



Wolston St Margaret's C of E Primary School

LEARNING, BELIEVING AND ACHIEVING TOGETHER TO

'LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE'

Matthew 5:16

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS & DISABILITY POLICY

Our Christian vision shapes all that we do: Learning, Believing, and Achieving together to
"Let your Light Shine" *(Matthew 5-16)*

Guided by our Christian values of **Honesty, Love, Courage and Community**, we encourage all to flourish. Like a lamp set high to light its surroundings, everyone – whether timid or outgoing – is called to share their light for all to see. Our vision welcomes children and adults of all faiths and none, inspiring them to live, grow, and learn together, showing the world their unique light.

Rationale

At Wolston St Margaret's C of E Primary School, it is our 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 new Code of Practice (April 2015):

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

What are special educational needs?

A child or young person has special educational needs 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 2015

This SEND policy details how, at Wolston St Margaret's C of E Primary School, 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

The aims of this policy are:

- 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
- 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 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, sexual orientation, 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.

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
- need support to develop independence and responsibility

Teachers respond to children's needs by:

- providing support for children who need help with communication, language and literacy
- planning to develop children's understanding through the use of all available senses and experiences
- planning for children's full participation in learning, and in physical and practical activities
- helping children to manage and own their behaviour and to take part in learning effectively and safely
- helping individuals to manage their emotions, particularly trauma or stress, and to take part in learning

Identification, Assessment and Provision

Provision for children with special educational needs is a matter for the whole school. The governing body, the school's headteacher, the SENDCo and all other members of staff, particularly class teachers and teaching assistants, have important day-to-day responsibilities. **All teachers are teachers of children with special educational needs.**

Early identification is vital. Parents have the best knowledge base about their children and can provide important information about their child in a range of situations. Our Early Years' home visits programme and close liaison with childcare providers enables information to be shared even before children start at school.

We will assess each child's current levels of attainment on entry in order to ensure that they build on the patterns of learning and experience already established during the child's pre-school years. If the child already has an identified special educational need, this information may be transferred from other partners in their Early Years setting and the class teacher and SENDCo will use this information to:

- provide starting points for the development of an appropriate curriculum.
- identify and focus attention on action to support the child within the class.
- use the assessment processes to identify any learning difficulties.
- ensure ongoing observation and assessments provide regular feedback about the child's achievements and experiences to form the basis for planning the next steps of the child's learning.

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 arise from special educational needs.

When class teachers have any concerns, these are discussed with parents at the earliest opportunity, both to alert them and to enlist their active help and participation.

The Special Educational Needs & Disability Co-Ordinator (SENDCo)

The SENDCo responsibilities include:

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEND policy.
- 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 in-service training of staff.
- liaising with local high schools so that support is provided for Y6 pupils as they prepare to transfer.
- liaising with external agencies including the LA's support and educational psychology services, health and social services and voluntary bodies.
- co-ordinating and developing school-based strategies for the identification and review of children with SEND.
- making regular visits to classrooms to monitor the progress of children on the SEND register

Monitoring Children's Progress

The school's system for observing and assessing the progress of individual children will provide 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.

The key test of the need for action is that current rates of progress are inadequate.

Adequate progress can be identified as that which:

- prevents the attainment gap between the child and his peers from widening.
- closes the attainment gap between the child and his peers.
- better the child's previous rate of progress.
- ensures access to the full curriculum.
- demonstrates an improvement in self-help, social or personal skills.
- demonstrates improvements in the child's behaviour.

In order to help children with special educational needs, Wolston St Margaret's C of E Primary School adopts a graduated response. This may see us using specialist expertise if as a school we feel that our interventions are still not having an impact on the individual. The school records the steps taken to meet the needs of individual children through the use of an IEP (Individual Education Plan) and review sheet/provision map and the SENDCo has responsibility for ensuring that records are kept and available when needed. If we refer a child for statutory assessment/Education Health and Care Plan, we provide the LA with a record of our work with the child to date.

When any concern is initially noticed it is the responsibility of the class teacher to take steps to address the issue. Parents may be consulted and specific intervention put in place and monitored. If no progress is noted, in consultation with the parent, the child may be added to the school SEND register.

The class teacher after discussion with the SENDCo will then provide additional interventions that are additional to those provided as part of the school's adapted curriculum and the child will be given individual learning targets which will be applied within the classroom. These targets will be monitored by the class teacher and teaching assistants within the class and reviewed formally with the SENDCo, parents and young person.

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 literacy 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.

Partnership with parents

Partnership plays a key role in enabling children and young people with SEND to achieve their potential. Parents hold key information and have knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of a child's needs. All parents of children with special educational needs will be treated as partners given support to play an active and valued role in their child's education.

Children and young people with special educational needs and/or disability 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, the Special Educational Needs & Disability Information Report including 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 will always have access to the SENDCo through the school.

The Nature of Intervention

The SENDCo and the child's class teacher will decide on the action needed to help the child progress in the light of 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 SENDCo; or, with TA support.
- 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 initial discussions with the SENCO, 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 SENCO.

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

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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 or be involved in teaching the child directly. 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. The delivery of the interventions recorded in the IEP continues to be the responsibility of the class teacher.

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 literacy 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 their peers.

School Request for Statutory Assessment or Education Health and Care Plans (from September 2014)

A request will be made by the school to the LA if the child has demonstrated significant cause for concern. The LA will be given information about the child's progress over time, and will also receive documentation in relation to the child's special educational needs and any other action taken to deal with those needs, including any resources or special arrangements put in place.

The evidence will include:

- previous individual education plans and targets for the pupil.
- records of regular reviews and their outcomes.
- records of the child's health and medical history where appropriate.
- national Curriculum attainment levels in literacy and numeracy.
- education and other assessments, for example from an advisory specialist support teacher or educational psychologist.
- views of the parents.

The parents of any child who is referred for statutory assessment will be kept fully informed of the progress of the referral. Children with a statement of special educational needs will be reviewed each half term in addition to the statutory annual assessment. When this coincides with transfer to high school, the SENDCo from the high school will be informed of the outcome of the review.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

Strategies employed to enable the child to progress will be recorded within an Individual Education Plan which will include information about:

- the short-term targets set for the child.
- the teaching strategies to be used.
- the provision to be put in place.
- how the targets will help the child in their learning.
- what they are responsible for.
- how the child can be successful.
- the review date.

Access to the Curriculum

All children have an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which has suitable adaptations made, to enable children to understand the relevance and purpose of learning activities and experience levels of understanding and rates of progress that bring feelings of success and achievement.

Teachers use a range of strategies to meet children's special educational needs. Lessons have clear learning objectives and staff differentiate work appropriately, and use assessment to inform the next stage of learning. By breaking down the existing levels of attainment into finely graded steps and targets, we ensure that children experience success. Where appropriate, children on the special needs register have an individual education plan with individual targets.

We support children in a manner that acknowledges their entitlement to share the same learning experiences that their peers enjoy. Wherever possible, we do not withdraw children from the classroom situation. There are times though when, to maximise learning, we ask the children to work in small groups, or in a one-to-one situation outside the classroom.

Allocation of resources

The SENDCo is responsible for the operational management of the specified and agreed resourcing for special needs provision within the school, including the provision for children with statements of special educational needs and Education Health and Care Plans.

The headteacher informs the governing body of how the funding allocated to support special educational needs has been employed.

The Role of the Governing Body

The governing body does its best to secure the necessary provision for any pupil identified as having special educational needs and establish the appropriate staffing and funding arrangements. The governors ensure that all teachers are aware of the importance of providing for children with SEND.

The governing body follows the Local Authority's admissions policy for all admissions to the school. Children with an Education Health Care Plan naming Wolston St Margaret's will be admitted if the School is able to meet the need of the child.

Monitoring and Evaluation

Children with SEND should not be seen as a fixed group because 'needs' may vary. All children identified as having a special educational need are recorded on the SEND register. The register is reviewed and updated termly by the SENDCo in consultation with class teachers.

The SENDCo monitors the movement of children within the SEND system in school. The SENDCo also tracks the progress of individual children on the SEND register using data from regular assessments. The SENDCo provides staff and governors with regular summaries of the impact of the policy on the practice of the school.

There is a named governor with responsibility for SEND who is available to discuss any aspect of this policy. Contact can be made via the School Office.

The SENDCo, headteacher and governor responsible for SEND meet on a regular basis to monitor and review practice and the impact of this policy.