



SEN and Disability Policy

The SEND policy should be read in consultation with the Accessibility Plan, Annual SEN Report and the Parents/Carers' SEND Information Report. Together they include details of:

- The school's admission arrangements for pupils with SEN or disabilities
- The steps school have taken to prevent pupils with SEN or disabilities from being treated less favourably than other pupils
- The facilities provided to assist access to the school by pupils with SEN and disabilities.

(Children and Families Act 2014, Part 3)

SENDCO: Jen Burns

Miss Burns is the SENDCO. She has been in post as SENDCO since September 2022, a member of staff for 9 years and is on the senior leadership team (SLT). She can be contacted via the school office by telephoning 0191 2746695 or emailing admin@shprimary.org.uk

This policy was developed with the support of the SEND Effectiveness Team and it will undergo annual consultation with school staff, parents and families, and the Governing Body. Once each consultation period is over, the Governing Body will be asked to approve it.

The policy is shared with stakeholders through the school website and hard copies are available on request.

Please also refer to:

- First Aid and Medication in School and on Visits
- Behaviour Policy
- Teaching and Learning Policy
- Safeguarding Policy
- Data protection Policy
- Accessibility Policy

SEN and Disability Policy

Rationale:

At Sacred Heart Primary School, every child is equal, valued and unique. We aim to provide an environment where all pupils feel safe and can flourish. We will respond to individuals in ways which take into account their varied life experiences and particular needs. Throughout this policy, and the following policies, we will ensure steps are taken to prevent disabled pupils from being treated less favourably than others: Accessibility Plan, Anti-Bullying Policy, Behaviour Policy, Equality Policy, SEND Information Report, SEND Policy, Annual SEND Report.

Our school aims reflect this ethos. We aim for all our children to be:

- Motivated and confident
- Cooperative and considerate
- Reflective and inquisitive

Sacred Heart Primary School is committed to providing an education that enables all pupils to make progress so that they achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives and make a successful transition into adulthood. Our role in this process is largely focused on preparation for transition to High School at the end of Year 6.

Objectives:

- To ensure equality of provision for pupils with special educational needs (SEN) and disability;
- To take into account legislation related to SEND and Disabilities , including part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, The SEND Code of Practice 2014, The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, The Special Educational Needs (Personal Budgets and Direct Payments) Regulations, Section 49, The Order setting out transitional arrangements, Section 137, Equality Act 2010, The Mental Capacity Act 2005, Keeping Children Safe in Education 2023, Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions 2017; Working together to safeguard children 2022
- To provide full access for all pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum
- To ensure that the needs of pupils with SEND are identified, assessed, planned for and regularly reviewed to improve outcomes
- To enable pupils with SEND to achieve their potential
- To ensure parents / carers are fully engaged in decision making
- To take into account the views, wishes and feelings of pupils
- To provide advice and support for all staff working with pupils with SEND
- To provide detailed information about the arrangements for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEND

Admission Arrangements:

The school welcomes pupils with known special educational needs and disability, and also works diligently to identify and provide for those not previously identified as having SEND. Please refer to the information contained in our school's Admissions Policy which can be accessed on the school website. The admission arrangements for all pupils are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. This includes pupils with any level of SEND.

Roles and Responsibilities:

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Coordinator (SENDCO):

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the policy
- coordinating provision for pupils with SEND
- liaising with the Designated Teacher where a looked after pupil has SEND
- advising on the graduated approach to providing SEND support
- advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- liaising with parents/carers/families of pupils with SEND
- liaising with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies
- being a key point of contact with external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services
- liaising with potential next providers of education to ensure a pupil and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- working with the head teacher and school governors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- ensuring that the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEND up to date and stored securely in line with our Data Protection Policy

The SENCO has achieved the National Award for SEND Coordination.

The class/subject teacher:

- Set high expectations which inspire, motivate and challenge pupils;
- Promote good progress and outcomes for pupils;
- Plan and teach lessons in which teaching responds to the strengths and needs of pupils with SEND;
- Work closely with support staff in the planning and monitoring of interventions;
- Make accurate and productive use of assessment to inform the four-part cycle;
- Manage behaviour effectively to ensure a good and safe learning environment;
- Fulfil wider professional responsibilities in relation to SEND e.g. the effective deployment of support staff, professional development, acting on specialist advice;
- Communicate effectively with parents with regard to pupils' achievements and pupils' well-being.

At Sacred Heart Primary School, the team of experienced Teaching Assistants support individuals and groups of pupils at the SEND Support level of provision, both in class and through withdrawal for targeted interventions/ programmes. Teaching Assistants work under the direction of the SENDCO and the class teachers.

The governor responsible for SEND is Mrs Liz McLellan.

The designated teacher for child protection is Barbara Brown (Head teacher). She is Designated Safeguarding Lead. Hannah Rutledge (Deputy Head teacher) is Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead.

The designated member of staff responsible for managing pupil premium is Hannah Rutledge, working in conjunction with the head teacher.

Children in Care (CiC)

The Head teacher and SENDCO are also the designated teachers for CiC, working alongside class teachers. They meet on a termly basis to ensure that arrangements are in place for supporting pupils that are looked after, including those who have SEN. SEN review meetings are coordinated and arranged termly.

Access to Facilities and Provision:

Please refer to school's accessibility plans which outlines how we:

- Increase access to the curriculum for pupils with a disability
- Improve and maintain access to the physical environment
- Improve the delivery of written information to pupils

Medicines are stored in a locked cabinet within the main office; any medicines requiring refrigeration are stored in the fridge in the staffroom in clearly labelled containers.

The accessibility plan can be found on the school website.

Allocation of Resources:

The head teacher and SENDCO are responsible for the operational management of the budget for SEND provision. The school will use a range of additional funding including the notional SEND budget and, where applicable, pupil premium to provide high quality appropriate support for pupils with SEND. Where a pupil's needs exceed the nationally prescribed threshold (currently £6,000) additional funding will be applied for from the local authority.

Access to the Curriculum

All pupils should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. All pupils receive inclusive quality first teaching that is differentiated to meet individual need. Identifying, assessing, planning

and review is part of Quality First Teaching. Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils. However, in order to maximize learning, some pupils are withdrawn, individually and in small groups, to take part in targeted, time limited interventions planned to meet particular needs.

Our Parents/Carer' SEN Information Guide and Annual SEN Report provides a clear description of the details of what is available for all children with SEN through Quality First Teaching and what is additional and different provision.

Pupils with SEN are actively encouraged and supported to join in and benefit from additional activities and clubs as well as any wider community activities, alongside children who do not have SEND. Where appropriate, this involves liaison with outside providers to ensure individual needs are met. To ensure that we make our residential trips accessible to all pupils, staff meet with the families of children with SEND who may require a specific plan in place for the trip. Children with SEND who also receive Pupil Premium funding can have such activities funded, or partly funded, by school.

See also: Teaching and Learning policy

Identification, Assessment, Planning and Review Arrangements:

Sacred Heart Primary School follows the graduated approach of assess, plan, do and review as outlined in the Code of Practice (2014). This approach is embedded in whole school practice for all pupils and every teacher is responsible for 'adapting teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils'. (Teachers' Standards 2011, updated 2021)

School assessment data, teacher judgments and, where appropriate, assessments from outside agencies are used to identify pupils who require additional and different provision. A provision map outlines all SEND support.

There are 4 broad areas of need:

- Communication and interaction (C&I)
- Cognition and learning (C&L)
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties (SEMH)
- Sensory and/or physical needs

The following are **not** SEND but may impact on progress and attainment:

- Medical needs
- Attendance and punctuality
- Health and welfare
- English as an additional language (EAL)
- Receipt of pupil premium
- Being a child in care
- Being a child of service personnel

SEND support – four part cycle

The identification of SEND is built into the overall approach to monitoring the progress and development of all pupils in school. Termly pupil progress meetings support the early identification of pupils who may have SEND. Where concerns are identified an initial concerns form is completed and discussed with the SENDCO.

Assess

The class or subject teacher, working with the SENDCO, will carry out a clear analysis of a pupil's needs. This assessment will be reviewed regularly. Where appropriate, professionals will help to inform the assessment. Parents/carers will be asked to contribute to the assessment.

Plan

Parents/carers will be formally notified by the class teacher that there are concerns about child's progress. Adjustments, interventions, support and review date will be agreed with staff, parents

and pupil. This will be recorded on the school information system and on the school's provision map. Newcastle Universally Available Provision is used to support planning.

Do

The class teacher will remain responsible for working with the pupil on a daily basis and retains responsibility for their progress and outcomes. The class teacher will plan and assess the impact of support and interventions with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved. The SENDCO will support this process. Relevant strategies and resources identified in the Newcastle Universally Available Provision will be implemented.

Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed on the agreed date. Reviews will be held with parents/carers at least three times per year. The class teacher, working with the SENDCO, will revise the support in light of the pupil's progress. If a pupil does not make expected progress over a sustained period of time school will consider involving specialists. This will inform future provision. School liaises with the following services - Educational Psychology Service, School Health, School Effectiveness SEND team, SEND Outreach Service (SENDOS) CYPS, Occupational Therapy, Thriving Minds for Learning and, when appropriate, Social Services and Virtual School.

Additional Top Up Funding

Where a pupil's needs exceed the nationally prescribed threshold (currently £6,000) additional funding will be applied for from the local authority.

Education, Health and Care Plans

Where, despite having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the SEN of a pupil, the pupil has not made expected progress, then school or parents will consider requesting an Education, Health and Care assessment. School will provide the local authority with evidence of the action taken as part of SEN support. Further details on provision for pupils with SEND can be found in the SEND information report (see website or contact school office for a paper copy).

Parents/Carers' SEND Information Report

This report, and the Annual SEND Report, can be found on the school website. These outline the provision normally available for pupils with SEND as well as provision within the four broad areas of need – communication and interaction; cognition and learning; social, emotional and mental health difficulties; sensory and/or physical. The Annual SEND Report includes an evaluation of the impact of the above provision on outcomes for pupils with SEN.

Transition Arrangements

Transition is carefully planned. In order to ensure successful transition to high school, the pupils and parents/carers will be fully involved in the planning for the transfer to the new setting. Key information about SEND provision will be shared with the next school or setting through the review process. The majority of children at Sacred Heart Primary School transfer to one of the city's Catholic High Schools; Sacred Heart High School, St Cuthbert's High School and St Mary's High School.

Partnership with Parents/Carers

Sacred Heart Primary School has positive relationships with parents/carers and values their important role in their child's education. Parents/carers are always informed when their child is placed on the SEND list and the graduated response, outlined in the Code of Practice, is explained to them. Parents are informed about Newcastle Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS). This service provides information, advice and support at any stage of a child or young person's education, and provides an Independent Supporter for families in the process of getting an Education Health and Care

Plan. Parents are fully involved in the review process. Interpreters can be arranged for parents who require translation during meetings. Written information can be made available in accessible formats and sufficient notice is given for meetings to enable parents/carers time to prepare. Early Help is used to coordinate support for children and their families who have a range of needs.

Pupil Participation

The views of all pupils are valued. Pupils with SEND are supported to be involved in decision making and to be able to express any concerns. All pupils contribute to their SEND support plan and are aware of their individual targets. If appropriate, pupils in Key Stage 2 may be invited to attend their termly review meeting.

Monitoring and Evaluating the Success of Provision:

For further details, see Annual SEN Report.

A variety of methods are used to monitor and evaluate the provision and achievements for the pupils with SEND:

- Regular monitoring by the senior management team
- Analysis of assessment data, with high expectations for the progress expected between key stages for all pupils,
- Assessment records that illustrate progress over time
- Pre and post assessments for those pupils who are withdrawn for targeted interventions
- Success rates in respect of individual targets
- Monitoring by the governor with responsibility for SEND
- The views of parents/carers and pupils
- Regular meetings between SENDCO/Inclusion Leader and head teacher
- Provision Mapping

Staff Development:

The Senior Leadership Team reviews the training needs of staff through Performance Management and pupil progress to plan appropriate CPD in relation to SEND. The SENDCO ensures staff are informed of local and national developments in relation to SEN and Inclusion. Where appropriate, specialists are used to deliver the training. Newly qualified teachers are offered support and in school training by the SENDCO and via the Early Career Framework. Our Teaching Assistants have completed a range of training packages to help them develop further skills and knowledge in supporting children with SEND; these include Levels 1 and 2 Autism Training via Thomas Bewick School, Numicon support, Lego Therapy, Attachment disorder training and training on delivering the Autism Awareness programme via Autism Education Trust. The SENDCOs from the schools in the Catholic schools cluster work together to share knowledge and expertise. This includes regular meetings and training sessions.

See Annual SEN Information Report for details.

Medical Conditions

Sacred Heart Primary School will follow the recommendations of Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (2017) with regard to arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions. Where a pupil also has SEND, their provision will be planned and delivered in a coordinated way with their healthcare plan.

See First Aid and Medication in School and on Visits.

The Complaints Procedure:

Initially an attempt will be made to resolve a complaint about SEND provision at school level, within one week of the complaint having first been made. The procedure is firstly that the class teacher attempts to resolve matters, then if required the SENDCO and /or head teacher becomes involved.

If the complaint is unresolved, then the person making the complaint is advised of their rights

under Section 23 of the Education Reform Act to make a complaint. The Governing Body will consider the complaint, after which, if necessary the LA will become involved. School will inform parents/carers of the local authority's commissioned independent disagreement resolution service. Details can also be found in the Local Offer.

This SEN and Disability policy will be reviewed and amended annually.

Date agreed by governing body: October 2025

Review due: October 2026

Date reviewed: October 2025

Related policies: Admissions, Accessibility Plan, Annual SEN Report, Anti-bullying Policy, Data Protection Policy, Children in Care, Medicines in School, Safeguarding, Teaching and Learning.