



Special Educational Needs Policy 2018 – 2021

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Electronic copies of this plan are available from	Mereside Primary School, Blackpool
Hard copies of this plan are available from	Mereside Primary School, Blackpool
Date of next review	September 2019 (or as required)
Person Responsible for Review	Jane Walpole (SENDCo)

School Vision and Aims

Our Vision:

Learning Together, Achieving Together

Our Aims:

1. To ensure everyone feels valued and respected and has an equal chance to do their best.
2. To help children develop a positive attitude, self-respect and respect for others, and learn to take responsibility for their own actions.
3. To understand and meet children's individual needs, especially those of vulnerable pupils.
4. To ensure all achievements are recognised and celebrated.
5. To create a caring, safe, purposeful and calm environment which promotes children's wellbeing.
6. To develop positive and supportive relationships between children, parents, school and the wider community

Policy to promote the successful inclusion of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities at Mereside Primary School.

We are committed to offering an inclusive curriculum, breaking down possible barriers to learning and to ensuring the best possible progress for all our pupils whatever their needs or abilities. Not all pupils with disabilities have special educational needs and not all pupils with Special Educational Needs meet the definition of disability but this policy covers all of these pupils.

Objectives for making provision for pupils with SEND

- We value all pupils in our school equally.
- To ensure that all pupils have equal access to a broad, balanced curriculum, which is differentiated to meet individual needs and abilities.
- The aims of education for pupils with difficulties and disabilities are the same as those for all pupils.
- It is the responsibility of all teachers to identify and meet the SEND needs of pupils. In this they can draw on the resources of the whole school.
- Every child is entitled to have his or her particular needs recognised and addressed.
- To offer high quality support to ensure that all needs are met.
- To maximise the opportunities for students with SEND to join in with all the activities of the school as appropriate.
- All pupils are entitled to experience success.

- Consideration of SEND crosses all curriculum areas and all aspects of teaching and learning.
- Good special needs practice is good practice for all pupils.
- All special needs provision is more effective if pupils and parents are fully involved and supportive.
- To seek the views of the child and take them into account.
- To acknowledge and draw on parent knowledge and expertise in relation to their child.
- To promote effective partnership and involve outside agencies when appropriate.

The success of the school's SEND policy will be judged against the objectives set out above. The Governing body will ensure that it makes appropriate SEND provision for all pupils identified as in need of it.

Roles and responsibilities/ Co-ordination of provision

Governing Body

The school Governors have specific responsibility to:

- Do its best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has SEND.
- Ensure that, pupil's needs are made known to all who are likely to teach them.
- Ensure that teachers in the school are aware of the importance of identifying and providing for, those pupils who have SEND.
- Consult the LA when it seems to be necessary or desirable in the interest of co-ordinated SEND provision.
- Ensure that a pupil with SEND joins in the activities of the school together with all pupils so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving the SEND provision and the other pupils.
- Ensure that parents are notified and kept up to date of a decision by the school that SEND provision is being made for their child.
- Ensure that the admission arrangements do not discriminate against a disabled pupil either in the terms on which the school offers admissions or by refusing or deliberately omitting to accept an application from a disabled person

Through their Access Plan, the governors will plan to:

- Increase the extent to which disabled pupils can participate in the curriculum
- Improve the physical environment of the school to increase participation of disabled pupils
- Improve delivery of information

In exercising their duties towards disabled pupils the governing body will have regard to the Access Plan and allocate adequate resources for implementing it.

In doing so Governors will have regard to the 2014 Code of Practice and the Disability Rights Code of Practice.

Headteacher

The Headteacher has the responsibility to oversee the management of all aspects of schools work including provision for pupils with SEND. The Headteacher keeps the Governing Body fully informed and works closely with the school's SEND co-ordinator.

The School Staff

All teachers are teachers of children with SEND and do their best to adapt the curriculum to meet their needs. All staff are involved in the school's SEND policy and aware of the procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEND.

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

The SENDCO is Mrs Walpole. Her responsibilities include:

- Co-ordinating provision for pupils with SEND.
- Liaising with and advising colleagues.
- Managing learning support assistants.
- Liaising with parents of pupils with SEND.
- Liaising with secondary school SENDCO, Educational Psychologists, School Nurse, School Doctor, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS), Barnardos and Health Visitors and other service providers as appropriate.

Admission

Pupils with SEND are admitted to the school on the same basis as any other child in accordance with the Admissions Policy. We welcome all children to our school including those with SEND and those with disabilities. Where children need adaptations to the physical environment or need other support structure in place, the governing body will consider what steps could reasonably be taken to include them. Copies of our Admission Policy can be obtained from the school office or viewed on the school website.

When the school is notified of an admission, the SENDCo will contact parents to organise an induction meeting to discuss any additional needs, the SENDCo will then contact the previous school to ensure support previously received is continued.

Provision

The school has two mentors, Mrs Prosser and Mr McGough, who support children with Personal, Social and Emotional difficulties. The children may spend time with them for group sessions or 1:1 support, in agreement with their parents.

School have weekly visits from speech and language therapists, from a company called Communicate. Children can be referred to NHS or Communicate speech and language services through the class teacher or SENDCo.

School is also able to refer children to an Occupational Therapist from a company called Coordinated Kids if there are Sensory Processing Issue or Coordination Concerns.

Access

Access is available to all parts of the school and every effort is to be made to enable equal access for all. From Nursery through to Year 3, all classrooms are located on the ground floor and have outside access. From Year 4 to Year 6 the classrooms are located on first floor and are accessed by stairs, however, a lift is in place for children with any physical difficulties. All classrooms have easy access to toilet facilities. Since the new build, all areas of the school are accessible for all children. Copies of our Accessibility Policy can be obtained from the school office or viewed on the school website.

Identification and Assessment

The school is committed to early identification of Special Educational Need and strives to ensure that all pupils receive a balanced and broadly based curriculum. A graduated response to meeting SEND is applied in line with the SEND Code of Practice (2014).

A range of evidence is collected through the usual assessment and monitoring arrangements; if, in order for the child to make adequate progress, the teacher needs to take actions that are additional to or significantly different from those required for the majority of children in the class, the class teacher should consult the SENDCo.

A register of children requiring Special Educational Needs Support will be kept and will include children that have **LA statements** which in time will become Education, Health and Care Plans. The SEND Support register is a working document and will be updated each term.

School uses Provision Maps and Learning Passports to highlight needs, record provision and to evaluate progress for all children on the SEN Register. In addition, children with more complex needs will complete cycles of Plan-Do-Review in conjunction with parents, carers and agencies involved in their care.

Annual reviews will be held for pupils with Statements of SEND or Education Health Care Plans in addition to the school plan-do-review meetings. Parents and carers are invited to reviews along with relevant professionals. A report is produced following reviews and copies are sent to the local authority.

When pupils are due to transfer to the Secondary School the annual review will take place in the Autumn term followed by a Transfer meeting involving the Secondary School SENDCO in the summer term in order to ensure that arrangements are in place to ensure a successful transition.

External Support Services

- The school can request visits from the nominated authority Educational Psychologist and the allocated behaviour advisory teacher.
- In addition, the school may seek advice from specialist advisory teaching services for children with learning, sensory impairment or physical difficulties.
- The school buys in speech and language support from a company called Communicate. A number of pupils continue to be supported by the NHS speech therapy service and the SENDCo will liaise with them with regards to target setting and provision. Children can be referred to both NHS or Communicate speech therapists via the Class teacher and the SENDCo.

External support services play an important part in helping the school identify, assess and make provision for pupils with SEND.

Role of Parents

The knowledge, views and experience of parents are vital. Effective assessment and provision will be secured where there is the greatest possible degree of partnership between parents, schools, LA and other agencies. Parents are welcomed to reviews and are actively encouraged to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher.

Pupil Participation

Pupils and young people with Special Educational Needs have a unique knowledge of their own needs and circumstances. Their views about what sort of help they would like is sought during the plan-do-review and target setting process. School have introduced Learning Passports which explain the needs of pupils with SEND. Pupils are encouraged to contribute to the Learning Passport.

Monitoring arrangements

Pupils are assessed four times a year and the results are discussed at termly pupil progress meetings. The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) and the Class Teacher analyse the data looking for anomalies, concerns or areas to celebrate. The results of specified groups of children are scrutinised,

including groups such as: LAC (those in local authority care) FSM (Free School Meals) EAL (English as an Additional Language) SEND (Special Educational Needs) and G&T (Gifted and Talented).

Children with SEND or additional needs are monitored to ensure provisions and interventions remain relevant and result in progress being made.

The governing body evaluates the success of educational provision for SEND pupils at the school by looking at the effectiveness of the principles and practices outlined above. This is achieved through monitoring of the SEND register and interventions in place. Resources and staffing levels are examined to ensure that they provide the best value to the school.

The LA have a statutory requirement to provide a Local Offer to all parents stating how they can support children with SEND and additional needs. As a school we also provide a school offer. Copies of this can be obtained from the school office or viewed on the school website.

Complaints

Any complaints about the Special Needs provision within the school should be brought to the attention of the SENDCO, Mrs Walpole in the first instance and then to the Head Teacher, Mrs Bamber. If the matter cannot be resolved a complaint should be made to the Chair of Governors.