

Special Educational Needs Policy

Introduction

- 1.1 The staff and governors believe in an inclusive approach to education for all children. In line with the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Code of Practice 2002 and with regard to Every Child Matters: Change for Children (2004) the school curriculum is planned and taught at an appropriate level to enable children full access to school life and to achieve their individual potential.
- 1.2 This school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all children. The National Curriculum is our starting point for planning with a revised skills based focus for teaching and learning. When planning, teachers set suitable learning challenges and respond to children's diverse learning needs.
- 1.3 These requirements are likely to arise as a consequence of a child having special educational needs. Teachers take account of these requirements and make provision, where necessary, to support individuals or groups of children and thus enable them to participate effectively in curriculum and assessment activities. Such children may need additional or different help from that given to other children of the same age.
- 1.4 Children may have special educational needs either throughout or at any time during their school career. This policy ensures that curriculum planning and assessment for children with special educational needs takes account of the type and extent of the difficulty experienced by the child.

Aims and objectives

- 2.1 The aims of this policy are:
 - to create an environment that meets the special educational needs of each child;
 - to ensure that the special educational needs of children are identified, assessed and provided for;
 - to make clear the expectations of all partners in the process;
 - to identify the roles and responsibilities of staff in providing for children's special educational needs;
 - to enable all children to have full access to all elements of the school curriculum;
 - to ensure that parents are able to play their part in supporting their child's education;
 - to ensure that our children have a voice in this process;
 - to celebrate individual achievements of children throughout the school.

Educational inclusion

3.1 In our school we aim to offer excellence and choice to all our children, whatever their ability or needs. We have high expectations of all our children. We aim to achieve this through the removal of barriers to learning and participation. We want all our children to feel that they are a valued part of our school community. Through appropriate curricular provision, we respect the fact that children:

- have different educational, emotion 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.

3.2 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 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.

Special educational needs

4.1 Children with special educational needs have learning difficulties that require special provision to be made. All children may have special needs at some time in their lives. Children have a learning difficulty if:

- they have significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age;
- they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities that are provided for children of the same age;
- they are under school age and fall within the definitions above.

4.2 Many of the children who join our school have already attended an early education setting. If concerns have been expressed prior to a child starting our school information is sought from parents, pre-school practitioners, other specialists where appropriate and any other reports that may be available. All our children are assessed when they join our school and at regular intervals thereafter, so that we can build upon their prior learning. We use this information to provide starting points for the development and progression of an appropriate curriculum for all our children. We recognise that early identification of special educational needs is essential.

- 4.3 If our assessments show that a child may have a learning difficulty, we use a range of strategies that make full use of all available classroom and school resources. This level of support is called School Action. The child's class teacher will offer interventions that are different from or additional to those provided as part of the school's usual working practices. The class teacher will keep parents informed and draw upon them for additional information. Special Educational Needs is co-ordinated by the school's Inclusion Co-ordinator (INCO) and so if not already involved, will become involved if the teacher and parents feel that the child would benefit from further support. The INCO will then take the lead in further assessments of the child's needs.
- 4.4 We will record the strategies used to support the child within an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The IEP will show the short-term target set for the child and the teaching strategies to be used. It will also indicate the planned outcomes and the date for the plan to be reviewed. In most cases, this review will take place once a term.
- 4.5 If the IEP review identifies that support is needed from outside services, we will consult parents prior to any support being auctioned. In most cases, children will be seen in school by external support services. This may lead to additional or different strategies to those at School Action. This enhanced level of support is called School Action Plus. External support services will provide information for the child's new IEP. The new strategies within the IEP will, wherever possible, be implemented in the child's normal classroom setting.
- 4.6 If the child continues to demonstrate significant cause for concern, a request for statutory assessment will be made to the LA. A range of written evidence about the child will support the request.
- 4.7 In the school the INCO:
- manages the day-to-day operation of the policy;
 - co-ordinates the provision for and manages the responses to children's special needs;
 - supports and advises colleagues;
 - oversees the records of all children with special educational needs;
 - acts as the link with parents;
 - acts as link with external agencies and other support agencies;
 - monitors and evaluates the special educational needs provision and reports to the governing body;
 - co-ordinates and manages the role of the Special Educational Needs Learning Support Assistant (SEN LSA);
 - manages a range of resources, human and material, to enable appropriate provision for children with special educational needs;
 - contributes to the professional development of all staff.

The role of the governing body

- 5.1 The governing body had due regard to the Code of Practice when carrying out its duties towards all pupils with special educational needs.
- 5.2 The governing body does its best to secure the necessary provision for any pupil identified as having special educational needs. The governors ensure that all teachers are aware of the importance of providing for these children.
- 5.3 The governing body has identified a governor to have specific oversight of the school's provision for pupils with special educational needs. The 'responsible persons' in this school are the Headteacher and the Inclusion Co-ordinator. They ensure that all those who teach a pupil with a statement of special educational needs are aware of the nature of the statement.
- 5.4 The SEN governor liaises directly with the INCO and provides reports to the governing body to ensure all parties are aware of the schools SEN situation, provision, including the deployment of funding, equipment and personnel.

Allocation of resources

- 6.1 The INCO 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.
- 6.2 The Headteacher and the INCO meet regularly to agree on how to use funds directly related to statements and resources. The INCO draws up the resources bid when the school is planning for the next school improvement plan.

Assessment

- 7.1 Early identification is vital. The class teacher informs the parents at the earliest opportunity to alert them to concerns and enlist their active help and participation.
- 7.2 The class teacher and the INCO assess and monitor the children's progress in line with existing school practices. This is an ongoing process.
- 7.3 The INCO works closely with parents and teachers to plan an appropriate programme of support.

- 7.4 The assessment of children reflects as far as possible their participation in the whole curriculum of the school. The class teacher and the INCO can break down the assessment into smaller steps in order to aid progress and provide detailed and accurate indicators. This can be seen on the child's IEP.
- 7.5 The LEA seeks a range of advice before making a formal statement. The needs of the child are considered to be paramount in this.

Access to the curriculum

- 8.1 All children have an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is differentiated to enable children to:
- understand the relevance and purpose of learning activities;
 - experience levels of understanding and rates of progress that bring feelings of success and achievement.
- 8.2 Teachers use a range of strategies to meet children's special educational needs. Lessons have clear learning objectives; we differentiate work appropriately, and we use assessment to inform the next stage of learning.
- 8.3 Individual Education Plans, which employ a small-steps approach, feature significantly in the provision that we make in the school. By breaking down the existing levels of attainment into finely graded steps and targets, we ensure that children experience success. All children at School Action and School Action Plus have an IEP.
- 8.4 We support children in a manner that acknowledges their entitlement to share the same learning experience 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.

Partnerships with parents

- 9.1 The school works closely with parents in the support of those children with special educational needs. We encourage an active partnership through an ongoing dialogue with parents. The home-school agreement is central to this. Parents have much to contribute to our support for children with special educational needs.
- 9.2 We have regular meetings each term to share the progress of special needs children with their parents. We inform the parents of any outside intervention, and we share the process of decision making by providing clear information relating to the education of children with special educational needs.

Pupil participation

- 10.1 In our school we encourage children to take responsibility and to make decisions. This is part of the culture of our school and relates to children of all ages. The work in the Foundation Stage recognises the importance of children developing social as well as educational skills.
- 10.2 Children are involved at an appropriate level in setting targets in their IEPs and in the termly IEP review meetings. Children are encouraged to make judgements about their own performance against their IEP targets. We recognise success here as we do in any other aspect of school life.

Monitoring and evaluation

- 11.1 The INCO monitors the movement of children within the SEN system in school. The INCO provides staff and governors with regular summaries of the impact of the policy on the practice of the school.
- 11.2 The INCO is involved in supporting teachers involved in drawing up IEPs for children. The INCO and the Headteacher hold regular meetings to review the work of the school in this area. The INCO and the named governor with responsibility for special needs also hold termly meetings.
- 11.3 The governing body reviews this policy annually and considers any amendments in the light of the annual review findings. The INCO reports the outcome of the review to the full governing body.

