of different learning materials
- Specialist equipment
- Individual/group support with the class teacher, CA or LST in or out of class.
- Staff development or training in alternative strategies

If a pupil continues to make little/no progress in learning or behaviour, the school will seek further help from outside agencies such as the Educational Psychologist, HINT Support team and therapists in the Health Service.

The provision for these pupils is funded through the school's notional SEND budget.

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code K.

Wave 4 - Education, health and care (EHC) plan

Pupils who need more support than is available through the school's school-based SEN provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the pupil, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

The provision for these pupils will be funded from the school's notional SEND budget, and potentially from the LA (from the high-level needs funding block of the dedicated schools grant).

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code E.

8.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Tracking pupils' progress, including by using provision maps.
- Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- Using pupil questionnaires
- Using a range of assessments to show progress over time.
- Monitoring by the SENCO; learning walks around school.
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- Getting feedback from the pupil and their parents

9. Expertise and training of staff

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff through a range of bitesize training sessions, twilights and online training. The headteacher and the SENCO will continuously monitor and use questionnaires to identify any staff who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

10. Links with external professional agencies

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary the school will work with external support services such as:

- Speech and language therapists
- Specialist teachers or support services
- Educational psychologists
- Occupational therapists, speech and language therapists or physiotherapists
- General practitioners or paediatricians

- School nurses
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers
- Social services

11. Admission and accessibility arrangements

11.1 Admission arrangements

The school has adopted the criteria set out in the Diocesan admission policy. The school welcomes pupils with known special educational needs and disability, as well as identifying and providing for those not previously identified as having SEND.

11.2 Accessibility arrangements

Please refer to school's accessibility plans which outlines how we:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils

Our school is a purpose-built single-story building with access to disabled toilets. Medicines are kept in school according to our Managing medicines policy which can be found on our school website.

12. Complaints about SEND provision

Initially an attempt will be made to resolve a complaint about SEND provision at school level, within one week of the complaint having first been made. The procedure is firstly that the class teacher attempts to resolve matters, then if required the SENCO and /or head teacher becomes involved.

If the complaint is unresolved, then the person making the complaint is advised of their rights under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act to make a complaint. The Governing Body will consider the complaint, after which, if necessary the LA will become involved. School will inform parents/carers of the local authority's commissioned independent disagreement resolution service. Details can also be found in the Local Offer.

13. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

13.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our objectives set out in section 1; this will be done through an audit.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- All staff's awareness of pupils with SEND.
- Pupils' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- Comments and feedback from pupils and their parents

13.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by Liz Knox **every year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the full governing board.