

St Francis of Assisi Church of England Primary School

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy



September 2021 (to be reviewed September 2022)

Introduction

St Francis of Assisi C of E Primary School values the abilities and achievements of all our pupils. We are an inclusive school and actively seek to remove barriers to learning and participation. We strive to provide the best learning environment for all our pupils. The children learn within the boundaries of a caring and supportive Christian ethos.

The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum which celebrates the achievements of all. Teachers build on positive aspects of the child's learning and we promote the development of any child emotionally and socially.

High quality teaching staff and differentiated teaching and learning ensures that each child has the opportunity to fulfil their potential. However, additional support is provided for those children who may need help to achieve their full potential.

At St Francis it is the belief that all children have an equal right to a full and rounded education which will enable them to achieve their full potential. We use our best endeavours to secure special educational provision for pupils for whom this is required, that is 'additional to and different from' that provided within the differentiated curriculum to better respond to the four areas of need identified in the Code of Practice (September 2014).

What are special Educational needs and disabilities?

A child or young person has special educational needs or disabilities if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty or disability is a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age. Special educational provision means educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age in a mainstream setting in England.... Health care provision or social care provision which educates or trains a child or young person is to be treated as special educational provision. **Code of Practice 2014**

The four areas of Special Educational Needs as outlined in the Code are:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, mental and emotional health
- Sensory/physical

The school recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported and have full access to education, including school trips and physical

education. Some children with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case, the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Some may also have special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and may have a statement, or Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision and the SEND Code of Practice (2014) is followed (see separate Medical Policy for further guidance).

This SEND policy details how, at St Francis of Assisi, we will do our best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs and that those needs are known to all who are likely to work with them. We will ensure that teachers are able to identify and provide for those pupils with special educational needs, allowing them to join in all school activities together with pupils who do not have special educational needs.

Aims and objectives

In providing for those pupils defined as having Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) at St Francis of Assisi, we seek:

- to create an environment that meets the special educational needs of each child in order that they can achieve their learning potential and engage in activities alongside pupils who do not have SEND
- to request, monitor and respond to parents/carers and pupils views in order to evidence high levels of confidence and partnership
- to make clear the expectations of all partners in the process
- to ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need, through well targeted continuing professional development
- to ensure support for pupils with medical conditions full inclusion in all school activities by ensuring consultation with health and social care professionals
- to identify the roles and responsibilities of all staff in providing for children's special educational needs
- through reasonable adjustments to enable all children to have full access to all elements of the school curriculum
- to work in cooperation and productive partnerships with the Local Authority and other outside agencies, to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners

Equal opportunities and Inclusion

Through all subjects, we ensure that the school meets the needs of all, taking account of gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, age, ability, disability and social circumstances. It is important that in this school we meet the diverse needs of pupils to

ensure inclusion for all and that all pupils are prepared for full participation in a multi-ethnic society. We also measure and assess the impact regularly through meetings with our SENDCo and individual teachers to ensure all children have equal access to succeeding in this subject.

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

Identification, Assessment and Provision

To help us identify a child with SEND, we use a range of information about a child including assessment, observation, tracking of progress, views of parents, the voice of the child and advice from professionals to determine if he/she has a special educational need or disability.

We assess each child's skills and attainment when they join the school, as well as talking to their parent/carer to build a picture of their strengths and needs. If a child transfers from another school or setting, we also gather information from them and from any other service involved with the pupil.

Teachers regularly assess children's progress and record it using Stockton's recommended assessment tools. At the end of each term, teachers assess levels of attainment and enter them into the school's tracking system. This, along with discussions between the Assessment Leader and class teacher, is used to help identify pupils who may have SEND. There may also be occasions where the class teacher feels that a child within their class may have specific needs (learning or behavioural) from observations and will seek further guidance from the SENDCo. If high quality teaching and in-class strategies are not helping a child to achieve their potential, and we feel a child may have SEND, we will discuss this with their parent/carer and, with their agreement, record them on the school's register of SEND. The school will follow the recommended cycle of 'assess, plan, do, review' to meet the child's needs and support them to achieve their full potential. This may require further assessment or advice from external services, for example, Educational Psychology.

The identification and assessment of the special educational needs of children whose first language is not English requires particular care. Where there is uncertainty about a particular child, a teacher will look carefully at all aspects of the child's performance in different subjects to establish whether the problems are due to limitations in their command of English or arises from special educational needs.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

The Role of the SENDCo

The SEND Co-ordinator currently is Mrs Watson. The SENDCo, with the Head Teacher, plays a key role in determining the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school in order to raise the achievement of children with SEND.

The SENDCo takes day-to-day responsibility for the operation of the SEND policy and co-ordinates the provision for individual children, working closely with staff, parents and carers and other agencies. The SENDCo meets regularly with all staff through team meetings. The SENDCo provides relevant professional guidance to colleagues with the aim of securing high-quality teaching for children with SEND.

Through analysis and assessment of children's needs, and by monitoring the quality of teaching and standards of pupils' achievements and setting targets, the SENDCo develops effective ways of overcoming barriers to learning and sustaining effective teaching.

The SENDCo collaborates with curriculum leaders so that the learning for all children is given equal priority.

The principle responsibilities of the SENDCo include:

- Co-ordinating provision for children with SEND
- Liaising with and advising fellow teachers.
- Overseeing the records of all children with SEND.
- Liaising with parents of children with SEND.
- Contributing to the continued professional development and training of staff.
- Liaising with local secondary schools (through the Year 6 teachers) so that support is provided for Y6 pupils as they prepare to transfer.
- Liaising with external agencies including the LA's support services, health and social services and voluntary bodies.
- Co-ordinating and developing school based strategies for the identification and review of children with SEND.

Head Teacher

The Head Teacher has responsibility for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the school's work, including provision for children with SEND. The Head Teacher will keep the Governing Body fully informed on SEND issues. The Head Teacher will work closely with the SENDCo-ordinator/SEND team.

Role of the Governing Body

The Governing Body challenges the school and its members to secure necessary provision for any pupil identified as having special educational needs. They ask probing questions to ensure all teachers are aware of the importance of providing for these children and ensure that funds and resources are used effectively.

The Governing Body has decided that children with special educational needs will be admitted to the school in line with the school's agreed admissions policy.

The Governing Body reviews this policy annually and considers any amendments in light of the annual review findings. The Head Teacher reports the outcome of the review to the full governing body.

The Governor with responsibility for SEND monitors the school's work on behalf of the children with SEND.

Staff Development

Staff regularly discuss Special Educational Needs and Disability issues and are continually increasing and updating their expertise and knowledge through In-Service Training. The SENDCo is responsible for planning the professional development and training of staff. SEND provision is an integral part of the School Development Plan.

Monitoring children's progress

At St Francis of Assisi, the system for observing and assessing the progress of individual children provides information about areas where a child is not progressing satisfactorily. Under these circumstances, teachers may need to consult the SENDCo to consider what else might be done. This review might lead to the conclusion that the pupil requires help over and above that which is normally available within the particular class or subject.

Pre-SEND Category: Teacher Concerns

In order to meet the needs of individual children and gain additional support from other agencies, it is necessary for the class teacher to monitor the progress of the pupil closely in the first instance, before providing a range of intervention strategies and support to meet the needs of the child. This may be in liaison with the SENDCo.

The parents should be kept informed of the teacher's concerns and be encouraged to contribute their knowledge and understanding of the child and raise any concerns they may have.

Details of observations, knowledge of a child's strengths and weaknesses, intervention strategies used and concerns expressed are recorded.

Using this evidence, the class teacher may come to feel that the strategies in use are not resulting in the child learning as effectively as possible. In these circumstances, the SENDCo should then be fully informed.

The starting point will be a review of the strategies used and the way these might be developed. This review may lead to the conclusion that the pupil requires help over and above that which is normally available within the class. Consideration should then be given to helping the pupil through **SEND Support**.

The child's name will be placed on the school's SEND Register. At this point, the school has a duty to inform the child's parents that special educational provision is being sought for the child because the child may have SEND.

Progress

The principle test of the need for action is evidence that current rates of progress are inadequate. Where progress is not adequate, it is necessary to take some additional, or different, action to help the pupil learn more effectively. Whatever the level of pupils' difficulties, the main test of how far their learning needs are being met is whether they are making adequate progress.

Adequate progress can be defined in a number of ways; it might for instance be progress that:

- closes the attainment gap between the child and the peer group
- prevents the attainment gap growing wider
- is similar to that of peers starting from the same baseline, but less than that of the majority of the peer group
- matches, or betters, the child's previous progress
- demonstrates an improvement in self-help, social or personal skills
- demonstrates an improvement in the child's behaviour.

SEND Support Category

When a class teacher or the SENDCO identifies a child with SEN, the class teacher should provide interventions that are additional to, or different from, those provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum.

Code of Practice Triggers for SEND Support

The triggers for intervention through **SEND Support** could be the teacher's or other's concerns. This must be underpinned by evidence about a child who, despite receiving differentiated learning opportunities:

- makes little progress even when the teaching approaches are targeted to areas of weakness
- shows signs of difficulty in developing literacy and mathematical skills, which result in poor attainment in some curriculum areas
- presents persistent, emotional or behavioural difficulties that are not improved by the school's behaviour management techniques
- has sensory or physical problems and continues to make little or no progress despite the provision of specialist equipment
- has communication and/or interaction difficulties and continues to make little or no progress despite the provision of a differentiated curriculum.

If a child's class teacher, in consultation with the parents, concludes the child might need further support to make progress:

- the teacher should seek help from the SENDCo
- the teacher, together with the SENDCo, considers the reasons for concern, referring to any information already in school
- additional information is sought from the parents
- the school liaises with other agencies, for example, Health or Social Services, Behaviour Support or Educational Psychologist if they are involved with the child
- the SENDCo should take a lead in:
 - planning future support for the child in discussion with colleagues
 - monitoring and reviewing subsequently the action taken
- the child's class teacher should remain responsible:
 - for working with the child on a daily basis
 - for planning and delivering a Support Plan
- parents are always consulted and kept informed of the action taken to help the child, and the outcome of this action
- the information collected about the child and details of extra help given should be incorporated in the child's records.

Reasons for a child being added to the SEND register may include the fact that he/ she:

- Makes little or no progress, even when teaching approaches are targeted particularly in a child's identified area of weakness.
- Shows signs of difficulty in developing English or mathematics skills which result in poor attainment in some curriculum areas.
- Presents persistent emotional or behavioural difficulties which are not improved by the behaviour management techniques usually employed in the school.

- Has sensory or physical problems, and continues to make little or no progress, despite the provision of specialist equipment.
- Has communication and / or interaction difficulties, and continues to make little or no progress.

The nature of intervention

All pupils access all areas of the school curriculum. However, the delivery of the curriculum is differentiated to meet the needs of all pupils within a class including those with SEND. The SENDCo and the class teacher should decide on the action needed to help the child to make progress, consulting the Head Teacher if extra resources are required. External agencies may be approached to undertake assessments for children at this stage. Assessments are used to inform target setting and provision of appropriate programmes of work.

Intervention strategies could include:

- deployment of extra staff to enable one-to-one or small group tuition (this will depend on the financial resources and staff availability)
- provision of different learning materials or special equipment
- staff development and training
- SENCO/Class teacher time spent on devising the nature of planned intervention
- One-off or occasional advice from the LA
- Class teachers and Teaching assistants deliver targeted interventions for children with SEND.

In EYFS, there is a full time TA working in each Reception class and there is a full time TA working across each of the two Year 1 and Year 2 classes in KS1. In KS2, there is the equivalent of a full time TA working across Years 3, 4, 5 and 6. These TAs are used to deliver the targeted interventions for children with SEND.

The impact of any intervention strategies should be closely monitored by the class teachers or teaching assistants who deliver the intervention and the SENDCO.

After initial discussions with the SENDCO, the child's class teacher will be responsible for working with the child on a daily basis and ensuring delivery of any individualised programme in the classroom. Parents will continue to be consulted and kept informed of the action taken to help their child, and of the outcome of any action. Parents will be invited to meet regularly with the class teacher and/or SENDCo to discuss individual learning targets and progress with the SENDCO on at least a termly basis.

The SENDCo will support further assessment of the child where necessary, assisting in planning for their future needs in discussion with colleagues and parents.

Support Plan

All children on the Register at the SEN Support stage are entitled to a Support Plan. It is the responsibility of the child's class teacher to draw up and review the plan at this stage and to follow the recommended cycle of 'assess, plan, do, review'.

Strategies employed to enable the child to make progress should include information about the short-term targets set for the child, the teaching strategies to be used, the provision to put in place, the review date, success and/or exit criteria, and outcomes (recorded at the review).

The Support Plan should record only what is different from, or additional to, the differentiated curriculum. It should be written crisply and focus on three or four targets that match the child's needs and that are measurable.

Where a child is at serious risk of disaffection or exclusion, the Support Plan should reflect appropriate strategies to meet their needs.

Support Plan Review

Support Plan review meetings are held at least every term between parents and teachers and staff working with their child. Opportunities are given during these meetings to review and set new targets. We ensure targets are SMART (specific, measurable and achievable).

Teachers and pupils will discuss progress made every term to give targeted feedback about what they can do well and what they need to do to improve and achieve their next targets. The review also gives each child the opportunity to talk about their learning, any worries they have and what could help them make more progress.

Children's individual targets are reviewed regularly as part of the ongoing assessment and tracking process. When a target has been achieved a new target is set. The time taken to achieve a target will depend on the child and the target. In line with whole school assessment procedures, the attainment and progress of children with SEND will be tracked by class teachers and the leadership team.

The use of outside agencies

These services may become involved if a child continues to make little or no progress despite considerable input and adaptations. They will use the child's records in order to establish which strategies have already been employed and which targets have previously been set.

The external specialist may act in an advisory capacity, or provide additional specialist assessment. The child's individual targets will set out strategies for supporting the child's progress. These will be implemented, at least in part, in the normal classroom setting.

Partnership with parents

At St Francis of Assisi C of E Primary, we endeavour to work in partnership with parents/carers, children and partner agencies to ensure that all children fulfil their potential.

The partnership between parents of children with special educational needs and the school is crucial. Parents need to be involved during the early stages of the identification of the child's learning needs. The staff will use the parent's knowledge and skills to build up a successful learning programme. This two-way process will aid the parents in their understanding of how they can best support their child. The main aim of the staff at St Francis of Assisi is to achieve the most effective provision for the child and the partnership with parents needs to be open and confident for this to be possible.

Children and young people with special educational needs often have a unique knowledge of their own needs and their views about what sort of help they would like. They will be encouraged to contribute to the assessment of their needs, the review and transition process.

The school website contains details of our policy for special educational needs and a link to a PowerPoint presentation which includes the arrangements made for children in our school with special educational needs.

At all stages of the special needs process, the school keeps parents fully informed and involved. We take account of the wishes, feelings and knowledge of parents at all stages.

We encourage parents to make an active contribution to their child's education and have regular meetings to share the progress of special needs children with their parents. We inform the parents of any outside intervention, and share the process of decision-making by providing clear information relating to the education of their child.

Parents always have access to the SENCo by contacting the school and, parents and children have access to the School's Website which has a dedicated section to Special Educational Needs.

Outside agencies may become involved if the child:

- Continues to make little or no progress in specific areas over a long period.
- Continues working at National Curriculum levels substantially below that expected of children of a similar age.
- Continues to have difficulty in developing English and mathematical skills.

- Has emotional or behavioural difficulties which regularly and substantially interfere with the child's own learning or that of the class group.
- Has sensory or physical needs and requires additional specialist equipment or regular advice or visits by a specialist service.
- Has ongoing communication or interaction difficulties that impede the development of social relationships and cause substantial barriers to learning.
- Despite having received intervention, the child continues to fall behind the level of his peers.

Education Health and Care Plans

The Special Educational Needs of the majority of the children in St Francis should be met effectively through **SEN Support**. However, where a child still continues to make limited progress and/or concerns heighten, the school may apply for an **Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)**.

EHCPs replaced **Statements of SEN** under the implementation of the 2014 Code of Practice. EHCPs seek to take a multi-disciplinary approach to a child's individual needs. Children and young people with SEN need integrated services - well coordinated, coherent support across education, health and social care which helps them achieve their agreed outcomes.

The LA seeks evidence from the school that strategies and programmes implemented over a period of time have been unsuccessful. The LA needs information about the child's progress over time and clear documentation on the child's Special Educational Needs and the action taken to deal with these needs.

The description of the child's learning difficulty and progress, with information about the specialist provision made, forms the basis on which the LA can consider whether an Education Health Care Plan is necessary.

In the meantime – and whilst any assessment is being made – the child should be supported through **SEN Support**.

Annual Review

All EHCPs must be reviewed at least annually when parents, the LA, the school and other professionals involved, consider the progress made in the previous twelve months and whether any amendments need to be made to the Special Educational Provision.

The purposes of the review are:

- to assess the child's progress towards meeting the objectives specified in the EHCP
- in the case of the first annual review, to assess the child's progress towards the targets from any Support Plans
- to review the special provision made for the child
- to consider the appropriateness of the EHCP in the light of the child's performance

- to consider if the EHCP is to be maintained.

Annual Review Procedures

At St Francis of Assisi C of E, the Head Teacher has delegated responsibility for the administration of Annual Reviews to the SENDCo. The LA notifies the school at the start of each term with a list of those pupils whom will require an Annual Review that term.

- The SENCO seeks written advice from:
 - the child's parents
 - anyone specified by the Authority
 - anyone else the SENDCO considers appropriate.
- The SENDCO circulates a copy of all advice received to those invited to the meeting, at least two weeks in advance
- The school's advice should contain commentary on:
 - the child's progress towards meeting the objectives in the EHCP
 - progress towards short-term targets
 - the application of the National Curriculum and levels they are achieving, noting progress made
 - the progress in behaviour and attitude towards learning
 - the continued appropriateness of the EHCP
- The SENCO provides the LA with a report following each annual review.

Annual Review Meeting

The review meeting will normally be arranged in the school and should be chaired by the SENDCo.

The SENDCo will convene the meeting, inviting the child's parents/carer (parents should be encouraged to attend and contribute their views), a relevant teacher, teaching assistants, the SENDCo, at times a representative of the LA SEN team, and any other person whom the SENDCo thinks appropriate (for example agencies, Educational Psychologist).

Wherever possible, the child (especially if an older pupil) should be involved, attending part of the review as appropriate.

Agenda items should consider:

- whether the EHCP remain in place
- whether any amendments are required
- whether the LA maintain the EHCP, or if the LA should be recommended to cease the EHCP and the child's needs are to be met in **SEN Support**
- any new targets to meet the objectives set out in the EHCP

- whether any additions or amendments should be made to an existing transition plan.

After the annual review, the SENCo should prepare a report and submit it to the LA no later than ten school days after the review or the end of the school term, whichever is the earlier.

Transition within school and across other schools

Many strategies are put in place to enable pupil's transition to be as smooth as possible. These include:

- When moving within school, all pupils spend part of the day towards the end of the school year where they spend time with their new class teacher.
- Discussions are held between class teachers within school on at least one occasion and current class teachers will meet with parents to discuss Support Plans or Educational Health and Care Plans.
- When a child with SEN or an EHC plan is transferring from another school, the SENDCo will contact the previous school and the parent to make sure we have all the relevant information. This will be shared with the class teacher and any other relevant staff in school.
- Additional visits are arranged for those children who need extra time in a new school.
- Secondary school staff visit pupils prior to them joining their new school.
- Our SENDCo liaises with SENDCos from secondary schools to pass on information regarding SEND pupils.
- Where children have more specialist needs, a separate Transition Guarantee meeting takes place with the SENDCo from the secondary school, our SENDCo, the Head Teacher, parents and any relevant outside agencies and, where appropriate, the pupil to put a plan in place for the child when they start Secondary, detailing their needs and what they would benefit from.

Resources

St Francis C of E receives funding for pupils with SEND in three main ways:

- the base budget contributes to the teaching and curriculum expenses as well as the cost of the SENDCO
- the LA provides specific funding for pupils with Statements of Special Educational Needs and EHCPs as well as those who have additional support needs identified. Additional High Level Needs funding is available upon application but the school

must show evidence that the first £6,000 of support has been put in place and that this has been sustained.

- Standards Fund allocation supports SEN training and Professional development for teachers and other staff.

St Francis buys in external agency support such as the Educational Psychology Service and is allocated other support such as Speech and Language Therapy depending on the children's needs from assessments that have been taken place. The level of support provided by the external agencies varies from agency to agency and is allocated each year.

The SENDCo maintains detailed records of all pupils on the SEND Register. All teaching staff have a copy of the SEND Policy and other relevant information relating to SEND. Information is also made available to all teaching assistants and external agency staff who work with the children.

Each child on the SEND Register has a SEND file which contains Support Plans, reviews, assessments, reports and any other information relating to the specific needs of that child.

Complaints

Arrangements for the consideration of complaints about any aspect of special educational needs provision within the school will follow the arrangements for any complaints. Generally, informal concerns can be discussed with the class teacher and/or SENDCo by making an appointment.

Signed:

Date: September 2021

This Policy is to be reviewed September 2022