

Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Policy

Date of policy:	December 2015
Date last review adopted by governing body:	7 December 2023
Frequency of review:	Annual

1. Introduction

Writtle Infant School believes that every child has unique needs and is entitled 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 additional support for special educational needs, whilst others may need a little extra support to address short-term needs. 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 whatever their starting points;
- To enable all learners to experience success, make progress and fulfil their potential to the highest standard possible;
- To create an inclusive environment that is adapted to provide early intervention to meet the special educational needs of each child;
- To ensure the special educational needs of children are identified and follow the graduated approach of an assess, plan, do, review cycle
- To work in partnership with parents to ensure, through well managed provision, each child enjoys an active, inclusive school experience;
- To work with outside professionals and specialist services to guide provision;
- To make clear the expectations of all stakeholders 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 needs. 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 safe and know that their contributions are recognised and valued.

**Revised Code of Practice for SEN 2014

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

- To plan appropriate curriculum experiences, using flexible, responsive strategies with reasonable adjustments and adaptations to curriculum delivery 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, abilities and learning style through class-based assessment;
 - tracking through the National Curriculum and active involvement of parents.
- Strategies for support will be a myriad of possible adaptations, differentiation and grouping, in-class support by CT and/or LSA, in-class individual support and occasional withdrawal for specialised teaching interventions. 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. At Writtle Infant School, this 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)

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

- 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 needs;
- To advise and guide staff with implementing the graduated approach - Assess/Plan/Do/Review cycle;
- 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 participate in SENCo cluster group and SENCo update meetings in order to keep informed with current SEND developments;
- To liaise with external agencies including SEND Operations Team, Inclusion Partner, educational psychology service, Provide, medical services, speech and language therapists etc.;
- Liaising with parents of children with SEND;
- To liaise with the governor for SEND;
- To contribute to the monitoring of the school's Disability Equality Scheme and Disability Access Plan;
- To coordinate and lead the planning for SEND children 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 SEND:

- Determining, in co-operation with the Head of School and Executive Headteacher, 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 Head of School 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 the graduated response - Assess, Plan, Do, Review - which 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 support staff in the process of assessment. We use the Essex Ordinarily Available 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 and internal tracking data
- Parental concern
- Consultation of the Essex Ordinarily Available guidance
- 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 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 Head of School 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 the school can decide how they can best support the child in meeting these outcomes together with parents.
- EHCP pupils also have termly meetings and annual reviews using set paperwork. We are required to send the annual review 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.

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, Head of School and then the Executive Headteacher. Please see our complaints policy for further information.

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

We value the partnership between home and school. 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 taken seriously and acted upon as soon as possible. Termly parent meetings are held during the year to give parents a more formal opportunity to discuss their child's progress, PCP and welfare with the staff. Parents with children on the SEND 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 contact whenever they feel the need.

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.