

PARLEY FIRST SCHOOL



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS POLICY

There are some pupils who find it much harder to learn than other pupils of the same age and who need extra help. These pupils have special educational needs. Parley First School's SEN policy explains how we plan to meet those needs.

Guiding Principle

Our guiding principle is one of Inclusion. We want to identify and break down possible barriers to learning.

Objectives in making provision for pupils with S.E.N. :

- To ensure that all pupils have equal access to a broad, balanced curriculum which is differentiated to meet individual needs and abilities.
- To offer high quality support to ensure that all needs are met.
- To recognise that good special needs practice is good practice for all pupils.
- To recognise that any pupil may encounter difficulties at some stage in their school life.
- To take account of the fact that special educational provision is more effective if pupils and parents are fully involved.
- To acknowledge and draw on parental knowledge and expertise in relation to their child.
- To seek the views of the child where appropriate, and take them into account.

It is the responsibility of all teachers to identify and meet the S.E.N. of pupils. In this they can draw on the resources of the whole school.

This policy will contribute to achieving these objectives by ensuring that provision for pupils with S.E.N. is a matter for the whole school and is a part of the continuous cycle of assessment and review.

Roles and Responsibilities/ Co-ordination of provision

Provision for pupils with special educational needs is a matter for the school as a whole.

Governing Body

The school governors have specific responsibility:

- To do its best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs.
- To ensure that pupil's needs are made known to all those who are likely to teach them.
- To ensure that teachers in the school are aware of the importance of identifying, and providing support for, those pupils who have special educational needs.
- To consult the LEA and the governing bodies of other schools, when it seems to be necessary or desirable in the interests of co-ordinated special educational provision in the area as a whole.
- To ensure that a pupil with special educational needs joins in the activities of the school together with pupils who do not have special educational needs, so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving the special educational provision.
- To ensure that parents are notified of a decision by the school that SEN provision is being made for their child.

In doing so Governors will have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and the Disability Rights Code of Practice for schools. Governors will report to parents annually on the implementation of their SEN policy. This may reflect the success criteria noted on the last SEN policy.

The Head-teacher

The Head-teacher has responsibility for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the school's work, including provision for pupils with SEN. The Head-Teacher is currently SENCO. The Head-teacher keeps the governing body fully informed on S.E.N. matters. The Head-teacher seeks out and shares best practice with the LEA and other schools.

The School Staff

All teachers are teachers of children with SEN and do their best to adapt the curriculum to meet their needs. All staff are involved in the development of the school's SEN policy and should be aware of the procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEN.

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)

The Special Needs Co-ordinator is the Head-Teacher Maryanne Pike. Her responsibilities include:

- Co-ordinating provision for pupils with special educational needs
- Liasing with and advising fellow teachers
- Managing learning support assistants
- Liasing with parents of pupils with special educational needs
- Liasing with the Middle school SENCO, educational psychologists, school nurse, speech and language therapists and other health services.

The SENCO meets regularly with SENCOs in other schools within the Ferndown pyramid as well as other schools in the County. This enables her to keep up to date with current initiatives locally and to seek out and share best practice.

Admissions and inclusions:

Pupils with SEN are admitted to the school on the same basis as any other child. The Governing Body uses the LEA admissions criteria.

Special facilities

The school welcomes applications for admission from the parents of pupils with mobility difficulties **and has** wheelchair access. *All of the school is wheelchair accessible .*

The governors would, however, make every effort to accommodate a pupil's particular needs.

Allocation of resources

The school spends the S.E.N. budget on:

- A learning support teacher and teaching assistants to work with withdrawal groups/individuals to address their needs.
- Training for all teachers and learning support assistants so they can meet pupil's needs more effectively.
- Special books and equipment for teaching S.E.N.
- Specialist services to support pupils with SEN and to advise staff i.e. SENSS, Behaviour Support Service

The details of how individual pupils receive support are recorded on their Individual Education Plans and on teaching assistant's timetables.

The school receives no additional funding for pupils with statements at the present time.

The allocation of resources within the school is based on an annual audit of need carried out during the Autumn term. The more complex or severe needs the more support is provided.

Identification and assessment of pupils with special educational needs

All pupils are entitled to a balanced and broadly based curriculum including the Foundation Stage and National Curriculum. This policy ensures that teaching arrangements and strategies are fully inclusive. The majority of pupils will have their needs met through normal classroom arrangements and appropriate differentiation, which may include short-term support such as the *Early Literacy Support, Additional Literacy Support or Springboard for mathematics.*

The Governing Body will ensure that it makes appropriate provision for all pupils identified as having need of special educational provision.

The Governing Body reviews the SEN policy and reports annually on the allocation of available resources and the success of the policy in meeting the needs of individuals.

Differentiation

Differentiation means teaching a pupil in ways and at levels, which match their ways of learning. Pupils make progress in different rates. Not all pupils learn in the same way and therefore need to be taught in different ways. All pupils will receive help through differentiation but if a pupil does not make adequate progress, the school will regularly monitor this and put in strategies to help. All staff are responsible for identifying pupils with special educational needs. The SENCO will work with staff to

ensure that those pupils who may need additional or different support are identified at an early stage. The progress made by all pupils is regularly monitored and reviewed. Pupils are only identified as having special educational needs if additional or different action is being taken. The range of support that every pupil at the school can expect is explained on the following pages.

School Action

Through School Action, the pupil will get help that is either extra to and/or different from the help that the school usually gives pupils through differentiation. If there are concerns that the pupil is not making adequate progress, the class teacher will discuss these concerns with the SENCO. The SENCO will gather information from the pupil, parents, class teacher and anyone else who can offer information about the child. The information gathered will help the school to decide what help may be needed. The help will be recorded in an Individual Education Plan (IEP). The IEP will only record that which is additional to, or different from, the differentiated curriculum and will focus on three or four individual targets that match the pupil's needs.

The delivery of the interventions recorded in the Individual Education Plan continues to be the responsibility of the **class teacher**.

Parents will be informed as soon as a decision has been made to support a child in this way and the child's needs should be discussed with them. Parents will also be invited to participate in the target setting and review process by attending parent's evenings on a regular basis and discussing the IEP with their child's teacher. Pupils will participate fully in the review process according to their age and abilities. The IEP will be reviewed at least once every six months and the outcomes will be recorded. Support available to pupils through School Action includes:

- Extra phonic support from a teaching assistant within their year group
- Extra reading with a teaching assistant or volunteer helper
- Spelling support using a structured scheme e.g. P.A.S.S. (Phonological Awareness Sound System)

School Action Plus

If the pupil does not make adequate progress receiving School Action support, the school may seek further advice from other specialists e.g. Educational Psychologist, Speech therapist, Physiotherapist, and Occupational Therapist. Pupils and parents will be fully involved and kept informed about the involvement of external agencies and proposed interventions.

The range of support available at **School Action Plus** will be similar to that made for **School Action** but will typically be more intensive, individualised and sustained. Advice from outside professionals will be incorporated into the Individual Education Plan and these professionals will be invited to contribute to the monitoring and review of progress. The Individual Education Plan will have fresh targets and strategies which should be implemented at least in part in the normal classroom setting. If a pupil demonstrates significant cause for concern, the school may request a statutory assessment. Whilst the statutory assessment is being carried out, the pupil will continue to receive **School Action Plus** provision.

Statements

A number of pupils may have **statements** of SEN. In addition to the regular review of their I.E.P.s, their progress and the specific support outlined in their statement will be reviewed annually and a report provided for the Local Education Authority. When pupils are due to transfer to the next phase (in most cases Ferndown Middle School), planning for this will be started in the year prior to the year of transfer. Transfer meetings will be held to discuss the needs of these children with the teachers and S.E.N.C.O. at the next school.

If a pupil makes sufficient progress, a statement may be discontinued by the Education Authority.

Complaints procedures

The schools' complaint procedures are set out in the school prospectus. Under the SEN and Disability Act 2001 parents may seek advice on resolving disagreements from the LEA and/or the Independent Mediation Service. The school will make further information about this process available on request.

Arrangements for training and development of all staff including Support Assistants and Midday Assistants

The school makes an annual audit of training needs for all staff taking into account school priorities as well as personal professional development. The school is allocated funding from the Standards Fund each year which it may use to meet identified needs. Particular support will be given to Newly Qualified Teachers and other new members of staff.

Special needs training is included within all school training. In addition staff attend training organised by the LEA and other agencies e.g. universities.

Arrangements for partnership with parents

The school will always tell parents when their child is receiving help for their SEN.

Partnership with parents plays a key role in enabling pupils and young people with SEN to achieve their potential. The school recognises that parents hold key information and have knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of a child's needs and the best ways of supporting them. All parents of pupils with special educational needs will be treated as partners and are encouraged to play an active and valued role in their child's education.

The school will provide information about the Parent Partnership Service to all parents of pupils with special educational needs. Parents of any pupil identified with SEN may contact the Parent Partnership Service for independent support and advice.

The child's class teacher will work closely with parents at all stages in his /her education and should always be the first port of call in case of difficulty. If parents have concerns about the progress of their child they should first talk to the class teacher. Following on from this the child's class teacher may like to arrange an appointment with the S.E.N.C.O. if they think it will help parents to understand the child's need, or the S.E.N. procedure. Parents are invited to attend all review meetings.

Pupil participation

Pupils and young people with special educational needs often have a unique knowledge of their own needs and circumstances and their own views about what sort of help they would like to help them make the most of their education. They will be encouraged to participate in all the decision-making processes including the setting of learning targets and contributing to Individual Education Plans, discussions about choice of schools and transition processes.

HOW? Pupil interviews, questionnaires, self -evaluation (pictures, written answers), making choices. Whilst pupils are still very young or immature, however, their needs and targets may just be shared with them in an informal discussion, so that they can be made aware of their targets in a way that does not damage their self esteem.

Links with other mainstream schools and special schools

Advanced planning for pupils in Year 4 is essential to allow appropriate options to be considered. The SENCO will liaise with the SENCOs of the middle schools serving the area to ensure that effective arrangements are in place to support pupils at the time of transfer.

When pupils move to another school their records will be transferred to the next school within 15 days of the pupil ceasing to be registered, as required under the Education (Pupil Information) Regulations 2000.

Links with other agencies and voluntary organisations.

External support services play an important part in helping the school identify, assess and make provision for pupils with special education needs.

The school receives regular visits from the nominated Education Welfare Officer and Educational Psychologist for the area. In addition the school may seek advice from specialist advisory teaching services for pupils with sensory impairment or physical difficulties.

- Liaison meetings with the Playgroup Leaders are held to ensure a smooth start to school for pupils in the Foundation Stage
- The speech and language therapist contributes to the reviews of pupils with significant speech and language difficulties.
- Regular meetings and drop in sessions are held with the school nurse.

Success Criteria

The success of the education offered to children with SEN will be judged against the aims set out above. The policy will be reviewed annually.

All children will have demonstrated measurable progress. In evaluating the effectiveness of its SEN policy, Governors have set additional targets.

- All pupils of an appropriate level of maturity with SEN will be invited to contribute to the planning and review of their IEP and their views will be recorded.
- All school policies will be reviewed to ensure that the requirements of the Disability Discrimination legislation are met.

Appendix 1

The following legislation and guidance is also relevant to this policy:

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| Education Act 1996 | <i>This legislation is amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001. The SEN Code incorporates references to relevant sections of the Act.</i> |
| School Standards and Framework Act 1998 | <i>Section 42 requires that governing body's annual report includes information on the implementation of the SEN policy.</i> |
| SEN and Disability Act 2001 | <i>Amends both the Education Act 1996 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995</i> |
| Funding for Inclusion Dorset Dorset CC | <i>2005</i> |
| SEN Toolkit | <i>2001</i> |
| Inclusive schooling – pupils with special educational needs | <i>2001</i> |
| The Education (SEN) (England) Regulations 2001 | <i>Annex A of SEN Code sets out what must be included in the SEN policy</i> |
| The Education (SEN) (Information) (England) Regulations 1999 | <i>1999</i> |
| The Special Educational Needs (Provision of information by Local Education Authorities) (England) Regulations 2001 | <i>2001 Sets out LEAs' duties to publish information on funding, SEN policy and specific action being taken on SEN issues.</i> |
| Disability Discrimination Act 1995 | <i>As amended by the SEN and Disability Act 2001</i> |
| Disability Rights Code of Practice | <i>Dorset CC</i> |

Appendix 2

Code of Practice Definition of Special Educational Needs

For the purposes of this policy we have used the term Special Educational Needs as defined by the Code of Practice.

- A child has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. (*Code of Practice D.F.E. 1993*)

Pupils have a learning difficulty if they:

- a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of pupils of the same age; or
- b) have a disability which prevents or hinders the child from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for pupils of the same age in schools within the area of the local education authority
- c) are under compulsory school age and fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them.

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

Special educational provision means:

- a) for pupils of two or over, educational provision which is additional to, or otherwise different from, the educational provision made generally for pupils of their age in schools maintained by the LEA, other than special schools, in the area
- b) for pupils under two, educational provision of any kind

See Section 312, Education Act 1996

Definition of Disability

“A child is disabled if he is blind, deaf or dumb or suffers from a mental disorder of any kind or is substantially and permanently handicapped by illness, injury or congenital deformity or such other disability as may be prescribed”

See Section 17(11), Pupils Act 1989

“A person has a disability for the purposes of this Act if he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.”

See Section 1(1), Disability Discrimination Act 1995

It should be noted that pupils may fall within one or more of these definitions. Pupils with a disability will have special educational needs if they have any difficulty accessing education and if they need any special educational provision made for them.

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