



# St Mary's CE Primary Special Education Needs Policy September 2024

*Do everything in love*



**1 Corinthians 16:14**

Reviewed February 2024

Presented to Governors: .....

*St Mary's Church of England Primary School is a warm, friendly and welcoming Church school that provides high quality education for all its pupils. As a Church school we hold our Christian values at the heart of everything we do. These are: Love; Respect; Determination; Courage; Compassion; and Honesty.*

*It is very important to us that the children are happy and experience the best education possible. We value strong links and a close partnership between home, church and school and recognise the importance of trust and shared responsibility in education.*

## **Introduction**

St. Mary's CE Primary school is an inclusive school. We take safeguarding very seriously and all of our policies are developed with a high priority on children's safety. All of our policies are interlinked and should be read and informed by all other policies. In particular the SEND policy is linked to behaviour, anti-bullying, medical and curriculum policies.

This SEND policy is written to comply with the 2014 Children and Families Act and its SEN Code of Practice together with the Equality Act 2010.

### **SEND at St. Mary's C of E School**

At St. Mary's CE School there are two named SENCOs (Stephanie Alley and Jemma Brearley) who have completed the Government SENCO Accreditation and a named Governor responsible for SEND (Simon Skidmore). They ensure that the St. Mary's CE Special Educational Needs and Disability policy works within the guidelines and inclusion policies of the Code of Practice (2014).

Here it is the belief that all children have an equal right to a full and rounded education which enables 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 main areas of need identified in the new Code of Practice (2014).

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

Behaviour is no longer included as a SEND and has now been replaced by social, mental and emotional health. We have children in all of these categories of SEND.

### **What are special educational needs?**

A child or young person has a special educational need 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 at 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 needs provision. **Code of Practice 2014.**

As there are varying abilities entering our school, we recognise that some children may feel disadvantaged working alongside higher achieving children. Therefore, they will be offered additional support, through small group intervention or 1:1 activities, in order to boost their skills level and confidence. These children may not be SEN.

The SEND policy details how at St. Mary's C of E, we 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 all school activities.

Inquiries about an individual child's progress should be addressed at first to the class teacher since he or she is the person who knows the child best. Other enquiries can be addressed to Stephanie Alley/Jemma Brearley (SENCOs).

### **Headlines from the 2014 Code of Practice**

- Statements will no longer be offered from the education authority. Statements have been replaced by Education and Health Care plans (EHC plans) which can be used to support a child from birth to 25 years.
- School Action and School Action Plus have been replaced by one school based category of need known as '**Special Educational Needs Support**' (**SENS**). All children are closely monitored, and their progress tracked each term. Those at SENS are additionally tracked by the SENCO.
- We are working more closely with parents and children to ensure that we take into account the child's own views and aspirations and the parents' experience of and hopes for their child.
- All children benefit from 'Quality First teaching': this means that teachers expect to assess, plan, and teach all children at the level which allows them to make progress with their learning. In addition, we implement some focused interventions to target particular skills.
- We have high expectations of all of our children. Children identified as having a SEND make progress which compares well with the progress made by other children in school.

### **Our Objectives**

- To identify at the earliest possible opportunity, barriers to learning and enable participation for pupils with SEND.
- To ensure that every child experiences success in their learning and achieves to the highest possible standard.
- To enable all pupils to participate in lessons fully and effectively.
- To value and encourage the contribution of all children to the life of the school.
- To work in partnership with parents.
- To work with the Governing Body to enable them to fulfil their statutory monitoring role with regard to the Policy Statement for SEND.
- To work closely with external support agencies, where appropriate, to support the need of individual pupils and staff.
- To ensure that all staff have access to training and advice to support quality teaching and learning for all pupils.

All teachers can expect to have children with SEND in their classes. It is the class teacher's responsibility to monitor these children and to write support plans. The schools SENCO's support and help in this.

Types of SEND which we currently have in school include those with a diagnosis as well as those with learning profiles consistent with the diagnosis:

- **Communication and interaction.**

Autistic spectrum and Aspergers. A, Speech and Language disordersSD

- **Cognition and learning**

Dyslexia and moderate learning difficulties.

- **Social, emotional and mental health**

ADHD and emotional difficulties, difficulties in home life impacting on learning

- **Physical and sensory**

Visually impaired, motor skills impairment

- **Medical needs**

Incontinence and bladder problems/Other conditions.

### **Identifying Children at SENS (SEN Support)**

Children with SEN are identified by one of three assessment routes all of which are part of the overall approach to monitoring progress of all pupils:

- The progress of every child is monitored at pupil progress meetings, as determined by the Head teacher. Where children are identified as not making progress in spite of Quality First Teaching they are discussed with the Head and SENCo and a plan of action is agreed.
- Class teachers are continually aware of children's learning. If they observe that a child, as recommended by the 2014 Code of Practice, is making less than expected progress, given their age and individual circumstances, they will seek to identify a cause. 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 gap between the child and their peers.

Parents sometimes ask us to look more closely at their child's learning. We take all parental requests seriously and investigate them all. Frequently, a concern can be addressed by Quality First Teaching, some catch up or booster interventions and parental support. Otherwise, the child may be placed at SEN. Children can be placed on our SEN list at any point of their school career. Parents are always formally advised of this. The aim of formal identification is to ensure that effective, targeted provision can be put into place to remove barriers to learning. This is an ongoing process, and provision may be amended as the needs of the pupil changes.

The child's class teacher and SENCo will decide on the action needed to help the child to progress in the light of the earlier assessments. This may include:

- Different learning materials or specialist equipment.

- Some group or individual support, which may involve small groups of children being withdrawn to work with the teacher or TA. At St Mary's we have decided that these children need to be taught by the class teacher 50% of the time.
- Extra adult time to devise/administer the nature of the planned intervention and also to monitor its effectiveness.
- Staff development and training to introduce more effective strategies.

After discussions with the SENCo the class teacher will then be responsible for supporting the child on a daily basis. Parents will continue to be consulted and kept informed.

Although the school can identify special educational needs and make provision to meet those needs, we do not offer diagnoses. Parents are advised to agree to a referral to an outside agency with the support from the SENCo or to contact their GP. At the present time most diagnosis' are from Woodview Clinic.

### **Working with Parents**

We aim to have good and informative relationships with all of our parents. All parents of children with a SEND will be treated as partners and given support to play an active and valued role in their child's education.

If a child is experiencing difficulties, parents will be informed either at parental consultations (Autumn and Spring) or during informal meetings to discuss a child's progress. It shouldn't come as a surprise to a parent to learn that their child is being identified as having a SEN.

Once a child has been identified as having a SEN, the class teacher and or SENCo will invite the parents to a meeting to:

- Formally let them know that their child is being placed at SEN.
- Discuss any assessments that may have been completed
- Discuss and ask for consent for referrals to outside agencies
- Agree a plan and provision for the next term a SEN Support plan. This may include a plan to refer to outside agencies for further assessments and support.

This is part of the graduated approach cycle of Assess, Plan, Do, Review required by the Code of Practice (2014).

Children may be asked to contribute towards their support plan in a SEN support meeting.

The support plan is kept and copies are given to parents.

Thereafter, we work in partnership with parents, to ensure they are consulted and are aware of the provision put in place to support their child.

### **Paperwork for children at SENS (SEN Support)**

Once a child has been identified as needing SEN support the following paperwork is completed:

- Termly, at a progress meeting or parental consultation a SEN support plan will be reviewed and new targets set. These are monitored by SENCo's to take into account any recommendations made from outside agencies or from SENCo's.
- Support plans should be kept by the class teacher and or TA commenting on progress made towards targets.
- Each term Intervention records, using our school proforma should be saved in the individual child's file.
- All paperwork is now stored electronically so that all staff have access to children's reports, care plans and recommendations from outside agencies.

### **Moving to an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)**

If children fail to make progress, in spite of high quality, targeted support at SEN level, we may apply for the child to be assessed for an EHC Plan. Generally, we may apply for an EHC Plan if:

- The child has a disability which is lifelong and which means that they will always need support to learn effectively.
- The child's achievements are so far below their peers that we think it likely that the child may at some point benefit from special school provision.
- If a child needs an EHCP plan to access the specialised support they need or to attend a specialised school.

Children, who we think will manage in mainstream schools, albeit with support, are less often assessed for EHC Plans. Having a diagnosis (e.g. of ASD, Aspergers, ADHD or dyslexia) does not mean that a child needs an EHC Plan.

If the application for an EHC Plan is successful, a member of the Local Authority will call a meeting for the parents, the child, and the school together with any health or social care professionals who are involved with the family. The meeting will record the child's strengths, their dreams and aspirations as well as the barriers they face. Following the meeting the LA will produce the EHC Plan which will record the decisions made at the meeting.

### **Working with 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 agency may act in an advisory capacity, or provide additional specialist assessments or be involved in teaching the child directly. The child's individual targets will be set out as will strategies to be implemented these will be recorded in the child's SENs support plan.

**Outside agencies may become involved if the child:**

- Continues to make little or no progress in specific areas over a long time.
- Continues working at substantially below age related expectations
- Continues to have difficulty in developing literacy and mathematical skills.
- Has emotional or behavioural difficulties 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.
- Have ongoing communication or interaction difficulties that impeded 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 or her peers.
- Staff feel that they need specialist advice to meet that child's needs.

### **Teaching and Learning**

We believe that all children learn best with the rest of their class. Our aim is for all children to be working independently, in class, at the cusp of their potential. Children with SEN and disabilities are entitled to be taught by their teacher, not always by a TA. Teachers aim to spend time each day working with all children including those with SEN, individually or as part of a group.

When allocating additional TA support to children the focus is on outcomes, not hours; we aim to put in sufficient support to enable the child to reach their challenging targets, but without developing a learned dependence on an adult.

The school will put into place a range of interventions depending on the individual child's needs and learning styles. This could also include pre-teaching to allow children to participate in class lessons.

Targets for children who have SEN are deliberately challenging, but achievable in the attempt to close the attainment gap between the children and their peers. Interventions are often crucial in closing these gaps, so are monitored closely by both the class teacher and the SENCo's

- Interventions are planned in short blocks
- At the end of each half term the child's progress is monitored to see if strategies and interventions are having an impact on their progress
- A decision is then made as to whether to continue the intervention or to swap to a new intervention, or to allow a period of consolidation in class.

The SENCo monitors interventions to identify 'what works' and any children that are not making appropriate progress. The Deputy Head also monitors all interventions to assess their effectiveness.

### **Adaptations to the curriculum teaching and learning environment**

At St. Mary's CE we have an easy access toilet. We generally find that no additional adaptations to the building are necessary for children with physical disabilities, but we will consider appropriate changes in relation to any child or adult with a disability.



Other adaptations to the physical environment will be made, as appropriate, to accommodate children with any other disabilities including sensory. At the present time, we have a child in school that is supported by the Visually Impaired Service. She is monitored each half term and school follow all advice given.

We aim for all of our classrooms to be inclusion friendly. We aim to teach in a way that will support children with tendencies towards dyslexia, ASD, ADHD etc. This is good practice to support all children but is vital to those who particularly need it. All of our children access the full National Curriculum, and we recognise achievements and expertise in all curricular areas. As part of normal class differentiation, curriculum content and ideas can be simplified and made more accessible by using visual, tactile and concrete resources.

We receive and act upon recommendations from outside agencies such as Warrington Hospital Ophthalmic department, Occupational Therapy departments and others.

### **Access to extra-curricular activities**

All of our pupils have equal access to before and after school clubs which develop engagement with the wider curriculum. Class trips are part of our curriculum and we aim for all children to benefit from them. No child is excluded from a trip because of SEN, disability or medical need.

### **Staff Expertise**

All of our teachers and teaching assistants are trained to work with children with SEN. Some are very experienced and others less so, but all have access to advice, information, resources and training to enable them to teach all children effectively. All teachers and TA's work with children with SEN and disabilities.

Stephanie Alley/Jemma Brearley are the SENCo's with the SENCo National Award.

Teachers and TA's have had additional training in ASD this programme of training is to be refreshed. All staff have had recent autism training and individual TA's have attended autism courses. All Staff have also had Working Memory training.

If we identify information we can't access without the aid of additional, more specialist help, the school is able to access additional expertise from the local authority. This includes access to Educational Psychologists group meetings and Advisory Teachers, and Chatterbug for any speech and language concerns.

### **Children with social, emotional and mental health needs**

Behaviour is not classified as an SEN but we acknowledge that often children's behaviour is affected if there are social and emotional or mental needs. If a child shows consistent unwanted behaviours, the class teacher will assess the child's needs, taking into account family circumstances and the child's known history of experiences (e.g. bereavement, parental separation) we may seek advice from outside agencies and a CAF may be completed with the

family to support the child through the process. This is usually completed with the child's class teacher and our Family Support Worker.

Staff will use their expertise to look for 'reasons' for the behaviour ensuring it is not a reaction to a cognitive or other learning need.

If parents and school are concerned that the child may have a mental health needs, we encourage parents to support a referral to CAMHS and to visit their GP.

If the child is felt to have long-term social, emotional and mental health needs-for example with anger management the school may offer social skills interventions. These are generally delivered by our Family Support worker who develops a good, trusting relationship with the children.

All children's behaviour is responded to consistently in line with our behaviour policy, although reasonable adjustments are made to accommodate individual needs.

The school has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying, especially towards children with SEN and disabilities. We will actively investigate all allegations.

## **Transition Arrangements**

### **Transition into and within school**

We understand how difficult it is for children and parents as they move into a new class or new school and we will do all that we can, according to the individual needs of the child to make transitions between classes as smooth as possible. They may include-

- Additional meetings for the parent and the new teacher
- Additional visit to the new classroom environment, to identify where the toilets are, where the pegs are etc.
- Opportunities to take photographs of key people and places to make a social story for example
- Additional opportunities for the child to spend time with their new teacher

### **Transition to secondary school**

Transition reviews for pupils in Year 6, where possible are held during the summer term of Year 5 or in the Autumn term of Year 6. The secondary school SENCo is invited to the annual reviews and any other review meetings. Additional transition arrangements may be made at these reviews for example extra visits etc. For some children with additional needs we consult with parents whilst their child is in Year 5 to provide advice and support in choosing the most appropriate school.

### **Governors**

It is the statutory duty of the governors to ensure that the school follows its responsibilities to meet the needs of children with SEND following the requirements of the Code of Practice 2014. The Governor with particular responsibility for SEND is Pat Marquis-Davies She meets with the SENCo to discuss actions taken by the school.

## **Complaints**

The school works, wherever possible, in partnership with parents to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting pupils' needs.

All complaints are taken seriously and are heard through the school's complaints policy and procedure.

## **Halton's Local Offer**

The purpose of the local offer is to enable parents and young people to see more clearly what services are available in their area and how to access them. It includes provision from birth to 25, across education, health and social care. Halton's Local Offer is available from the website-

<http://localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk/>

## **Equal Opportunities**

The school is committed to providing equal opportunities for all, regardless of race, faith, gender or capability in all aspects of school life. We promote self and mutual respect along with a caring and non-judgemental attitude throughout the school.

## **Review Framework**

The policy will be reviewed annually (or sooner in the event of revised legislation or guidance).