

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School



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Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

Date of Approval	November 2023
Date of Next Review	November 2025
Review led by	SENCo SEND Governor
Approved by	LGC
This policy should be read in conjunction with the following documents	Teaching and learning Policy EAL Policy Academically More Able and Talented Policy Intimate care policy Accessibility policy Behaviour policy Safeguarding policy Anti-bullying policy
Notes	

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MISSION STATEMENT

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School strives to promote the education and development of all our children.

Learning through the love of Jesus Christ and empowered by his example, we celebrate our uniqueness and our distinctive gifts.

Growing in our Catholic faith we have high aspirations for all.



Aim high, live and learn with Jesus, everyone welcome





SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES (SEND) POLICY

This policy was re-written in light of The New Code of Practice and Children and Families Act May 2014

This policy will be reviewed by the Governors as part of their cycle of policy review, or in response to additional guidance from the Department for Education.

Inclusion Statement / Principles

We believe that educational inclusion is about equal opportunities for all learners, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, disabilities, attainment and background. We pay particular attention to the provision for and the achievement of different groups of learners:

- Learners of all ages
- Minority ethnic and faith groups, Travellers, asylum seekers and refugees
- Learners who need support to learn English as an additional language (EAL)
- Learners with special educational needs
- Learners who are disabled
- Learners who are looked after by the Local Authority
- Others who are sick; those who are young carers; those who are in families under stress
- Any learners who are at risk of disaffection or exclusion

This policy describes the way we meet the needs of children who experience barriers to their learning, which may relate to sensory or physical impairment, learning difficulties or emotional or social development.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Headteacher has responsibility for the day to day management of all aspects of the school, and the SENCo is responsible for co-ordinating and monitoring the SEND provision for children with additional needs. The Headteacher/ SENCo keeps the Governing Body informed and a small team of governors have specific responsibility for SEND. Every teacher is a teacher of every child including those with SEN. The Class teachers have the responsibility for ensuring they are delivering high quality teaching that is adapted and personalised to meet the individual needs of the children in their class. The Class Teacher, SENCo and Senior managers will know precisely where children with SEND are in their learning and development.

They will:

- Ensure decisions are informed by the insights of parents and those of children and young people themselves
- Have high ambitions and set stretching targets for them
- Track their progress towards these goals
- Keep under review the additional or different provision that is made for them
- Promote positive outcomes in the wider areas of personal and social development

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- Ensure that the approaches used are evidence based and are having the required impact on progress.
- All SEND children will be treated as equals within the school community.

How we define Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) - new Code of Practice definition

In line with Bosco SEN Policy

A child of compulsory school age has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to or different from that made generally for other children of the same age by mainstream schools

Having SEND may mean that a child has difficulties with:

- All school work
- Reading, writing, numbers or understanding information
- Expressing themselves or understanding what other people are saying
- Making friends or relating to adults
- Having social and emotional difficulties that impact on their behaviour in school or at home
- Organising themselves
- Sensory or physical needs that affect them accessing aspects of school

Equality Act 2010:

A person is disabled (section 6 Equality Act 2010) if they have "a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. A physical or mental impairment includes learning difficulties, mental health conditions, medical conditions and hidden impairments such as dyslexia, autism, speech and language and communication impairments"

The Equality Act 2010 requires the school to ensure disabled children are not treated unfavourably because of a reason arising as a consequence of their disability and to make adjustments to ensure they can access all the benefits of their education.

These protections apply equally to policies on behaviour although the fact that a child has a disability does not mean they can never be disciplined and our behaviour and discipline

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policies reflect the need to pay extra attention to the underlying causes of their difficulties.



Special Educational Need and Disability (SEND): In addition to Bosco policy objectives, our school specific objectives:

- Use our best endeavours to make sure that a child with SEND gets the support they need – this means doing everything we can to meet children and young people's SEND and ensure every lesson counts.
- To ensure that children and young people with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside their peers
- To foster every child with a strong sense of self-belief and the 'I can' attitude to all they undertake in school in keeping with the ethos of the Growth Mindset
- To ensure the views, wishes and feelings of the child are discussed and taken into account when making decisions and to involve them in the planning and decision making process.
- To ensure the child's parents, participate as fully as possible in decisions and that they are provided with the information and support necessary.
- Do what is necessary to enable children and young people to develop, learn, participate and achieve the best possible outcomes irrespective of whether that is through reasonable adjustments for a disabled child or special educational provision for a child with SEND.
- To ensure we focus on inclusive practice to learning
- Regularly review how expertise and resources used to address SEND can be used to build the quality of whole-school provision as part of their approach to school improvement.
- Identify any patterns in the identification of SEND, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching.
- Teachers will set high expectations for every pupil, whatever their prior attainment.
- Teachers will use appropriate assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious, but achievable for that individual child.
- A child's potential areas of difficulty should be identified and addressed as early as possible. Lessons should be planned to address potential areas of difficulty and to remove barriers to pupil achievement.
- To ensure all relevant national guidelines are implemented effectively across the school.
- To ensure equality of opportunity for and to eliminate prejudice and discrimination against children with special educational needs.
- To continually monitor the progress of all pupils, to identify needs as they arise and to provide support as early as possible.

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- To ensure that pupils with SEND are perceived positively by all members of the school community and that SEND and inclusive provision is positively valued and accessed by staff and parents/carers.
- We aim to meet the needs of as wide a range as possible of children in our catchment area who might wish to apply to the school and welcome discussions with prospective parents about their child's needs before application.
- To enable children to move on from us well-equipped in the basic skills of literacy, numeracy and social independence to meet the demands of secondary school life and learning.
- To encourage positive behaviour whilst making reasonable allowance for a child's protected characteristics in line with our behaviour policy.

How we coordinate SEND provision in our school

- The SENCo will monitor and respond to SEND provision and issues through:
 1. Termly pupil progress reviews with teachers, Headteacher and TAs.
 2. Monitoring planning and teaching.
 3. Classroom observations of pupils, teachers and support staff.
 4. Discussions about the needs of individuals with teachers, support staff, outside agencies and parents
- Targets arising from Individual Learning Plan (ILP) meetings and regular reviews are recorded on Edukey, our learning plan and provision maps online platform. These will be used to inform and support whole class approaches to inclusion e.g. differentiated and personalised teaching, varied teaching styles to cater for the preferred learning style of the child.
- SEND support is primarily delivered by the class teacher through adapted teaching methods. Additional support is provided by the SENCo and by teaching assistants throughout the school as made clear using the graduated approach (found in BOSCO SEND policy). This is funded from the school's annual budget. The support timetable is reviewed regularly by the SENCo, Headteacher and Leadership Team in line with current pupil needs, curriculum development and the budget. Additional support is funded through individual allocations from the LEA although this may change in line with budget constraints.
- Class teachers, SENCo, support staff and outside agencies liaise and discuss progress, the effectiveness of the interventions and that the expectations of pupils with SEND are sufficiently high in order to inform reviews and forward planning.

Identification and Assessment, Monitoring and Review Procedures

The school's system for regularly observing, assessing and recording the progress of **all** children is

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used to identify children who are not progressing at expected and who may have additional needs. The school's monitoring system uses Information from the following:

- assessment
- progress measured against the age expected targets and /or other assessment criteria
- progress towards targets
- standardised screening and assessment tools we currently use Dyslexia Portfolio Assessment, British Picture Vocabulary Scale (BPVS) , Memory Magic, Initial Speech Sounds Assessment, First Language Assessment as well as Lucid / Cops
- observations of emotional and social development (and the impact of this on a child's behaviour)
- Thrive assessment tool to help identify areas of need for SEMH difficulties
- an existing Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP)
- assessments by a specialist service such as educational psychology, identifying additional needs
- another school or LEA which has identified or has provided for additional needs
- discussion and meeting with parents to understand observations made at home or outside of the school environment.

This information gathering includes an early discussion with the pupil and their parents. These early discussions with parents will be structured in such a way that they develop a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty, the parents' concerns, the agreed outcomes sought for the child and the next steps. A short note of these early discussions should be added to the pupil's record on the school information system and given to the parents.

Consideration of whether special educational provision is required will start with the desired outcomes for the pupil, including the expected progress and attainment and the views and wishes of the pupil and their parents. This will then help determine the support that is needed and whether it can be provided by adapting the school's core offer or whether something different or additional is required.

A clear date for reviewing progress will be agreed and the parent, pupil and teaching staff should each be clear about how they will help the pupil reach the expected outcomes. The overriding purpose of this early action is to help the pupil achieve the identified outcomes and address any barriers to learning. Where it is concluded that a pupil reaches the threshold for needing support for a particular SEN or disability in our setting, the decision should be recorded in the school records and the pupil's parents will be formally informed.

Where a pupil is identified as having SEND (and therefore will be listed on the SEND register specifying the SEND category being focused on and listed as 'School support'), action will be taken to address barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This SEND support will take the form of a **four-part cycle** through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as **the graduated approach**- Assess, Plan, Do, Review.

SEND Support- Assess

In identifying a child as needing SEND support the class or subject teacher, working with the SENCo, should carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. This will draw on the teacher's assessment and

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experience of the pupil, their previous progress and attainment, as well as information from the school's core approach to pupil progress, attainment, and behaviour. It will also draw on other subject teachers' assessments where relevant, the individual's development in comparison to their peers and national data, the views and experience of parents, the pupil's own views and if relevant, advice from external support services.

This assessment will be reviewed regularly. This will help ensure that support and intervention are matched to need, barriers to learning are identified and overcome, and that a clear picture of the interventions put in place and their effect is developed.

Teachers will be trained to use their discretion in making allowances in line with the individual SEND students Disabilities characteristics. Please read in conjunction with the Behaviour Policy

Outside professionals from health or social services may already be involved with a child. These professionals will liaise with the school to help inform the assessments. Where professionals are not already working with school staff the SENCo will contact them if the parents agree.

SEND Support- Plan

The teacher and the SENCo will agree in consultation with the parent and the pupil the adjustments, 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 pupil will be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. This will be recorded on an Individual Learning Plan and will be shared with appropriate members of staff who are working with the child.

The support and intervention provided will be selected to meet the outcomes identified for the pupil, based on reliable evidence of effectiveness, and will be provided by staff with sufficient skills and knowledge.

Parents will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions and, where appropriate, plans will seek parental involvement to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

SEND Support- Do

The class or subject teacher will 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 or subject teacher, they will still retain responsibility for the pupil. They will work closely with any support staff or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching. The SENCo will support the class or subject teacher in the further assessment of the child's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on the effective implementation of support.

SEND Support- Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

The impact and quality of the support and interventions will be evaluated, along with the views of the pupil and their parents. This will feed back into the analysis of the pupil's needs. The class or subject teacher, working with the SENCo, will revise the support in light of the pupil's progress and development, deciding on any changes to the support and outcomes in consultation with the parent and pupil. Parents will have clear information about the impact of the support and interventions



provided enabling them to be involved in planning next step

Involving specialists (wave 3 intervention)

The SENCo liaises frequently with a number of specialists and outside agencies, for example:

- Social Services
- School Nurse
- Community Paediatrician – Child Development Team
- Occupational therapy and physio team
- Sensory support team
- Social Communication team
- Learning Behavioural Advisory team
- Speech Therapy
- Early Help Plan
- Educational Psychologist

Specialists may be involved at any point to advise on early identification of SEND and effective support and interventions. A specialist's involvement will be requested where a pupil continues to make little or no progress over a sustained period or where they continue to work at levels substantially below those expected of pupils of a similar age despite evidence-based SEND support delivered by appropriately trained staff. The pupil's parents will always be involved in any decision to involve specialists. The involvement of specialists and what was discussed or agreed will be recorded and shared with the parents and teaching staff supporting the child in the same way as other SEND support. Specialist help is not always easy to access due to resource constraints in the local area. Whilst this is unfortunately beyond our control we will continue to advocate on the child's behalf and continue to provide extra support in school to the best of our ability.

The SENCo and class teacher, together with the specialists and involving the pupil's parents, will consider a range of evidence-based and effective teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions in order to support the child's progress. They will agree the outcomes to be achieved through the support, including a date by which progress will be reviewed.

SEND support should be adapted or replaced depending on how effective it has been in achieving the agreed outcomes. Where, despite the school having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the SEND of the child or young person, the child or young person has not made expected progress, the school or parents should consider requesting an Education, Health and Care assessment

School request for an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

If a child has not made expected progress, despite quality first teaching and a period of effective support (up to two terms) and interventions using the graduated approach, in agreement with the parents/carers, the school may request the local authority to conduct an assessment of education,



health and care needs to determine whether it is necessary to prepare an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan for the child. An EHC Plan should be created for the child if the special educational provision required to meet the child's needs cannot reasonably be provided from within the resources normally available to school and the child's needs met the thresholds to apply.

Planning, provision, monitoring and review processes continue as before while awaiting the outcome of the request.

Education, Health and Care Plan

A child who has an Education, Health and Care plan will continue to have arrangements as for School Support and receive additional support provided using funds available through the EHCP.

There will be an Annual Review, chaired by the SENCo, to review the appropriateness of the support and provision and to recommend to the LEA whether any changes need to be made, either to the EHCP or the funding arrangements for the child.

All families with an approved Education, Health and Care Plan will have a legal right to request a personal budget, if they choose. Parents can directly buy in the support identified in the plan. Parents will be given a choice of whether to take control of the personal budget by agencies managing the funds on their behalf or, where appropriate, by receiving direct payments, if they are suitable, to purchase and manage the provision themselves.

Working in Partnership with parents and pupils

- Staff and parents/carers will work together to support pupils identified as having additional needs.
- Parent/carers will be involved at all stages of the education planning process. An appointment will be made by the class teacher to meet all parent/carers whose children are being recorded as having additional needs. The SENCo will attend this meeting if the school or the parent thinks this is appropriate. Clear outcomes will be set and a discussion about the activities and support that will help achieve them. The responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school will be identified. It will be an opportunity for the parent to share their concerns and together with the teacher, agree their aspirations for the pupil. There are specific SEN parents' evenings twice a year and parents can make additional appointments as needed.
- At regular review meetings with parent/carers, we will discuss the child's strengths as well as weaknesses. The views of our pupils are also very important to us in these discussions, whether the pupil is involved in all or part of the meeting or whether we have gathered their views as part of the preparation for the meeting. Where we make suggestions as to how parent/carers can help at home, these are specific and achievable and so that all parent/carers go away from the meeting clear about the action to be taken and the way in which outcomes will be monitored and reviewed.
- A record of the outcomes, action and support agreed through the discussion will be kept and shared with all the appropriate school staff. The school's management information system will be updated as appropriate.

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- Individual Education Plan (ILP) targets will include targets to work towards at home and parent/carers will be involved in giving their views on how well the child has progressed towards them as well as contributing their suggestions for new targets. All ILP s and reviews will be accessible to parents via Edukey.
- Ideas and materials for supporting learning at home will be discussed with parent/carers and distributed on request.
- Regular curriculum workshops are offered for parent/carers to attend.
- Parent/carers' evenings provide regular opportunities to discuss concerns and progress. Parent/carers are able to make other appointments on request.
- We recognise that some parents of children with SEND may also have additional needs themselves and we work to try to ensure they are fully included.
- When a child starts at the school we ask the parent/carers about their access needs and then send notes/newsletters home in the required format e.g. large print etc.
- Regular communication between school and home will ensure that concerns are promptly acted on. Where this has not happened however, parent/carers are able to raise any concerns about communication by contacting the Headteacher.

Incorporating disability into the Curriculum

- The personal, social and emotional Curriculum includes issues of disability, difference and valuing diversity. Advice will be sought from Disabled People's organisations on appropriate resources.
- Adults with disabilities are invited to work with the children as we believe it is important to have role models and we encourage Disabled People to join our governing body.
- The library resources are regularly reviewed to ensure they include books that reflect the range of special educational needs and come from a disability equality perspective. Priority is given to the ordering of books with positive images and a positive portrayal of Disabled People.

Terminology, imagery and disability equality

- The school is aware of the impact of language on children within the school. We work with children to understand the impact of the words they use and deal seriously with derogatory name calling related to special educational needs or disability under our Behaviour Policy.
- We also try to make sure we have positive images of disabled children and adults in displays and resources.
- We aim to make optimum use of Circle Time or RE lesson for raising issues of language and other disability equality issues.

Listening to all children

- St Joseph's Catholic Primary School encourages the inclusion of all children in the School Council and other consultation groups. We also have regular Circle Times throughout the school. We aim to include children in their target setting and encourage and support them to take an active part in their annual reviews/target review meetings, through preparation and making the information and meeting itself accessible and child friendly.



Evaluating our attainment for SEND pupils

Every year, we analyse the data we hold on attainment at the end of each Key Stage against national expectations and outcomes. This contributes to school improvement by identifying particular patterns of need and potential areas of development for teaching staff. This analysis helps the school to develop the use of interventions that are effective and to remove those that are less so. This ensures we improve the school.

The SENCo will regularly provide information to the governing body as to the numbers of pupils receiving special educational provision at School support stage, EHCP as well as any pupils for whom an Education, Health and care needs assessment has been requested. The number of pupils transferring to or from each type of provision will be noted. The Headteacher will report on any whole school developments in relation to inclusion and will ensure that governors are kept up to date with any legislative or local policy changes.

SEND and Inclusion is a regular item on the Curriculum agenda and is reported at the full governing body meetings through sub-committee reports, which are then discussed as necessary.

The SENCo will meet with the SEND and /or Safeguarding governor to discuss Inclusion and current SEND concerns. The SEND governor will lead governor monitoring of the SEND policy through sampling, observations and other procedures to be agreed annually.

Whole school monitoring and evaluation procedures will include sampling of work and observations. Outcomes pertinent to SEND provision and planning will be taken forward by the whole staff and used to build upon successful practice.

Raising your concerns

- If a parent has a concern about the provision or the policy they should, in the first instance, raise it with the SENCo, who will try to resolve the situation or respond normally within 10 working days.
- Any issues that remain unresolved at this stage will be managed according to the school's Complaints Policy. This is available on request from the school office.