

Seven Fields Primary School. Special Educational Needs (SEN) Policy
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Seven Fields Primary School has named SENCOs Sarah Muir (NASENCo Award) and Kirsten Dunning SENCO support assistant who ensure that Seven Fields Primary School Special Educational Needs Policy works within the guidelines and inclusion policies of the Code of Practice (2014), the Local Education Authority and other policies current within the school.

1 Introduction

1.1 This policy complies with the statutory requirement set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice 0 – 25 (1st September 2014) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- SEND code of Practice 0 – 25 (September 2014)
- The National Curriculum in England Key Stage 1 and 2
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers' Standards 2012

1.2 This school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all children. The National Curriculum is our starting point for planning that meets the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. When planning, teachers set suitable learning challenges and respond to children's diverse learning needs. Some children have barriers to learning that mean they have special needs and require particular action by the school. Every teacher is a teacher of every child or young person including those with special educational 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 help 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.

1.5 The Disability Discrimination Act 2004 identifies the fact that some pupils with disabilities may have learning difficulties that call for special educational provision. However, not all children defined as disabled will require this provision. A child with asthma or diabetes, for example, may not have special educational needs, but may still have rights under the Disability Discrimination Act. We will assess each child as required, and make the appropriate provision, based on their identified needs.

2 Aims

2.1 The aims of this policy are:

- to create an environment that meets the special educational needs of each child;
- to ensure all pupils have the opportunity to meet their potential;
- 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 provide support and advice for all staff working with SEN pupils to ensure a high level of expertise to meet pupil need.
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3 Educational inclusion and Objectives

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 and 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. We measure and assess the impact regularly through meetings with our SEN coordinator and individual teachers to ensure all children have equal access to succeeding in each subject. All teachers are teachers of children with special educational needs.

Through appropriate curricular provision we respect the fact that children:

- have different educational 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 their senses and of varied experiences;
- planning for children's full participation in learning, and in physical and practical activities;
- helping children to manage their learning and to take part in their curriculum effectively and safely;
- helping individuals to manage their emotions, particularly trauma or stress, and to take part in learning.
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The school is committed to provide quality first teaching for children with special educational needs.

4 Special educational needs

4.1 Children with special educational needs have learning difficulties that call for 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 other children of the same age.

There are four broad areas of need (SEND Code of Practice, 2014):

- communication and interaction
- cognition and learning
- social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- sensory and/or physical needs.

4.2 Many of the children who join us have already been in early education. In many cases children join us with their needs already assessed. All children are assessed when they enter our school, so that we can build upon their prior learning. We will consider the needs of the whole child and use this information to provide starting points for the development of an appropriate curriculum for all our children.

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. 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. 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 and disabilities, allowing them to join in all school activities together with pupils who do not have special educational needs. The Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO), if not already involved, will become involved if the teacher and parents feel that the child would benefit from further support. The SENCO will then take the lead in further assessments of the child's needs.

4.4 We will record pupil progress across the whole school for all individual pupils. Some children may need specific strategies to support the child and these may be collated within additional documentation. The documentation will show the short-term aims set for this specific child, and the teaching strategies to be used. These documents will be reviewed as part of the school assessment process. In most cases, learning review will take place once a term.

4.5 If the review identifies that support is needed from outside services, we will consult parents prior to any support being actioned. In most cases, children will be seen in school by external support services. This may lead to additional strategies or strategies that are different from those used in school.

4.6 If the child continues to demonstrate a significant cause for concern, a request for an Education Health and Care Plan will be made to the Educational Psychologist and taken to a SENRAP Meeting. A range of written evidence about the child will support the request.

- 4.7** In our school the SENCO:
- 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 the link with external agencies and other support agencies;
 - monitors and evaluates the special educational needs provision, and reports to the governing body;
 - manages a range of resources, both human and material, to enable appropriate provision to be made for children with special educational needs;
 - contributes to the professional development of all staff;
 - is a significant member of the middle leadership team;
 - reviews whole school data with priority of monitoring children with special educational needs.
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5 The role of governors

5.1 The local governing board has due regard to the Code of Practice when carrying out its duties toward all pupils with special educational needs.

5.2 The board 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. They report annually to parents on the success of the school's policy for children with special educational needs. The board ensures that parents are notified of any decision by the school that SEN provision is to be made for their child.

5.3 The board has identified a link governor to have specific oversight of the school's provision for pupils with special educational needs. The 'responsible person' in this school is the Head Teacher. The Head Teacher ensures that all those who teach a pupil with a statement of special educational needs / Education Health and Care Plan are aware of the nature of the statement / plan.

5.4 The SEN governor ensures that all governors are aware of the school's SEN provision, including the deployment of funding, equipment and personnel.

6 Allocation of resources

6.1 The SENCO 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.

6.2 The Head Teacher informs the governing board of how the funding allocated to support special educational needs has been employed.

6.3 The Head Teacher and the SENCO meet **annually and regularly** to agree on how to use funds directly related to statements / education health and care plans. The SENCO draws up the resources bid when the school is planning for the next school improvement plan.

7 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 SENCO assess and monitor the children's progress in line with existing school practices. This is an ongoing process.

7.3 The SENCO 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 SENCO can break down the assessment into smaller steps in order to aid progress and provide detailed and accurate indicators.

8 Access to the curriculum

8.1 All children have an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is differentiated to enable them 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 For some pupils who might have additional documents, they 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.

8.4 We support children in a manner that acknowledges their entitlement to share the same learning experiences that their peers enjoy. We do not withdraw children from the classroom unless there are unique and additional reasons. The school employs a range of strategies to maximise learning, such as: asking the children to work in small groups, or in a one-to-one situation outside the classroom.

9 Partnership 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 The information on the school's website contains details of our policy for special educational needs, and the arrangements made for these children in our school. This information is made available to all parents including those of children with special educational needs. A named governor takes a particular interest in special needs and is always willing to talk to parents.

9.3 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.

10 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 All children are involved at an appropriate level in setting targets in their progress and in the termly review meetings for some children. Children are encouraged to make judgements about their own performance against their targets. We recognise success here as we do in any other aspect of school life.

11 Monitoring and review

11.1 The SENCO monitors the movement of children within the SEN system in school. The SENCO provides staff and governors with regular summaries of the impact of the policy on the practice of the school.

11.2 The SENCO and the Head Teacher hold regular meetings to review the work of the school in this area. The SENCO 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 SENCO reports the outcome of the review to the full governing body.

Date: Sept 2020

Cross Ref:

- ***Curriculum.***
- ***Inclusion.***
- ***Teaching and Learning.***
- ***Gifted and Talented children.***
- ***EAL***
- ***Racial Equality.***