



Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School Special Educational Needs & Disability (SEND) Policy

Aim

We aim to enable all children with Special Educational Needs & Disabilities (SEND) to achieve their full academic and social potential and to have equal access to a broad, balanced curriculum.

Objectives:

- To identify, at the earliest possible opportunity, barriers to learning and participation for pupils with SEND;
- To ensure that every child experiences success in their learning and achieves to the highest possible standard;
- To enable all children to participate in lessons fully and effectively
- To value and encourage the contribution of all children to the life of the school
- To work in partnership with parents
- To work with the Governing Body to enable them to fulfil their statutory monitoring role with regard to the Policy Statement for SEND
- To work closely with external support agencies, where appropriate, to support the needs of individual pupils
- To ensure that all staff have access to training and advice to support quality teaching and learning for all pupils

Code of Practice 2014

- There will no longer be Statements of SEN issued by the Local Authority as Statements have been replaced by Education, Health and Care Plans (EHC Plans) which can be used to support children from birth-25 years.
- School Action and School Action Plus have been replaced by one school based category of need known as 'Special Education Needs Support' (SENS).

Defining SEND

The 2014 Code of Practice says that:

'A person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. At compulsory school age this means he or she has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others the same age, or, has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.'

(2014 SEN Code of Practice: 0 to 25 Years)

Roles & Responsibilities

All children benefit from 'Quality Teaching': this means that teachers expect to assess, plan and teach all children at the level which allows them to make progress with their learning. In addition, we implement some focused interventions to target particular needs.

We have high expectations of all our children. Children on our SEND register make progress, which compares well with the progress made by other children in school.

The Provision for children with SEND is the responsibility of all members of staff. Mrs Frances Edmondson, Head Teacher, is the SEND Co-ordinator (SENDCo)

Identification, Monitoring & Tracking

Identifying children at SENS (SEN Support): Children with SEND are identified by one of three assessment routes all of which are part of the overall approach to monitoring progress of all pupils:

- The progress of every child is monitored at termly pupil progress meetings. Where children are identified as not making progress in spite of Quality Teaching they are discussed with the Head Teacher/SENDCo and a plan of action is agreed.
- Class teachers are continually aware of children's learning. If they observe that a child, as recommended by the 2014 Code of Practice, is making less than expected progress, given their age and individual circumstances, they will seek to identify a cause. This can be characterised by progress which:
 1. Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
 2. Fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
 3. Fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers

Parents sometimes ask us to look more closely at their child's learning. We take all parental requests seriously and investigate them all. Frequently the concern can be addressed by Quality Teaching or some parental support. Otherwise, the child is placed at SENS on our SEND register.

Although the school can identify special educational needs, and make provision to meet those needs, we do not offer diagnoses. Parents are advised to contact their GP if they think their child may have ASC or ADHD or some other disability.

All children are closely monitored, and their progress tracked each term. Those at SENS are additionally tracked by the SENCo.

Categories of SEND

There are four broad categories of SEND:

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, emotional and mental health
4. Physical and sensory.

We have children in all of these categories of SEND.

SEND at Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School

Profile of SEND at Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School

32% of our children are either at SENS (SEN support) or have EHC Plans (Education, Health and Care Plans), therefore all teachers expect to have children with SEND in their classes.

Types of SEND which we currently have in school, during 2017-2018, include children with a diagnosis as well as those with learning profiles consistent with the diagnosis:

- Speech, Language & Communication difficulties
- Autistic spectrum and language disorder
- Dyslexia, dyspraxia and dyscalculia
- Moderate learning difficulties
- Social & Emotional difficulties
- Emotional difficulties
- Medical Needs

Working with Parents and Children

We aim to have good and informative relationships with all of our parents. If a child is experiencing difficulties, parents will be informed either at parents' meetings (Autumn and Spring terms) or during informal meetings to discuss the child's progress. It should not come as a surprise to a parent to learn that their child is being identified as having SEND.

Once a child has been identified as having SEND, the class teacher will invite the parents to a meeting to:

- Formally let them know that their child is being placed at SENS
- Discuss assessments that have been completed
- Agree a plan and provision for the next term.

This is part of the graduated approach cycle of 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review' required in the Code of Practice.

Depending on their age, and their interest, the child may be invited to attend all or part of the meeting. Records are kept of these meetings and copies are available to parents.

Thereafter, parents and children are invited to a meeting at least each term to review progress made, set targets and agree provision for the next term. In the summer term, there is an annual review of the child's progress.

Recording Information for Children at SENS (SEN support)

Once a child has been identified as needing SENS the following paperwork is completed:

- Annually, a one-page-plan is used to record the child's strengths and interests, what they enjoy about school, what they find hard and what helps them to achieve. This is completed with the child and parent and acts as a guide to their class teacher. The information may be updated during the year.
- Termly, through discussion between the class teacher, SENDCo and STA/HLTA targets are set. The plan records specific and challenging targets for the child to achieve in a term, together with the personalised provision (which may be 1-1 or in a small group) put in place to enable the child to achieve these targets.
- Weekly, on tracking records, the teacher or teaching assistant records a short comment about progress made towards each of the targets.

Moving to an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)

If children fail to make progress, in spite of high quality, targeted support at SENS, we may apply for the child to be assessed for an EHC Plan.

Generally, we apply for an EHC Plan if:

- The child has a disability which is lifelong and which means that they will always need support to learn effectively
- The child's achievements are so far below their peers that we think it likely that the child may at some point benefit from special school provision.

Children, who we think will manage in mainstream schools, albeit with support, are less often assessed for EHC Plans. Having a diagnosis (e.g. of ASD, ADHD or dyslexia) does not mean that a child needs an EHC Plan.

If the application for an EHC Plan is successful, a member of the Local Authority will call a meeting for parents, the child and the school together with any health or social care professionals who are involved with the family. The meeting will record the child's strengths, their dreams and aspirations as well as the barriers they face. Following the meeting, the LA will produce the EHC Plan which will record the decisions made at the meeting.

Teaching and Learning

We believe that all children learn best with the rest of their class. Our aim is for all children to be working independently, in class, to achieve their potential. Children with SEND are entitled to be taught by their teacher, not always by a TA. Teachers aim to spend time each day working with all children with SEND, individually or as part of a group.

When allocating additional TA support to children, our focus is on outcomes, not hours: we aim to put in sufficient support to enable the child to reach their challenging targets, but without developing a learned dependence on an adult. This can be extremely challenging when working within tight budget constraints.

The school has a range of interventions available which are listed and costed on a provision map.

When considering an intervention, we look first at the child's profile of learning in order that we can select the intervention which is best matched to the child.

Targets for children at SENS are deliberately challenging in the attempt to close the attainment gap between the children and their peers. Interventions are often crucial in closing these gaps, so are monitored closely by both the class teacher, who monitors progress towards the targets during the intervention, and by the SENDCo who monitors overall progress after the intervention.

- Interventions are planned in four week blocks
- At the end of each block, children's progress towards their targets is assessed and recorded.
- A decision is then made as to whether to continue the intervention, to swap to a new intervention, or to allow a period of consolidation in class.

The SENDCo monitors interventions to identify 'what works'.

Adaptations to the Curriculum Teaching and Learning Environment

Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School is disability friendly. The school is one level, corridors are wide and we have an easy access toilet. We generally find that no additional adaptations to the building are necessary for children with physical disabilities.

Other adaptations to the physical environment will be made, as appropriate, to accommodate children with sensory disabilities.

All of our classrooms are inclusion-friendly: we aim to teach in a way that will support children with tendencies towards dyslexia, dyspraxia, ASC etc by ensuring classrooms are uncluttered and tidy at all times. This is good practice to support all children but is vital for those with specific sensory difficulties.

All of our children access the full National Curriculum, and we recognise achievement and expertise in all curricular areas. As part of normal class differentiation, curriculum content and ideas can be simplified and made more accessible by using visual, tactile and concrete resources.

Access to extra-curricular activities

All of our children have equal access to lunchtime and after school clubs which develop engagement with the wider curriculum. Where necessary, we make accommodation and adaptation to meet the physical and learning needs of our children. Class trips are part of our curriculum and we aim for all children to benefit from them. No child is excluded from a trip because of SEND or medical needs.

Staff Expertise

All of our teachers are trained to work with children with SEND. All staff have access to advice, information, resources and training to enable them to teach all children effectively. We offer training and self-help opportunities through access to in-house or LA courses, provision of books or guidance towards useful websites.

Some support staff have expertise and training in specific areas of SEND and in specific interventions.

Additional expertise is provided by the Local Authority or the NHS. This includes access to

- Educational Psychologists and Advisory Teachers.
- Children with social, emotional and mental health needs
- Children with medical needs

Behaviour is not classified as an SEND. If a child shows consistent challenging behaviours, the class teacher will assess the child's needs, taking into account family circumstances and the child's known history of experiences. If the child's behaviour is felt to be a response to trauma or to home-based experiences (e.g. bereavement, parental separation), the school, in collaboration with the parents, would complete an Early Help Assessment and support the child through that process.

If parents and school are concerned that the child may have mental health needs, we encourage parents to ask their GP for a referral to CAMHS.

All children's behaviour is responded to consistently in line with our Positive Behaviour Management Policy, although reasonable adjustments are made to accommodate individual needs.

Transfer/Transition Arrangements

Transfer within school - We understand how difficult it is for children and parents as they move into a new class or a new school and will do what we can, according to the individual needs of the child, to make transitions between classes, as smooth as possible. This may include, for example:

- Additional meetings for the parents and child with the new teacher
- Additional visits to the classroom environment in order to familiarise children with their new environment
- Opportunities to take photographs of key people and places in order to make a transition booklet.

Transition to Secondary School - Enhanced transition arrangements are tailored to meet individual needs.

Transition reviews for Year 6 pupils are held, where possible, in the Autumn term of Year 6. The secondary school SENCo is invited to Annual Reviews and other review meetings. Additional transition arrangements may be made at these reviews e.g. extra visits, travel training etc.

Governors

It is the statutory duty of the Governing Body to ensure that the school follows its responsibilities to meet the needs of children with SEND following the requirements of the Code of Practice 2014.

The Governor with particular responsibility for SEND is Kerri Black. She meets with the SENDCo at least termly to monitor SEND policy and practise.

Complaints

The school works, wherever possible, in partnership with parents to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting pupils' needs.

All complaints are taken seriously and are heard through the school's complaints policy and procedure.

Cumbria's Local Offer

The purpose of the local offer is to enable parents and young people to see more clearly what services are available in their area and how to access them. It includes provision from birth to 25, across education, health and social care. Cumbria's Local Offer is available from the County Council website.

Equal Opportunities

Derwent Vale Primary and Nursery School is committed to providing equal opportunities for all, regardless of race, faith, gender, disability or capability in all aspects of school. We promote self and mutual respect and a caring and nonjudgmental attitude throughout the school.