



# **Holy Family Catholic Primary School**

## **Special Educational Needs Policy**

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## Special Educational Needs Policy



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**Definitions of special educational needs (SEND) taken from section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014.**

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.

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if they fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them.

Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.

The Government is reforming the way in which provision and support is made for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in England. New legislation (The Children and Families Act 2014) enacted on the 13<sup>th</sup> March came into force from the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014. A new SEND Code of Practice also accompanies this legislation.

More details about the reforms and the SEN Code of Practice can be found on the Department for Education's website:

[www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/sen](http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/sen)

One significant change arising from the reforms is that Statements of Special Educational Needs, for those children with the most complex needs, have now been replaced with a new Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. These plans are being supported by an Education, Health and Care Plan Pathway. You can view an animation describing this new pathway on Nottinghamshire's SEND Local Offer website:

[www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk)

This information is also available by putting the above web address into the browser of a smart phone or tablet.

The SEND Local Offer is a resource which is designed to support children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families. It describes the services and provision that are available both to those families in Nottinghamshire that have an Education, Health and Care Plan and those who do not have a plan, but still experience some form of special educational need. The SEND Local Offer includes information about public services across education, health and social care, as well as those provided by the private, voluntary and community sectors.

## Mission statement

- To promote the overall growth of the child
- To establish a working relationship within the school and within the wider community – home and parish
- To maintain the quality and practice of religious education, integrating it into the overall education of the children

At our school we seek to help each individual child achieve excellence in all aspects of their life, academically, spiritually, morally and socially.

## 1. Aims and objectives

### Aims

We aim to provide every child with access to a broad and balanced education. This includes the National Curriculum in line with the *Special Educational Needs Code of Practice*.

Holy Family Catholic Primary School strives to be an inclusive school, our aims are:

- To ensure that the potential of each individual is maximised irrespective of ability, disability, race, gender and social origin
- To provide a differentiated curriculum so that all children are suitably challenged
- To identify pupils with SEND as early as possible
- To adopt an inclusive ethos
- To have good communication with parents/carers and support agencies where applicable
- To provide equal opportunities for all pupils

### Objectives

- Identify the needs of pupils with SEND as early as possible. This is most effectively done by gathering information from parents, education, health and care services *[and feeder schools or early years settings – where applicable]* prior to the child's entry into the school.
- Monitor the progress of all pupils in order to aid the identification of pupils with SEND. Continuous monitoring of those pupils with SEND by their teachers will help to ensure that they are able to reach their full potential.
- Make appropriate provision to overcome all barriers to learning and ensure pupils with SEND have full access to the National Curriculum. This will be co-ordinated by the SENCO and Senior Leadership Team and will be carefully monitored and regularly reviewed in order to ensure that individual targets are being met and all pupils' needs are catered for.
- Work with parents to gain a better understanding of their child, and involve them in all stages of their child's education. This includes supporting them in terms of understanding SEND procedures and practices, providing regular reports on their child's progress, and providing information on the provisions for pupils within the school as a whole, and the effectiveness of the SEN policy and the school's SEND work.
- Work with, and in support of, outside agencies when the pupils' needs cannot be met by the school alone.
- Create a school environment where pupils feel safe to voice their opinions of their own needs. This means *[providing one to one meetings between pupils and their teacher/SENCO based on their individual needs]* by carefully monitoring the progress of all pupils. Pupil participation is a right. This will be reflected in decision-making but also encouraged through wider opportunities for participation in school life *[e.g. membership of the School Council, House captains, Sports captains]*.

## **2. Responsibility for the coordination of SEND provision**

- The person responsible for overseeing the provision for children with SEND is Mrs McEvoy
- The person co-ordinating the day to day provision of education for pupils with SEND is Mrs Brennan
- There is a nominated governor for SEND provision within school – currently Mr Maggio
- The person responsible for the teaching/delivery of teaching is the class teacher.

## **3. Arrangements for coordinating SEND provision**

The SENCO will hold details of all SEND support records of personalised provision, structured conversations or review meeting minutes for individual pupils.

### **All staff can access:**

- The Holy Family Catholic Primary School SEND Policy which includes guidance on identification in the Code of Practice (SEND Support and pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans)
- Relevant and appropriate information about the needs of children who have SEND;
- Information on individual pupils' special educational needs, including action plans, targets set/outcome monitoring/tracking;
- Practical advice, teaching strategies, and information about types of special educational needs and disabilities including updates on current legislation;
- Information available through Nottinghamshire's SEND Local Offer

This information is made accessible to all staff and parents (in Holy Family Catholic Primary School's SEND information report) in order to aid the effective co-ordination of the school's SEND provision. In this way, every staff member will have complete and up-to-date information about all pupils with special needs and their requirements which will enable them to provide for the individual needs of all pupils.

## **4. Admission arrangements**

The admission arrangements for *all* pupils are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. This includes children with any level of SEND; those with Education, Health and Care Plans and those without. See Admissions policy for more information.

SENCOs within the Family of Schools meet termly to discuss SEND provision. The Family of Schools' SENCO visits individual schools to familiarise with the school environment and the individual child. This enables smoother transition between schools and to ensure a consistent approach. Transition to Secondary School is carefully planned and personalised through close liaison with Secondary SENCO and is tailored to meet an individual's specific needs. Addition funding (Transition funding) may be accessed to ensure smooth transition between Primary and Secondary school.

## **5. Specialist SEND provision**

We are committed to whole school inclusion. For more information on our provision for inclusion see section 10.

## **6. Facilities for pupils with SEND**

The school has a range of specialist SEND facilities in place. These are:

1. Wheelchair access into the ground floor of the school
2. Disabled toilet
3. Changing facilities

4. Automatic opening sliding doors operated by an electronic sensor in the entrance hall and reception area
  5. A sensory room
  6. All staff are aware of the importance of differentiation in their planning and integration of children with special needs in their classes.
  7. Intervention programmes may be delivered to children with SEND by trained teaching assistants and by class teachers
- See Accessibility plan for more information.

## 7. Allocation of resources for pupils with SEND

All pupils with SEND will have access to Element 1 and 2 of a school's budget which equates to £6,000. Some pupils with SEND may access additional funding. This additional funding might be from a budget which is devolved to and moderated by the Family of Schools. (The All Saints' Family of Schools comprises of a secondary school and its feeder primary schools). For those with the most complex needs, additional funding is retained by the local authority. This is accessed through the Family of Schools. The Family SENCO will refer individual applications to a multi-agency panel, which is administered by the Local Authority, who will determine whether the level and complexity of need meets the threshold for this funding.

The SENCO and the Senior leadership team make key decisions in the allocation of resources and personnel involved to meet individual pupil's SEND needs. This includes the allocation of pupil premium and pupil premium plus funding. Any applications to specialist equipment are made as required.

## 8. Identification of pupils needs

### Identification

At Holy Family Catholic Primary School, we consider a child to be on our SEND register if they require access to provision which is in addition to or different from that that is normally available to them.

See definition of Special Educational Needs at the start of the policy.

### A graduated approach:

#### **Quality First Teaching**

- a) Any pupils who are falling significantly outside of the range of expected academic achievement in line with predicted performance indicators and grade boundaries, or has an official diagnosis, will be monitored.
- b) Once a pupil has been identified as *possibly* having SEND they will be closely monitored by staff in order to gauge their level of learning and possible difficulties.
- c) The child's class teacher will take steps to provide differentiated learning opportunities that will aid the pupil's academic progression and enable the teacher to better understand the provision and teaching style that needs to be applied.
- d) The SENCO will be consulted as needed for support and advice and may wish to observe the pupil in class.
- e) Through (b) and (d) it can be determined which level of provision the child will need going forward. An initial cause for concern form will be completed by the class teacher through discussion with the SENCO at this point.
- f) If a pupil has recently been removed from the SEND register they may also fall into this category as continued monitoring will be necessary.
- g) Parents will be informed fully of every stage of their child's development and the circumstances under which they are being monitored. They are encouraged to share information and knowledge with the school.

- h) The child is formally recorded by the school as being under observation due to concern by parent or teacher but this does not place the child on the school's SEND register. Parents are given this information. It is recorded by the school as an aid to further progression and for future reference.
- i) Pupil progress meetings are used to monitor and assess the progress being made by the child. The frequency of these meetings is dependent on the individual child's needs and progress being made.

### ***SEND Support***

Where it is determined that a pupil does have SEND which requires a level of additional or different provision, parents will be formally advised of this and the pupil will be added to the SEND register. The aim of formally identifying a pupil with SEND is to help school ensure that effective provision is put in place and so remove barriers to learning. The support provided consists of a four – part process:

- Assess
- Plan
- Do
- Review

This is an ongoing cycle to enable the provision to be refined and revised as the understanding of the needs of the pupil grows. This cycle enables the identification of those interventions which are the most effective in supporting the pupil to achieve good progress and outcomes.

#### ***Assess***

This involves clearly analysing the pupil's needs using the class teacher's assessment and experience of working with the pupil, details of previous progress and attainment, comparisons with peers and national data, as well as the views and experience of parents. The pupil's views and where relevant, advice from external support services will also be considered. Any parental concerns will be noted and compared with the school's information and assessment data on how the pupil is progressing.

This analysis will require regular review to ensure that support and intervention is matched to need, that barriers to learning are clearly identified and being overcome and that the interventions being used are developing and evolving as required. Where external support staff are already involved their work will help inform the assessment of need. Where they are not involved they may be contacted, if this is felt to be appropriate, following discussion and agreement from parents.

#### ***Plan***

Planning will involve consultation between the teacher, SENCO and parents to agree the adjustments, interventions and support that are required; the impact on progress, development and or behaviour that is expected and a clear date for review. Parental involvement may be sought, where appropriate, to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

All those working with the pupil, including support staff, will be informed of their individual needs, the support that is being provided, any particular teaching strategies/approaches that are being employed and the outcomes that are being sought.

#### ***Do***

The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a day-to-day basis. They will retain responsibility even where the interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class/subject teacher. They will work closely with teaching assistants and/or relevant specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and links with classroom teaching. Support with further assessment of the pupil's strengths and weaknesses, problem solving and advising of the implementation of effective support will be provided by the SENCO.

## **Review**

Reviews will be undertaken in line with agreed dates, three times per year. The review process will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. It will also take account of the views of the pupil and their parents. The class teacher, in conjunction with the SENCO will revise the support and outcomes based on the pupil's progress and development making any necessary amendments going forward, in consultation with parents and the pupil.

Parents will be provided with clear information about the impact of support to enable them to be involved in planning the next steps.

## **Referral for an Education, Health and Care Plan**

If a child has lifelong or significant difficulties they may undergo a Statutory Assessment Process which is usually requested by the school but can be requested by a parent. This will occur where the complexity of need or a lack of clarity around the needs of the child are such that a multi-agency approach to assessing that need, to planning provision and identifying resources, is required.

The decision to make a referral for a statement will be taken at a progress review.

The application for an Education, Health and Care Plans will combine information from a variety of sources including:

- Parents
- Teachers
- SENCO
- Social Care
- Health professionals

Information will be gathered relating to the current provision provided, action points that have been taken, and the preliminary outcomes of targets set. A decision will be made by a group of people from education, health and social care about whether or the child is eligible for an EHC Plan. Parents have the right to appeal against a decision not to initiate a statutory assessment leading to an EHC Plan.

Further information about EHC Plans can found via the SEND Local Offer:

[www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk](http://www.nottinghamshire.sendlocaloffer.org.uk)

or by speaking to an Education, Health and Care Plan Co-ordinator on:

**0115 9774012 or 0115 9773323**

or by contacting the Parent Partnership Service – now known as “Ask us Nottinghamshire” – on:

**0115 804 1740**

## **Education, Health and Care Plans [EHC Plan]**

- a. Following Statutory Assessment, an EHC Plan will be provided by Nottinghamshire County Council, if it is decided that the child's needs are not being met by the support that is ordinarily available. The school and the child's parents will be involved developing and producing the plan.
- b. Parents have the right to appeal against the content of the EHC Plan. They may also appeal against the school named in the Plan if it differs from their preferred choice.
- c. Once the EHC Plan has been completed and agreed, it will be kept as part of the pupil's formal record and reviewed at least annually by staff, parents and the pupil. The annual review enables provision for the pupil to be evaluated and, where appropriate, for changes to be put in place, for example, reducing or increasing levels of support.

## **9. Access to the curriculum, information and associated services**

Pupils with SEND will be given access to the curriculum through the specialist SEND provision provided by the school as is necessary, as far as possible, in line with the wishes of their parents and the needs of the individual.

Every effort will be made to educate pupils with SEND alongside their peers in a mainstream classroom setting. Where this is not possible, the SENCO will consult with the child's parents for other flexible arrangements to be made.

As a school we will endeavour to:

- Keep staff fully informed of the special educational needs of any pupils in their charge including sharing progress reports, medical reports and teacher feedback
- Provide regular training and learning opportunities for staff in all departments on the subject of SEND and SEND teaching. School staff should be up to date with teaching methods which will aid the progress of all pupils including those with SEND
- Make use of all class facilities and space
- Using in-class provision and support effectively to ensure that the curriculum is differentiated where necessary.
- Making sure that individual or group tuition is available where it is felt that pupils would benefit from this provision.
- Any decision to provide group teaching outside the classroom will involve the SENCO in providing a rationale and focus on flexible teaching. Parents will be made aware of any circumstances in which changes have been made.
- Setting appropriate individual targets that motivate pupils to do their best, and celebrating achievements at all levels.

## **10. Inclusion of pupils with SEND**

The Head Teacher and Governing Body oversee the school's policy for inclusion and are responsible for ensuring that it is implemented effectively throughout the school.

The school curriculum is regularly reviewed by the Senior leadership team together with the SENCO to ensure that it promotes the inclusion of all pupils. This includes learning outside the classroom.

The school will seek advice, as appropriate, around individual pupils, from external support services through the termly 'Springboard meetings', Early Help Unit and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub and other agencies that are accessed by school.

Pupils with SEND have access to the same curriculum as all other pupils. This includes all school trips including residential trips and extra-curricular activities where reasonable adjustments may be made to ensure equal opportunities. Where appropriate, a personalised curriculum and individual provision map is implemented.

## **11. Evaluating the success of provision**

In order to make consistent continuous progress in relation to SEND provision the SENCO monitors the provision several times a year and encourages feedback from staff, parents and pupils throughout the year.

Pupil progress will be monitored on a termly basis in line with the SEN Code of Practice.

There is an annual formal evaluation of the effectiveness of the school SEND provision and policy. The evaluation is carried out by the SENCO, Head Teacher and SEND governor and information is gathered from different sources such as review meetings, parents evenings and feedback forms. This will be collated and published by the governing body on an annual basis in accordance with section 69 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

Evidence collected will help inform school development and improvement planning.

## **12. Complaints procedure**

Refer to the general complaints procedure.

If a parent or carer has any concerns or complaints regarding the care or welfare of their child, an appointment can be made by them to speak to the SENCO, who will be able to offer advice on formal procedures for complaint.

### **13. In service training (CPD)**

We aim to keep all school staff up to date with relevant training and developments in teaching practice in relation to the needs of pupils with SEND through staff meetings.

The SENCO attends relevant SEND courses, Family SEN meetings and facilitates/signposts relevant SEND focused external training opportunities for all staff.

We recognise the need to train *all* our staff on SEND issues. The SENCO, with the senior leadership team, ensures that training opportunities are matched to school development priorities and those identified through the use of provision management.

### **14. Links to support services**

The school continues to build strong working relationships and links with external support services in order to fully support our SEND pupils and aid school inclusion.

Sharing knowledge and information with our support services is key to the effective and successful SEND provision within our school. Any one of the support services may raise concerns about a pupil. This will then be brought to the attention of the SENCO who will then inform the child's parents.

The following services will be involved as and when is necessary:

- Health
- Education
- Social care

These are accessed through multi-agency partnerships e.g. Springboard meetings.

### **15. Working in partnerships with parents**

Holy Family Catholic Primary School believes that a close working relationship with parents is vital in order to ensure:

- a) early and accurate identification and assessment of SEND leading to the correct intervention and provision
- b) continuing social and academic progress of children with SEND
- c) personal and academic targets are set and met effectively

Parents are kept up to date with their child's progress through annual reports, parents' evenings and provision reviews will be held three times per year.

In cases where more frequent regular contact with parents is necessary, this will be arranged based on the individual pupil's needs. The SENCO may also signpost parents of pupils with SEND to the local authority Parent Partnership service and the Local offer website where further specific advice, guidance and support may be required.

If an assessment or referral indicates that a pupil has additional learning needs the parents and the pupil will always be consulted with regards to future provision. Parents are invited to attend meetings with external agencies regarding their child, and are kept up to date and consulted on any points of action drawn up in

regards to the provision for their child. The school's SEND governor may be contacted at any time in relation to SEND matters.

## 16. Links with other schools

Holy Family Catholic Primary School works with the family of schools that are members of the Aquinas Multi Academy Trust - formerly the All Saints Family of School. This enables the schools to build a bank of joint resources and to share advice, training and development activities and expertise.

School also liaises with Outwood Academy Portland and Outwood Academy Valley in order to arrange bespoke transition arrangements that may be required for any pupils.

### Transition

See Section 4.

## 17. Links with other agencies and voluntary organisations

Holy Family Catholic Primary School invites and seeks advice and support from external agencies in the identification and assessment of, and provision for, SEND. The SENCO is the designated person responsible for liaising with the following:

- Nottinghamshire Education Psychology Service
- Behaviour Support Service
- Social Services
- Speech and Language Service
- Language and Learning Support Service
- Children's Centres
- PDSS
- Think children
- CAMHS
- Young Carers
- Occupation Therapist
- Physiotherapy
- Specialist Outreach Services
- Early Help Unit
- Schools and Families Specialist Services

Representatives from voluntary organisations and other external agencies may be invited to liaison meetings throughout the year to discuss SEND provision and progress and keep staff up to date with legislation.

In cases where a child is under observation or a cause for concern, focused meetings will be arranged with the appropriate agency. Parents will normally be invited to and informed about any meetings held concerning their child unless there are over-riding safeguarding issues.

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**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ *[Name]* **(Headteacher)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Signed** \_\_\_\_\_ *[Name]* **(SENCO)**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signed \_\_\_\_\_ *[Name]* (SEN Governor)

Date \_\_\_\_\_

**This policy will be reviewed by September 2019 unless there are significant Government changes introduced before this date.**