

ST MARY'S CE (A) FIRST SCHOOL

SEND INFORMATION REPORT

At St Mary's CE(A) First School, we are constantly looking at how we can improve the provision for our pupils. We are committed to offering an inclusive education which provides all children with the opportunities to succeed. The information contained in this report will be regularly reviewed and updated. It takes into account the 0-25 SEND Code of Practice 2015, The Equality Act 2010 and the Children and Families Act 2014.

What are special educational needs?

A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty or disability is a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age. Special educational provision means educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age in a mainstream setting in England. Health care provision or social care provision which educates or trains a child or young person is to be treated as special educational provision.

Aims of our SEND policy

The aims of our special educational need and disability policy and practice in this school are:

- To provide access to the curriculum, the environment and to printed information for all.
- To reduce barriers to progress and learning.
- To use our best endeavours to secure special educational provision for pupils for whom this is required, that is "additional to and different from" that provided within the differentiated curriculum to better respond to the four areas of need:
 1. Communication and interaction
 2. Cognition and learning
 3. Social, mental and emotional health
 4. Sensory/physical
- To request, monitor and respond to parent/carers' and pupils' views in order to evidence high levels of satisfaction and partnership.
- To ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need, through well targeted continuing professional development.
- To work in cooperative and productive partnership with the Local Authority and other outside agencies, to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners.

How does St Mary's School know if children need extra help?

We know when children need help when:

- concerns are raised by parents/carers, teachers, the child's previous school or other nursery settings
- Tracking of attainment indicates a lack of progress, slow progress or low achievement
- There is a change in the child's behaviour
- A child asks for more help frequently
- There is an external referral from a Health Care Professional

It is our aim to identify any child with SEN as early as possible. In response to this, we have an experienced teacher in the Foundation Stage who is also the SENCo.

What should I do if I think my child may have special educational needs?

A child may be identified as having a long term difficulty which requires continuing support or a short term difficulty requiring a specific intervention. Our school has an 'open door' policy and if you are concerned about your child please:

- talk to your child's teacher
- talk to the SENCo, Mrs Moulton (currently in the Foundation Stage)
- talk to the Head Teacher

All parents will be listened to. Your views and aspirations for your child are central to the assessment and provision which is offered by our school.

How will St Mary's CE (A) First School support my child?

We believe that every child is unique and we carefully tailor all support and interventions to each child's needs. We are committed to providing first quality teaching for all children. As concerns are raised and discussed with parents, the individuals will be monitored for a short period of time and supported in the classroom through effective differentiation and use of appropriate resources.

Additional support will follow the Graduated Response which is the "Assess, Plan, Do, Review" model of intervention:

- **Wave 2 intervention** provides 'catch-up' programmes for small groups of children who may be struggling with a concept or in a particular area of learning. They are time-limited and aim to boost skills in order to access the curriculum confidently after the intervention.

(eg Rapid Phonics, Rapid Maths, Sentence Smashers, Comprehension booster, Active Literacy Kit, DEMS, Social Skills programmes, Chatterbox)

- **Wave 3 intervention** provides 1:1 intensive, precision teaching to enable the child make accelerated progress.

(FFT Wave 3 Reading & Writing, Speech & Language Programmes, programmes to develop fine motor skills)

- **Learning Passports** are individual to each child. **Specific Intervention** is planned and impact is recorded through monitoring and tracking by the teacher. Each child has their own Learning Passport which provides key information about the child, how they learn, which resources suit them best and how adults can support them effectively. It also ensures that they have opportunities to work on their individual targets to support progress and attainment. Parents have the opportunity to meet with the SENCo every term - sometimes during Parent's evening or by arranging an appointment with Mrs Moulton - to discuss concerns, worries, interventions and Learning Passports.

Each intervention is reviewed regularly for impact on children's learning. Learning Passports are reviewed, agreed and signed each term with children, parents and teachers. If a child continues to make limited progress, we would consult appropriate **outside agencies**. For a very small percentage of children, whose needs are significant and complex, and the provision required to meet their needs cannot reasonably be provided within our school resources, a request will be made to the Local Authority to conduct an assessment of their Education, Health and Care needs. This may result in an Education, Health Care plan for the child. (EHCP)

Who will support my child?

- class teacher and teaching assistants
- SENCo
- relevant outside agencies

The SEN Governor and the Governing Body are consulted with regards to any changes in procedures, attainment and progress data and changes in legislation.

What additional specialist services and expertise may be available to my child?

At times it may be necessary to consult with outside agencies. We have opportunity to use:

Autism Outreach Team	SEND County Keyworkers	School Nurse
Enhanced Autism Outreach	Speech & Language Therapy	Health Visitor
Educational Psychologist Service	Specialist Support Centres/Outreach	Social Services
Behaviour Support Service	Hearing/Visually Impaired Support Team	Community Paediatrician
Midlands Psychology	Education Welfare Officer	Family Support Service
Local Support Team	YESS - youth emotional support	Occupational Therapy
Early Years Forum		

If a referral is made, with parental consent, an initial meeting will be arranged. This will offer a multi-agency approach to support your child. Sometimes an Early Help Assessment (EHA) approach may be used. Mrs Moulton will talk to you about this if it is appropriate for your child and/or your family.

How will the curriculum be matched to my child's needs?

Teachers plan lessons and activities according to the current levels of attainment within their class. Differentiation is very important as it means that children can access the learning at their own level. When a child has been identified as having special needs, their work will be further differentiated by the class teacher to remove barriers to learning and enable them to access the curriculum more easily.

All interventions are matched closely to each child's level of need. A trained Teaching Assistant will usually teach interventions and, with the class teacher, will closely monitor progress and outcomes, which will support the next steps in learning.

Appropriate specialist equipment may be given if necessary.

How will I find out how my child is doing?

You will be able to discuss your child's progress and attainment:

- At Parents Evening throughout the year - with the teacher and/or the SENCo
- During informal chats at any time throughout the year
- At specific meetings arranged by appointment
- In your child's reading diary
- During annual review meetings (EHCp pupils)
- During Outcome Star meetings (Local Support Team) (if appropriate)
- In my child's school report

How will St Mary's CE (A) First School help me support my child's learning?

- Family Learning opportunities.
- Parent workshops to support learning at home.
- 'Open Door' means you can have the opportunity to ask your child's teacher or the SENCo about ways to support your child at home.
- Outside agencies sometimes provide support with specific learning and school will let you know about these events.

What support will there be for my child's overall well-being?

Our school offers a wide range of pastoral support for children who are experiencing emotional, social and behavioural difficulties:

- Caring and supportive teachers and teaching assistants who are readily available for children who want to talk about concerns or worries.
- A PSHE curriculum which provides children with the knowledge, skills and understanding they need to enhance their social and emotional well-being.
- The SEAL (Social, Emotional Aspects of Learning) pack which can be delivered to a whole class, groups or individual children.
- A specialist trained ASPEN (Additional Support for Pupils with Emotional Needs) Teaching Assistant who listens, discusses, calms and provides support for any children who need it.
- Circle of Friends: an intervention which supports positive social development with peers.
- Friendship Club (daily) which children can choose to sign up to or may be invited to.
- Outside agencies including Local Support Team, Behaviour Support, Family Support, School Nurse and Community Paediatrician.
- Support from our Governors, our Church and the community.
- Acts of Kindness - opportunities to develop and show children's kindness towards others.

Pupils with medical needs

For all medical needs, we endeavour to follow the Local Authority policy, the DfE guidelines included within "Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions" (DfE 2014) and our own school policy.

- If a child has a medical need then a detailed Health Care Plan is compiled in consultation with parents/carers and if appropriate, the children themselves. The school nurse can be consulted if necessary. These are discussed with all staff involved with the child and are reviewed annually or earlier if necessary. Teachers will update and refer to Care Plans when necessary.
- Where necessary, and in agreement with parents/carers, prescribed medicines may be administered in school where a signed parental agreement form has been completed and agreed in consultation with the head teacher. This can be discussed in the School Office.
- Regular training in the administration of certain medicine is given to all staff as necessary.

What training has been available for staff supporting children with SEND?

In our school, staff receive a range of training opportunities to reflect the needs of the children in school at a specific time. Some staff members have received training and specialist support in the following areas in the last two years:

Precision teaching	Autism in Girls and PDA	Paediatric First Aid
Supporting deaf children in school	Supporting children with Autism	Asthma Training
Physical Restraint training	Language Development for Verbal Children with Autism	Epipen Training
Language Level Training - supporting children with Language Difficulties	Dyslexia Friendly teaching	Epilepsy Training
Supporting children with Attachment difficulties	Supporting children with behavioural issues	Supporting children with Bereavement
		SENCo update training

This list is subject to change and will be updated regularly.

How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

Activities and school trips are available to all.

- Risk assessments are carried out and procedures are put in place to enable all children to participate. This is completed in consultation with parents/carers, school and outside agencies.
- If a health and safety risk assessment suggests that an intensive level of 1:1 support is required then a parent/carer may also be asked to accompany their child during the activity in addition to the usual school staff.

How accessible is the school environment?

Our Accessibility Plan is regularly reviewed and is available on request via the school office or website. Measures are in place to enable access for all children and parents, which include:

- ramps to all school entrances which are marked with high visibility edges.
- disabled toilet in both buildings for children and visitors.
- clear signs around school and a regularly updated fire evacuation system in place.
- both buildings are on one level.

We are also:

- a Dyslexia Friendly School (full status)
- Experienced with children who have a range of Special Needs.

As a school, we are happy to discuss individual access requirements.

How will my child be prepared and supported through transition periods?

Our school understands the emotional difficulties which may arise when children need to move schools. Therefore many strategies are in place to enable the child's transition to be as smooth as possible. These include:

On entry into the Foundation Stage:

- Parents/Carers/Children are invited into school for a preliminary visit to look around the school.
- Parents/Carers are invited to a meeting at the school so that they can meet the Foundation stage team, know what to expect and share any concerns.

A planned programme of visits during the summer term is devised. These include:

- play sessions for children who attend our 'Penguins' nursery.
- 'stay and play' sessions for all parents and children who are starting school in the September.
- home visits from Foundation staff (optional)
- nursery visits from Foundation staff.
- Assessment data is transferred from all nurseries to our Foundation Stage team.
- multi agency meetings to support the transition of children with additional needs.

Mid-Year Transition from another setting

- All parents/carers and children are offered a tour of the school and a discussion with the Head teacher and/or SENCo.
- Wherever possible, a planned programme of transition and pre-visits are arranged between the past school, current school and parents/carers. However, if this is not an option, all information is collected from the previous school and telephone conversations held between relevant members of staff if necessary.

Moving into a new class:

- Children have the opportunity to meet their new class teacher and peers in the next classroom environment during 'transition' days in the summer term.
- Photo books are used for children with additional needs who find transition difficult and unsettling.
- There is also an informal opportunity in the summer term where parents can meet their child's new class teacher.
- Individual transition opportunities are available for children who may need more support/longer periods of transition/specialised transition etc. Your SENCo will talk to you about this if appropriate.

Transition to middle school:

The Year 4 class teacher and the SENCo work closely with the teachers/SENcos at the middle schools to ensure that transitions go as smoothly as possible. The current transition arrangements are that:

- All information is transferred to the child's next school including current academic levels, personal information, procedures, Learning Passports & care plans.
- A representative from the middle schools comes into St Mary's to discuss children, groupings, friendships and any other issues and to talk to children about the Middle school, including any worries or anticipations.
- Parents of children with SEN, have the option to meet with the SENCO from the middle schools to discuss any issues.
- A transition photo book is made with children who have additional needs.
- All children have an opportunity to spend time at the Middle Schools and a teacher from our school accompanies them. However, if your child has a specific need (either educational or pastoral) then extra visits are often arranged.
- If your child has an EHCp, then a transition review is held in the autumn term prior to the transition to the next school. At this meeting, transition arrangements are discussed, the school is specified and any additional information is discussed.

How are the school's resources allocated and matched to children's needs?

The SEN budget is allocated each financial year and we have the option to apply for additional funding through the Additional Education Needs bid if a child meets specific criteria.

- At present, the majority of the delegated SEN budget at our school is spent on supporting your child in class using trained Teaching Assistants who can deliver a range of interventions tailored to meet your child's individual needs.
- Specific resources are available for any child who requires them.
- Individual Pupil Premium payments are used to support pupils learning.

How is the decision made about how much support my child will receive?

This decision is made for each individual, as all children's needs are different. We look at:

- the progress your child is making
- the type of difficulties your child is experiencing
- participation and accessibility to learning
- multi agency advice and guidance

We gather evidence, discuss individual cases, monitor current support and discuss with parents to ensure the decision about the level of support is appropriate and agreed.

How will I be involved in discussions about planning for my child's education?

We have an 'open door' policy and all our parents are encouraged to contribute to their child's education. This may be through:

- Discussions with the class teacher. (informal chats, parents evenings)
- Meeting the SENCo to discuss Learning Passports, individual needs, worries or concerns.
- Attendance (and contribution) at Annual/Transition Review meetings (EHCP pupils)
- Attending Family Learning opportunities in school.
- Support at home (homework, additional practise of spellings, times tables and reading)

Who can I contact for further information or if I have any concerns?

If you wish to discuss your child's educational needs or have a comment, query or complaint then please feel free to contact your:

- Class teacher
- Head teacher - Mrs Wade
- SENCo - Mrs Moulton
- Comments, Queries and Complaints box in the school office area
- Governors (via the school office)
- Staffordshire SEND Family Partnership Service - 01785 356921
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/welfareservice/SpecialEducationalNeeds/spps/Staffordshire-SEND-Family-Partnership.aspx>
- Staffordshire SEND advice webpage
<https://www.staffordshire.gov.uk/education/welfareservice/SpecialEducationalNeeds/Special-Educational-Needs.aspx>

Appointments with school staff can be made through the office:

Telephone: 01889 228730

Office email: office@st-marys-utttoxeter.staffs.sch.uk

The Local Authority's Local Offer can be found at:

<http://www.staffordshiremarketplace.co.uk>

We hope that you find this useful and please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any further questions.

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