

St. Bede's Catholic Infant School
Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

Please read in conjunction with all other relevant documentation e.g. Equality, Inclusion, Behaviour, Risk Assessment, Medical Conditions, Contenance, Manual Handling including Children

Agreed by Staff	Autumn 2023		
Agreed by Governors	Autumn 2023		
Review Date	Autumn 2024		
Signed Chair of Governors	S Howard	Date	28.11.2023

Introduction

At St. Bede's we celebrate the uniqueness of each individual and recognise the wide range of different abilities that exist. Staff are committed to an inclusive education, ensuring the best possible progress for all children whatever their needs or abilities. The Equality act 2010 specify:

'However, the provisions relating to disability discrimination are different in that you may, and often must, treat a disabled person more favourably than a person who is not disabled and may have to make changes to your practices to ensure, as far as is reasonably possible, that a disabled person can benefit from what you offer to the same extent that a person without that disability can.'

The SEND Code of Practice states that schools and local authorities must have regard to the views and feelings of children and parents, and for parents and children to participate as fully as possible in decisions and actions relating to the child with SEND.

Objectives

- To identify as early as possible those pupils who may have additional educational needs; to assess those needs and put in place strategies to address them.
- To review progress of supported pupils formally each half term as pupil progress meetings.
- To provide the resources for all children to develop to their full potential through provision mapping and personalised learning.
- To provide, through a broad and balanced curriculum, access to the National Curriculum for all our pupils
- To fulfil our legal obligations under the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and associated legislation
- To involve parents and children at all stages and to inform them of the process involved
- To access all professional services available to us to advise staff, support assessment of pupils and provide direct input where appropriate

What are Special Educational Needs?

According to the SEND Code of Practice 2015, SEN is grouped into four broad areas of need:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties
- Sensory and/or physical needs

A pupil has SEND where their learning difficulty or disability necessitates special educational provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age.

Procedure

Reception children are assessed on entry and their initial assessment is recorded to reflect their stage of learning using the Reception Baseline and assessment and reporting arrangements. This provides a record of continuous development, which together with parental consultation and a range of school measures gives an early indication if a child may need additional support. Staff make considerations to whether early intervention may be needed and use prior SEND information available from nursery to support the graduated approach.

Children starting school with previously identified SEND are supported through an individual transition process. The relevant plans are put in place as soon as practicably possible in close consultation with parents and other agencies that may already be involved, these may include Initial Concerns and SEN Support Plans. Specific needs are identified on the provision maps to meet the varied needs of children. Children requiring additional support will be identified on our SEND register.

If after the first term in school a child is not making expected progress or not reaching their potential, issues are discussed with the SENDCO and child's parents and appropriate actions/strategies are implemented. Parents are consulted and an 'Initial Concern' implemented as appropriate. At this point further investigations may also be made of speech and language etc., as appropriate, and advice followed.

During the second term in school all children are re-assessed using teacher assessments. Those still not developing in line with expectations are given support at the SEND Support of the CoP which will include a SEN Support Plan and support through the provision mapping process. A SEN Support Plan involves the SENDCO, Class Teacher, TA, Child and Parents. Targets will be shared with parents to allowing support to be in place for the start of Year One.

At any point during their school career a child who is not developing in line with expectations and identified by schools continuous monitoring or through parental concerns may be given support through the provision mapping process. Needs will be assessed and any potential barriers to learning will be recognised. The teacher and SENDCO will use our individual Personalised Learning Records to plan provision and/or resources for children to access in class. If the children are under achieving, they may access an intervention to meet their needs. If they are still not making the progress expected, we will begin the 'assess, plan, do and review' process beginning with an initial concern. Those children identified as SEND will have their needs met through the targets of a SEN Support Plan. Any change of status will be discussed with parents and they will be involved where appropriate with the implementation of the SEN Support Plan. Children who are identified as SEND will progress through the Graduated Approach as required, involving external agencies when appropriate (see school website for details on the Graduated Approach).

Following a period at SEND Support, any child who is still failing to make progress and for whom we feel that we are still not sufficiently meeting their needs, can be referred to outside agencies, e.g. the SEN Service or Educational Psychologist for additional advice. The advice and recommendations suggested by the professionals will be used to form the targets for the SEPP. A graduated approach will be taken by staff to ensure that recommendations made by external agencies are given time to be achieved as advised by Halton's SEN and child psychology Service.

If a child has very complex needs a request for Statutory Assessment may be made, in consultation with the Educational Psychologist, Parents and any other professionals involved. This may lead to an Education Health and Care Plan. Pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan have their Statement formally reviewed annually. Parents and appropriate other professionals are invited and a report sent to the Local Authority.

Children whose behaviour is a cause for concern are monitored and action taken according to the Behaviour Policy.

All special needs records are open to parents who are invited to read and sign them. If parents choose not to attend meetings, copy of paperwork will be posted to the home address.

Assessment of children with SEND

Any children working below the age related expectations in Key Stage One will be assessed using the Engagement Model and the Pre-Key Stage Standards.

St Bede's Catholic Infant School Inclusion Charter

(Based on the Halton Borough Council Inclusion Charter)

St Bede's Catholic Infant School as an Inclusive School:

1. Has a shared vision for the whole school;
2. Has high expectations for all pupils;
3. Has a Governing Body that understands and supports inclusive practice;
4. Values and ensures engagement with parents, carers and families;
5. Values and promotes inclusion and diversity;
6. Creates a positive, accessible and welcoming environment

All SEND procedures will follow current government guidance.

St Bede's SEND Information Report is available on the school website, as well as on HBC Local Offer.

Responsibility

Headteacher

SENDCO

SEND Governor

Miss Coughlan

Mrs Bird

Miss Scragg