

## Special Educational Needs (SEND) Policy

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Date last review adopted by governing body:	14th October 2021
Frequency of review:	Annual

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### 1. Introduction

At Writtle Infant School we believe that every child has individual and unique needs. We believe that every learner is entitled to benefit from access to an inspiring curriculum that takes account of individual starting points and is provided irrespective of gender, age, disability or ethnicity. We acknowledge that a proportion of children will have SEND and that during their school career some children may need continued additional and often intensive support for specific special educational needs, whilst other children may need a little extra support to overcome temporary needs caused by any number of factors. Our policy conforms with the SEND Code Of Practice (2014) and the SEN and Disability Act 2001.

The School Offer outlines a comprehensive school view on working with children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND). This can be found through the Local Offer and on our school website.

### 2. Aims

- To provide a curriculum that is rich, varied and challenging to all pupils.
- To enable all learners to fulfil their potential to the highest standard possible.
- To ensure all pupils progress and experience success.
- To create an inclusive environment that responds with early, appropriate intervention to meet the special educational needs of each child
- To ensure a rich, varied and challenging curriculum where learning experiences and support are matched to individual needs \*
- To ensure the special educational needs of children are identified, assessed quickly and matched by appropriate provision
- To work in partnership with parents to ensure, through well managed provision, each child enjoys an active, inclusive school experience.
- To work with specialist services to match appropriate provision.
- To make clear the expectations of all partners in the process including Local Authorities, schools, parents, pupils' health and social services.
- To ensure that, 'all teachers are teachers of children with special educational need. Teaching such children is therefore a whole school responsibility' \*\*
- To ensure that SEND provision is kept under review to assess the impact of interventions for each child, the child's progress and the views of the child, their teachers and their parents.
- To enable all children to have full access, where appropriate, to all elements of school life, to feel secure and know that their contributions are recognised and valued.

### **3. Objectives for supporting pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.**

- To identify and respond at an early stage to a pupil's special educational needs.
- To involve parents actively throughout the intervention process and to engage their support in their child's education.
- To encourage communication and co-operation between pupils, parents, teachers, specialist support staff and other agencies.
- To plan appropriate curriculum experiences, using flexible and responsive strategies in teaching for those pupils with marked difficulties to reduce the barriers to learning and ensure access and participation. The key to meeting the needs of all children lies in the first instance with
  - the class teacher's knowledge of each pupil's skills and abilities through class-based assessment
  - tracking through the National Curriculum and active involvement of parents
- Strategies for support will be differentiation and grouping, in-class support by CT and/or LSA, in-class individual support and occasional withdrawal for specialised teaching programmes. At all times pupils will be encouraged to contribute to and take responsibility for their own support needs.

### **4. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo)**

In all schools, there must be a designated teacher responsible for special educational needs. In our case, it is Caroline Standen.

'The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator, in collaboration with the Headteacher and Governing Body, plays a key role in determining the strategic development of the Special Educational Needs policy and provision in the school in order to raise the achievement of children with Special educational Needs'. (Code of Practice 2014)

### **5. Arrangements for co-ordinating the SEND provision**

The SENCO co-ordinates the school's SEND provision and her responsibilities are as follows:

- to liaise with and advise the staff of the school
- to manage a team of learning support assistants together with the SLT
- to co-ordinate the day to day provision for pupils' with special educational need
- to maintain the school's SEND profile and to oversee records on all pupils with SEND
- to provide specialised assessment when necessary to support class teachers' planning
- to contribute to the in-service training of staff
- to liaise with external agencies including educational psychology service, Provide, medical services, speech therapists etc.
- to liaise with the governor for SEND who is Esther Burton
- to contribute to the monitoring of the school's Disability Equality Scheme and Disability Access Plan
- to coordinate and lead 'one planning meetings' and compile/monitor Person Centred Plans, in liaison with the class teacher.

## **6. The Role of the Governing Body**

The Governing Body has important statutory duties towards pupils with Special Educational Needs.

- Determining, in co-operation with the Head Teacher, the school's general policy and approach to provision for children with SEND, establishing the appropriate staffing and funding arrangements and maintaining a general oversight of the schools work.
- To have a named SEND governor who takes particular interest in and monitors the schools work on behalf of the children with SEND.
- Children with SEND are admitted to the school in line with the schools agreed admissions policy

## **7. Information about the school's policies for the identification, assessment and provision**

The Headteacher and SENCo, in consultation with the staff, determine the type and amount of support necessary to meet the needs of individual pupils in accordance with the LA criteria. For those SEND children who require 'SEND support', provision and resources are decided upon initially by the school. EHCP Plans are decided upon, agreed and issued by the Essex County Council, SEND Operations Service, for children who require specialist intervention. These can also involve health agencies.

## **8. How pupils with SEND are identified and their need determined and reviewed**

### **ASSESSMENT**

In order to help children with Special Educational Needs, our school has adopted a graduated response that encompasses an array of strategies as set out in the SEND Code of Practice 2014 and in accordance with Essex County Council guidelines:

In order to identify children with SEND we refer to our SEND criteria which supports staff in the process of assessment. We use the Provision Guidance Toolkit for further support and refer to the School Offer. The following information can be used in our assessments:

- Early Years Foundation Stage Profile
- Teacher Assessment
- Parental Concern
- Results of National Tests
- Provision Guidance Toolkit
- Results of standardised tests
- Referrals and information from other educational settings and agencies
- Recommendations from outside agencies
- SENCO and other staff observations

A pupil may also be identified to the school as having SEND by the following indicators:

- A pupil enters school with provision already in place
- The school is alerted by the parent or by an outside agency who has worked with the child and school assessment confirms this need.
- A pupil has a significant difficulty in learning, communication and interaction, social, mental and emotional health and/or a sensory or physical need particularly when compared to the majority

of pupils of the same age. This may have been highlighted by the pupil's performance when screened on entry (Foundation Stage Profile – FSP) and/or by their subsequent progress.

- A pupil for whom the teacher has to significantly differentiate the curriculum or provide curriculum experiences which are additional to or different from the majority of the class.
- The school's Equality Duty plan monitors pupil achievement and inclusion.

## **PROCEDURES**

- Each class has a SEND file which contains all up-to-date and relevant information for each pupil on the SEND profile, except sensitive and confidential information which is held by the Headteacher in a locked facility.
- Each child with an EHCP has a Person Centred Plan with steps to the outcomes of the EHCP. A planning meeting is held prior to creating these, to draw on the experiences and thoughts of the class teacher together with the SENCo, the parents and possibly outside agencies, if appropriate. The views of the child, parents and all key adults, are sought for this meeting and it involves a 'person centred approach'. Outcomes for the child are discussed in these meetings and school can decide how they can best support the child in meeting these outcomes, as can parents.
- EHCP pupils also have termly meetings and annual reviews using set paperwork. We are required to send this paperwork to the SEND Operations Service. Specific guidelines on the conduct of these reviews have been issued by the Local Authority to all schools
- We keep a list of children with SEND, in line with our pupil progress meetings, which is reviewed each half term
- Children with SEND will have a PCP (person centred plan), agreed with the class teacher and SENCo and shared with parents at parents' evening
- The PCPs will be written by the class teachers in conjunction with the SENCo and time will be given for these meetings.
- PCP's are reviewed termly with the Class Teacher, SENCo and parents.
- The Four Plus Ones may be used as a working document in the classroom to inform the PCP along with other evidence gathering tools

## **9. Arrangements for the treatment of complaints**

The staff put great emphasis on the partnership between home and school and hope that all problems will be dealt with speedily by informal means - firstly with the class teacher concerned, the SENCo and then the Headteacher. Please see our complaints policy for further information.

## **10. Partnership with parents of pupils with SEN and Disability (SEND)**

As stated previously, we value the partnership which we hope exists between the home and school. We like to feel our parents can approach us at any time on any subject related to their children or to the school in general. Any concerns expressed by parents are always seriously listened to and acted upon as soon as possible. Termly open evenings are held during the year to give parents a more formal opportunity to discuss their child's progress and welfare with the staff. Parents with children on the SEN profile receive copies of their child's paperwork and are invited to contribute to this. They are kept informed about any other developments regarding their child's progress and special provision when appropriate. Parents are made aware of the days when the SENCo is in school and are encouraged to

make appointments. Home/school daily books are often used to liaise with the parents of children with SEND.

## **11. Medical Provision**

Please see our policy for 'Children with medical needs'.

## **12. Equality Statement**

The governors and staff are committed to providing the full range of opportunities for all pupils regardless of gender, disability, and ethnicity, social, cultural or religious background. All pupils have access to the curriculum and the right to a learning environment which dispels ignorance, prejudice or stereotyping.