

**St Mary’s Catholic Primary and Nursery School**

**SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY INCLUSION POLICY (SEND)**

***“Inspiring children to love learning and live in the light of Christ”***

***St. Mary’s Catholic Primary School and Nursery values all children for their unique gifts and talents.***

***Each child is encouraged to reach his or her full potential, academically, socially and spiritually.***

***Children are nurtured and supported as they grow to become curious, confident and independent learners, who work hard and aim high.***

***All are welcomed into our happy caring catholic school community, which has the Christian values of love, patience, generosity, kindness and mutual respect at its heart.***

**Headteacher:** Jane Price

**SENDCo:** Sarah Finch

**SEN Governor:** Sharon Mc Aloon

**Ratified by:** Angela Scull

**Date for next review:** November 2021

St. Mary’s School aims to be an inclusive school. Inclusion is the process of increasing the participation of children and young people into their communities. We actively seek to remove the barriers to learning and participation that can hinder or exclude individual pupils, or groups of pupils. This means that equality of opportunity must be a reality for our children. We make this a reality through the attention we pay to the different groups of children within our school at any time:

* + girls and boys
  + minority ethnic and faith groups
  + children learning English as an additional language (EAL)
  + children with special educational needs or a disability (SEND)
  + children with physical disabilities or long term medical conditions
  + children who are at risk of disaffection or exclusion
  + children eligible for pupil premium or service premium
  + looked after children or children adopted from care (LAC)
  + travellers and asylum seekers
  + children who have recently changed schools
  + children who are experiencing family break-up
  + children in need of additional challenge

We aim to ensure that the individual needs of children are quickly identified and met in order that all children can access appropriate educational provision. The culture, practice, management and deployment of resources in our school should be designed to ensure all children’s needs are met.

This policy has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

* Equality Act 2010
* Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2014

**THE PURPOSE OF OUR SEND & INCLUSION POLICY**

This policy reflects the values and philosophy of St Mary’s Catholic Primary School in relation to inclusion. It gives a framework to which all staff, teaching and non-teaching, and Governors, work. It records the consensus of views at which the school has arrived in relation to children with Special Educational Needs, a disability, children for whom English is an Additional Language and other vulnerable individuals/groups.

It should be considered in conjunction with:

* Teaching and Learning Policy
* Behaviour Policy

**Children for whom English is an Additional Language**

The term EAL is used when referring to pupils whose main language at home is a language other than English.

**We Aim:**

* + to value the cultural, linguistic and educational experiences that pupils with EAL bring to school
  + to implement school-wide strategies to ensure that EAL pupils are supported in accessing the curriculum.
  + to help EAL pupils to become confident and fluent in English in order to access the curriculum.

**We Aim:**

* to offer children with special educational needs access to a broad, balanced and relevant education, including the Early Years Foundation Stage and the National Curriculum
* to work together with SEND Management and in line with the SEN Code of Practice to ensure that children’s needs are met
* to work together with the outside agencies to ensure best practice when assessing needs and devising interventions
* to liaise with parents to ensure children’s needs are identified and met as early as possible
* to ensure interventions for each child are reviewed regularly to assess their impact, the child’s progress and the views of the child, the parents and teachers
* to regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for pupils at risk of underachievement

**Children with Special Educational Needs**

A child or young person has SEND 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.

Special educational needs and provision can be considered as falling under four broad areas.

**1. Communication and interaction**

**2. Cognition and learning**

**3. Social, emotional and mental health**

**4. Sensory and/or physical**

Many children and young people have difficulties that fit clearly into one of these areas; some have needs that span two or more areas whilst for others the precise nature of their need may not be clear at the outset. It is therefore important to carry out a detailed individual assessment of each child or young person and their situation at the earliest opportunity to make an accurate assessment of their needs. Making provision and reviewing how effective it is in securing progress can itself be part of the effective assessment of need, informing the next steps in the graduated approach. It may be necessary to test out interventions as part of this process, both to judge their effectiveness for the individual and provide further information about the precise nature of the needs. Practitioners may need training in the use of evidence-based programmes and advice and support on the effective use of specific interventions may need to be sought from external specialists.

**Teaching and Learning**

* + all adults have high expectations and model expected responses where necessary
  + teachers recognise that EAL pupils need more time to process answers
  + teachers allow pupils to use their mother tongue to explore concepts
  + all adults acknowledge that newly arrived young children may need time to absorb English (there is a recognised ‘silent period’ when children understand more English than they use – this will pass if their self-confidence is maintained)

**Children with Disabilities**

The Equality Act 2010 defines disability as when a person has a ‘physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on that person’s ability to carry out normal day to day activities.’

St Mary’s is bound by a general duty to have due regard to the following in relation to disability and other protected characteristics:

* + eliminating discrimination
  + advancing equality of opportunity
  + fostering good relations across the community

We are committed to ensuring equality of education and opportunity for disabled pupils, staff and all those receiving services from the school. We aim to develop a culture of inclusion and diversity in which people feel free to disclose their disability and to participate fully in school life. The achievement of disabled pupils and students will be monitored and we will use this data to raise standards and ensure inclusive teaching. We will make reasonable adjustments to make sure that the school environment is as accessible as possible to remove any barriers to learning.

**Responsibilities**

**The Governors:**

* + in cooperation with the head teacher, determine the school’s general policy and approach to Inclusion, establish the appropriate staffing and funding arrangements and maintain a general oversight of the school’s work
  + report to parents annually on the school’s policy on SEND

**The Headteacher:**

* + has responsibility for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the school’s work, including provision for children with SEND and EAL
  + keeps the governing body fully informed and also works closely with the school’s SENDCo.

**The SENDCo**

**(working closely with the Headteacher, specialist teacher, senior leadership and teachers):**

* + is involved in the strategic development of inclusive practice within the school and oversees the day-to-day operation of the school’s SEND & Inclusion policy
  + coordinates provision for children with SEND, working alongside class teachers to monitor tracking and assessment data to identify children who may need additional support
  + advises on a graduated approach to providing SEND Support
  + advises on the deployment of the school’s delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils’ needs effectively
  + liaises with parents of children with SEND
  + liaises with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, behaviour support outreach workers, CAMHS, speech and language therapists and other health and social care professionals
  + acts as a key point of contact with external agencies, especially the LA and LA support services
  + liaises with potential next providers of education to ensure a young person and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
  + works with the Head teacher and school governors so that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
  + ensures that the school keeps the records of all children with SEND up to date and maintains the register of vulnerable pupils
  + Contributes to in-service training of staff.

**Class Teachers:**

* are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, even where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff
* work in cooperation with the SENDCo to ensure early identification and intervention of children with SEN
* work in cooperation with the SENDCo, TAs and parents to provide, implement and review targets for pupils with SEND in their class
* plan and implement clearly differentiated work to ensure inclusion across the curriculum for all children
* ensure that all pupils have a voice and that they understand their contributions are valued
* actively celebrate and build on pupils’ strengths and achievements

**All teaching and non-teaching staff:**

* are involved in the development of the school’s Inclusion and SEND policy and fully aware of the school’s procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for all pupils

**The management of SEN**

St Mary’s is committed to early identification of SEND and adopts a graduated response to meeting SEND in line with the Code of Practice 2014. This response consists of a cycle of assess, plan, do, review.

**Assess**

Before identifying a child as needing SEND support the class teacher, working with the SENDCo, should establish a clear analysis of the pupil’s needs. This should draw on the teacher’s assessment and experience of the pupil, as well as information from the school’s core approach to pupil progress, attainment, and behaviour. It should also draw on the individual’s development in comparison to their peers, the views and experience of parents, the child’s own views and, if relevant, advice from external support services. Schools should take seriously any concerns raised by a parent.

This assessment should be regularly reviewed. This will help to ensure that support is matched to need, and that a clear picture of the interventions put in place and their effect is developed. In some cases, outside professionals from health or social services may already be involved with the child. These professionals should liaise with the school to help inform the assessments. Where these professionals are not already working with school staff the SENDCo should contact them if the parents agree.

**Plan**

Where it is decided to provide a pupil with SEND Support, the parents must be notified. The class teacher and the SENDCo should agree, in consultation with the parent and the pupil, the targets, interventions and support to be put in place, as well as the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, along with a clear date for review.

All teachers and support staff who work with the child should be made aware of their needs, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. The support and intervention provided should be based on reliable evidence of effectiveness and be provided by staff with sufficient skills and knowledge.

**Do**

The class teacher should remain responsible for working with the child on a daily basis. Where the interventions involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher, they should still retain responsibility for the pupil, working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of interventions. The SENDCo should support the class teacher in the further assessment of the child’s particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on the effective implementation of the support.

The support and intervention provided should be based on reliable evidence of effectiveness and be provided by staff with sufficient skills and knowledge.

**Review**

The effectiveness of the support and the impact on the child’s progress should be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

The impact of the support provided, along with the views of the pupil and their parents should feed back into the analysis of the pupil’s needs. The class teacher, working with the SENDCo, should revise the targets and support in light of the pupil’s progress and development, deciding on any changes to support and revised outcomes in consultation with the parent and pupil.

**Involving Specialists**

Where a child continues to make little or no progress, despite well-founded support that is matched to the child’s area of need, we may involve specialists to advise us on early identification of SEND and effective support. We will always involve a specialist where a child continues to make little or no progress over a sustained period or where they continue to work at levels substantially below those expected of children of a similar age despite well-founded SEND support. The child’s parents should always be involved in any decision to involve specialists. The involvement of specialists and what was discussed or agreed should be recorded and shared with the parent and teaching staff supporting the child in the same way as other SEND support.

The SENDCo will monitor the progress of pupils on the school SEND register. If a child does not make sufficient progress after these steps have been taken, and the child meets the criteria set out by the LEA, then in consultation with the class teacher, parents and outside agencies, a request for statutory assessment may be made to SENAR.

**Education, Health and Care Plans (formerly Statements of SEN)**

The Local Authority must conduct an assessment of education, health and care needs and prepare an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan when it considers that it may be necessary for special educational provision to be made for the child or young person through an EHC plan. This is likely to be where the special educational provision required to meet the child or young person’s needs cannot reasonably be provided from within the resources normally available to our school. The EHC Plan outlines provision that the school is expected to provide and additional funding that will be made available.

**PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS**

At St Mary’s we are committed to:

* recognising the personal and emotional investment of parents
* involving parents in the decision-making progress regarding their child
* keeping parents informed of their child’s progress
* focusing on the children’s strengths as well as areas of additional need
* ensuring that parents understand procedures, are offered support in preparing their contribution and are given documents to be discussed before meetings
* respecting the validity of differing perspectives and seeking constructive ways of reconciling different viewpoints
* respecting the differing needs parents themselves may have

At St Mary’s we recognise that developing an inclusive learning environment which values all of our school community will present many challenges. We believe that diversity is a strength which should be respected and celebrated by all pupils, staff, parents and visitors. St Mary’s aims to consider all of the needs of every individual pupil and respond to these needs in order to form a coherent programme of opportunities so that parents can feel confident that their child is supported and included appropriately.

**Revised by SENDCo: Sarah Finch** – November 2019

**Date for next review:** November 2020