

**ALTHAM  
ST JAMES'  
CE  
PRIMARY  
SCHOOL**

**Special Educational  
Needs Policy**

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## Preamble

The Children and Families Act came into force from the 1st September 2014. A new SEN Code of Practice also accompanies this legislation. More details about the reforms and the SEN Code of Practice can be found on the Department for Education's website: [www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/sen](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/sen)

One significant change arising from the reforms is that Statements of Special Educational Needs, for those children with the most complex needs, have now been replaced with a new Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. These plans are being supported by an Education, Health and Care Plan Pathway.

The SEND Local Offer is a resource which is designed to support children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families. It describes the services and provision that are available both to those families in Lancashire that have an Education, Health and Care Plan and those who do not have a plan, but still experience some form of special educational need. The SEND Local Offer includes information about public services across education, health and social care, as well as those provided by the private, voluntary and community sectors.

### **Definitions of special educational needs (SEN) taken from section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014.**

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

- a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions. A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if they fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them.

Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.

## 1. Aims and objectives

### Aims

We aim to provide every child with access to a broad and balanced education. This includes the National Curriculum in line with the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.

### Objectives

- **Staff members seek to identify the needs of pupils with SEN as early as possible.** This is most effectively done by gathering information from parents, education, health and care services and early years settings prior to the child's entry into the school.
- **Monitor the progress of all pupils** in order to aid the identification of pupils with SEN. Continuous monitoring of those pupils with SEN by their teachers will help to ensure that they are able to reach their full potential.
- **Make appropriate provision to overcome all barriers to learning and ensure pupils with SEN have full access to the National Curriculum.** This will be co-ordinated by the SENCO and Headteacher and will be carefully monitored and regularly reviewed in order to ensure that individual targets are being met and all pupils' needs are catered for.
- **Work with parents** to gain a better understanding of their child, and involve them in all stages of their child's education. This includes supporting them in terms of understanding SEN procedures and practices and providing regular feedback on their child's progress.
- **Work with and in support of outside agencies** when the pupils' needs cannot be met by the school alone. Some of these services include IDSS (Inclusion and Disability Support Services – Lancashire), Educational Psychology Service, Speech and Language Therapy, Children and Adult Mental Health Service CAMHS.
- **Create a school environment where pupils can contribute to their own learning.** This means encouraging relationships with adults in school where pupils feel safe to voice their opinions of their own needs, and carefully monitoring the progress of all pupils at regular intervals. Pupil participation is encouraged through school by wider opportunities such as school council, residential visits, school plays, sports teams and monitors at playtime.

## 2. Responsibility for the coordination of SEN provision

- The person responsible for overseeing the provision for children with SEN is Mrs Carol Woods – Headteacher and SENCO
- She is assisted by Mrs Amanda Allen SEN Assistant and Administration

## 3. Arrangements for coordinating SEN provision

The SENCO will hold details of all SEN records for individual pupils.

### All staff can access:

- The school SEN Policy;
- A copy of the full SEN Register.
- Guidance on identification of SEN in the Code of Practice
- Information on individual pupils' special educational needs, including pupil profiles, targets set and copies of their provision map.
- Practical advice, teaching strategies, and information about types of special educational needs and disabilities

- Information available through Lancashire's SEND Local Offer

In this way, every staff member will have complete and up-to-date information about all pupils with special needs and their requirements which will enable them to provide for the individual needs of all pupils.

This policy is made accessible to all staff and parents in order to aid the effective coordination

of the school's SEN provision.

#### **4. Admission arrangements**

Please refer to the information contained in our school prospectus.

The admission arrangements for all pupils are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. This includes children with any level of SEN; those with Education, Health and Care Plans and those without.

#### **5. Specialist SEN provision**

We are committed to whole school inclusion. In our school we support children with a range of special educational needs. Where necessary, we will seek specialist SEN support, provision and training from Lancashire's Inclusion and Disability Support Services.

#### **6. Facilities for pupils with SEN**

As far as is reasonably practicable, the school complies with all relevant accessibility requirements, please.

#### **7. Allocation of resources for pupils with SEN**

All pupils with SEND will have access to provision from the school's delegated budget. Some pupils with SEND may access additional funding. For those with the most complex needs, additional funding (High level needs HLN) is allocated by the local authority, following assessment. Where necessary the SENCO individual applications to a multi-agency panel, which is administered by the Local Authority, who will determine whether the level and complexity of need meets the threshold for this funding. It would then be the responsibility of the SENCO, senior leadership team and governors to agree how the allocation of resources is used.

## **8. Identification of pupils needs**

### **Identification**

See definition of Special Educational Needs at the start of this policy.

#### **A graduated approach:**

##### **Quality First Teaching**

- a) Any pupils who are falling significantly outside of the range of expected academic achievement in line with predicted performance indicators and grade boundaries will be monitored.
- b) Once a pupil has been identified as possibly having SEN they will be closely monitored by staff in order to gauge their level of learning and possible difficulties.
- c) The child's class teacher will take steps to provide differentiated learning opportunities that will aid the pupil's academic progression and enable the teacher to better understand the provision and teaching style that needs to be applied.
- d) The SENCO will be consulted as needed for support and advice and may wish to observe the pupil in class.
- e) Through (b) and (d) it can be determined which level of provision the child will need going forward.
- f) If a pupil has recently been removed from the SEN register they may also fall into this category as continued monitoring will be necessary.
- g) Parents will be informed fully of every stage of their child's development and the circumstances under which they are being monitored. They are encouraged to share information and knowledge with the school.
- h) The child is recorded by the school as being under observation due to concern by parent or teacher but this does not automatically place the child on the school's SEN register. Any concerns will be discussed with parents informally or during parents' evenings, or specially arranged appointments.
- i) Parents' evenings are used to monitor and assess the progress being made by children.

##### **SEN Support**

Where it is determined that a pupil does have SEN, parents will be formally advised of this and the decision will be added to the SEN register. The aim of formally identifying a pupil with SEN is to help school ensure that effective provision is put in place and so remove barriers to learning. The support provided consists of a four – part process:

- Assess
- Plan
- Do
- Review

This is an ongoing cycle to enable the provision to be refined and revised as the understanding of the needs of the pupil grows. This cycle enables the identification of those interventions which are the most effective in supporting the pupil to achieve good progress and outcomes.

##### **Assess**

This involves clearly analysing the pupil's needs using the class teacher's assessment and experience of working with the pupil, details of previous progress and attainment, comparisons with peers and national data, as well as the views and experience of parents. The pupil's views and where relevant, advice from external support services will also be considered. Any parental concerns will be noted and compared with the school's information and assessment data on how the pupil is progressing.

This analysis will require regular review to ensure that support and intervention is matched to need, that barriers to learning are clearly identified and being overcome and that the

interventions being used are developing and evolving as required. Where external support staff are already involved their work will help inform the assessment of need. Where they are not involved they may be contacted, if this is felt to be appropriate, following discussion and agreement from parents.

### **Plan**

Planning will involve consultation between the teacher, SENCO and parents to agree the adjustments, interventions and support that are required; the impact on progress, development and or behaviour that is expected and a clear date for review. Parental involvement may be sought, where appropriate, to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

All those working with the pupil, including support staff will be informed of their individual needs, the support that is being provided, any particular teaching strategies/approaches that are being employed and the outcomes that are being sought.

### **Do**

The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a day-to-day basis. They will retain responsibility even where the interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher. They will work closely with teaching assistants and to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and links with classroom teaching. Support with further assessment of the pupil's strengths and weaknesses, problem solving and advising of the implementation of effective support will be organised by the SENCO.

### **Review**

Reviews of a child's progress will be made regularly. The review process will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. It will also take account of the views of the pupil and where necessary their parents. The class teacher, in conjunction with the SENCO will revise the support and outcomes based on the pupil's progress and development making any necessary amendments going forward, in consultation with parents and the pupil.

### **Referral for an Education, Health and Care Plan**

If a child has lifelong or significant difficulties they may undergo a Statutory Assessment Process which is usually requested by the school but can be requested by a parent. This will occur where the complexity of need or a lack of clarity around the needs of the child are such that a multi-agency approach to assessing that need, to planning provision and identifying resources, is required.

The decision to make a referral for an Education, Health and Care Plan will be taken at a progress review.

The application for an Education, Health and Care Plans will combine information from a variety of sources, as appropriate, including:

- Parents
- Teachers
- SENCO
- Social Care
- Health professionals Information will be gathered relating to the current provision provided, action points that have been taken, and the preliminary outcomes of targets set. A decision will be made by a group of people from education, health and social care about whether or the child is eligible for an EHC Plan. Parents have the right to appeal against a decision not to initiate a statutory assessment leading to an EHC Plan.

Further information about EHC Plans can found via the SEND Local Offer:

[www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.aspx](http://www.lancashire.gov.uk/children-education-families/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities.aspx)

### **Education, Health and Care Plans [EHC Plan]**

- a. Following Statutory Assessment, an EHC Plan will be provided by Lancashire County Council, if it is decided that the child's needs are not being met by the support that is ordinarily available. The school and the child's parents will be involved developing and producing the plan.
- b. Parents have the right to appeal against the content of the EHC Plan. They may also appeal against the school named in the Plan if it differs from their preferred choice.
- c. Once the EHC Plan has been completed and agreed, it will be kept as part of the pupil's formal record and reviewed at least annually by staff, parents and the pupil. The annual review enables provision for the pupil to be evaluated and, where appropriate, for changes to be put in place, for example, reducing or increasing levels of support.

## **9. Access to the curriculum, information and associated services**

Pupils with SEN will be given access to the curriculum through the specialist SEN provision provided by the school as is necessary, as far as possible, taking into account the wishes of their parents and the needs of the individual.

Every effort will be made to educate pupils with SEN alongside their peers in a mainstream classroom setting. Where this is not possible, the Headteacher/SENCO will consult with the child's parents for other flexible arrangements to be made.

Training and updates for staff on the subject of SEN and SEN teaching will be provided as and when appropriate. General curriculum training will be formatted to ensure coverage for a wide range of abilities including children with SEN. In class provision and support will be deployed to ensure the curriculum is differentiated where necessary. We make sure that individual or group intervention or tuition is available where it is felt pupils would benefit from this provision. We set appropriate individual targets that motivate pupils to do their best, and we celebrate achievements at all levels.

## **10. Inclusion of pupils with SEN**

The Headteacher/SENCO oversees the school's policy for inclusion and is responsible for ensuring that it is implemented effectively throughout the school.

The school curriculum is regularly reviewed to ensure that it promotes the inclusion of all pupils.

This includes learning outside the classroom.

The school will seek advice, as appropriate, around individual pupils, from external support services - including those providing support for pupils' behaviour, where necessary.

## **11. Evaluating the success of provision**

In order to make consistent continuous progress in relation to all provision (including SEN) the school encourages feedback from staff, parents and pupils throughout the year. This is done in the form of an annual parent and pupil questionnaire, discussion and through progress meetings with parents.

Pupil progress will be monitored on a termly basis and interventions are recorded on an individual basis, and on a provision map, which is updated when the intervention is changed. These records are kept centrally by the Headteacher/SENCO. This information is used to monitor the progress of all children, including those with SEND, and is thus used to identify whether provision is effective.

## **12.Complaints procedure**

If a parent or carer has any concerns or complaints regarding the care or welfare of their child, an appointment can be made by them to speak to the Headteacher/SENCO, who will be able to advise on formal procedures for complaint.

## **13. In service training - Continuing Professional Development**

We aim to keep all school staff up to date with relevant training and developments in teaching practice in relation to the needs of pupils with SEN. The Headteacher/SENCO attends relevant SEN courses. He will ensure that necessary information is disseminated to other staff. Additionally, training done (in line with school development priorities) will encompass the needs of children of all abilities, including SEND.

## **14. Links to support services**

The school continues to build strong working relationships and links with external support services in order to fully support our SEN pupils and aid school inclusion.

Sharing knowledge and information with our support services is key to the effective and successful SEN provision within our school. Any one of the support services may raise concerns about a pupil. This will then be brought to the attention of the Headteacher/SENCO who will then inform the child's parents.

## **15. Working in partnerships with parents**

Altham St James' CE Primary School believes that a close working relationship with parents is vital in order to ensure

- a) early and accurate identification and assessment of SEN leading to appropriate intervention and provision
- b) continuing social and academic progress of children with SEN
- c) personal and academic targets are set and met effectively. In cases where more frequent regular contact with parents is necessary, this will be arranged based on the individual pupil's needs. The Headteacher/SENCO may also signpost parents of pupils with SEN to the local authority Parent Partnership service where specific advice, guidance and support may be required. If an assessment or referral indicates that a pupil has additional learning needs the parents and the pupil will always be consulted with regards to future provision. Parents are invited to consult with external agencies regarding their child, and are kept up to date and consulted on any points of action drawn up in regards to the provision for their child. The school's SEN governor (Mrs Sue Tinker) may be contacted via the school office at any time in relation to SEN matters.

## **16. Links with other schools**

The school works in informal partnership with other local schools (particularly The Clayton & Altham Primary Schools Cluster) to share continuing professional development for staff, and a range of expertise for advice and support.

## **17. Conclusion**

We hope that this policy has provided the reader with all the necessary information regarding our aspirations for pupils with Special Educational needs and Disabilities, and the way in which we work to address these needs. Any further questions can be discussed by making an appointment with the headteacher/SENCO, who would welcome the opportunity to help.