



Bishop Walsh
Catholic School

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy

Adopted by Academy Committee June 2015

Reviewed by	Date
Review by J Killworth	June 2015
Ratified by Pastoral Committee (SDPW)	22 nd June 2015

Bishop Walsh Catholic School SEND Policy

“For surely I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord, “plans for your welfare and not for harm, to give you a future with hope.” Jeremiah 29:11

MISSION STATEMENT

‘Caring to Learn and Learning to Care’

At Bishop Walsh Catholic School we believe that all children have the right to the highest quality of education according to their needs. We provide a graduated approach to support pupils with special educational needs and or disability. This policy outlines the purpose, nature and management of special educational needs and or disability within our school.

1. PRINCIPLES AND PROCEDURES

Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disability (Code of Practice: 0 to 25 April 2014):

The main changes from the SEN Code of Practice (2001) reflect the principles introduced by the Children and Families Act 2014. The Code of Practice (2014) covers the 0-25 age range and includes guidance relating to disabled children and young people as well as those with SEN. The Code of Practice (2014) states that 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 him or her.

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her 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.

NB: Post-16 institutions often use the term learning difficulties and disabilities (LDD). The term SEN is used in this Code across the 0-25 age range but includes LDD.

2. EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

All pupils are worthy of equality of opportunity and are entitled to a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, appropriate to their individual needs, talents and personal qualities, as stated in the 2010 Equality Act.

3. ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

The school's published admissions policy is based on the agreed Diocesan guidelines and states clearly that the Academy Committee of Bishop Walsh Catholic School will always give priority to Catholic children. At no time will such children be refused admission on the grounds that they have special educational needs

and or disability. The school actively supports inclusion. The academy committee welcome applications from parents of children with special needs of any kind. The staff will liaise with parents and previous settings to ensure that Bishop Walsh can fully meet the child's needs and can prepare appropriately.

If a child is transferring into the school with a statement, or has been receiving extra support from Birmingham local authority centrally funded resources in their previous school, the continuation of this support will be negotiated with the appropriate officer of the local authority to ensure that their needs can be met.

Parents of a child with SEND needs (without a statement), who wish to apply for a place at Bishop Walsh, will have their application considered by the academy committee, with equal opportunity under the admissions criteria.

4. OBJECTIVES

The objectives of our policy are to help every child to achieve his/her maximum potential through careful and considered provision by:

- Ensuring that all children with SEND have those needs addressed.
- Ensuring that those children with learning difficulties have the greatest possible access to all subjects prescribed under the National Curriculum
- Providing suitable differentiated work, where necessary, within these subjects for children with SEND. Every class teacher is a teacher of Special Educational Needs.
- Ensuring identification of children who may have learning problems at the earliest possible stage.
- Meeting the needs of these children within the school wherever possible, and utilise the assistance of outside agencies for advice and support.
- Implementing the 2014 Code of Practice in full and ensuring that all staff are aware of its contents.
- Involving children and parents/carers in the identification and review of the targets set for individual children. This follows the guidance set out in the Code of Practice, April 2014, which states that "children, their parents and young people are involved in discussions and decisions about their individual support and about local provision."
- Promoting the inclusion of children with SEND into mainstream school where appropriate.
- Including all children in all activities of the school, ensuring that as far as possible children with disabilities are not placed at any disadvantage in relation to those who are not disabled.

5. THE MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WITHIN THE SCHOOL

The Academy Committee Representatives

At Bishop Walsh Catholic School the SEND Representative is Mr Peter McCann.

The academy committee must do its best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has SEND. Alongside the Principal they:

- determine the school's general policy and approach to provision for children with SEND
- establish appropriate staffing and funding arrangements
- are up-to-date and knowledgeable about the school's SEND provision, including how funding, equipment and personnel resources are deployed;
- ensure the SEND provision is an integral part of the School Improvement Plan and the school's self-evaluation process
- ensure that the quality of SEND provision is continually monitored

- Nominate and provide a Special Needs Representative to liaise with the SENCO and the Principal.

The Principal

The Principal has overall responsibility for the 2014 Code of Practice. In conjunction with the academy committee, the Principal will determine the appropriate staffing and funding arrangements, advise and inform committee representatives of SEND issues, appoint a SEND co-ordinator and ensure the school meets its SEND responsibilities. The Principal is also responsible for requesting statutory assessment/EHC plans (replacing the statement of educational need).

The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator

The revised Code of Practice makes it clear that the SENCO plays a pivotal role in co-ordinating effective educational provision for children with special educational needs.

At Bishop Walsh the SENCO is Mrs Killworth

The responsibilities of the SENCO include:

- Overseeing the day to day operation of the school's SEND policy
- Co-ordinating provision for children with SEND.
- Liaising with and advising colleagues and offering support and good practice.
- Advising and working with Learning and Progress Assistants.
- Overseeing the records of all SEND pupils and maintaining a register.
- Liaising with the parents of children with SEND.
- Contributing to the in-service training of staff.
- Liaising with external agencies, including educational support services, medical and social services and voluntary organisations and psychological services, involved with children with SEND.
- Ensuring that pupil profiles record that which is additional to, or different from, the differentiated curriculum.
- Keeping the Principal informed on issues concerning pupils with learning difficulties.
- Termly meetings to draw up a contract with Pupil and School Support.
- Developing links with the SEND academy committee representative.
- Monitoring the progress of children with SEND and reporting findings to the Principal and academy committee.
- To negotiate and agree a budget for SEND with the Principal.
- Ensuring early identification of vulnerable and under achieving groups.
- Monitoring and evaluating SEND provision management within the school.

The Class Teacher

The responsibilities of the class teacher are:

- To inform the SENCO about a child with learning difficulties beyond those which can be addressed within quality first teaching. Quality first teaching is that which is differentiated and personalised to meet the individual needs of the majority of children and young people. This is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEND, as outlined in the 2014 Code of Practice.
- Where a pupil is identified as having SEND, the class teacher will take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place.
- To consult with parents about concerns
- To contribute feedback to the reviewing of pupil profiles and provision for children with SEND support, statements or EHC plans.
- To carry out the strategies outlined in a child's pupil profiles
- To plan and monitor work in conjunction with the SENCO which may also be carried out by support staff

Support Staff:

The responsibilities of support staff are:

- To implement work set by the leadership team, SENCO or class teacher and ensure the child is following the targets on their pupil profile and keep appropriate records of provision.

The school's staff has a corporate responsibility for children with SEND. Teachers have a specific duty to adapt the curriculum to meet the entitlements of children with special educational needs, as stated in the 2012 Teachers Standards. All staff are involved in the development of the school's SEND policy and are aware of the procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for children with special educational needs and or disability.

6. IDENTIFICATION

At Bishop Walsh children are identified as having SEN through a variety of ways including the following:

- Liaison with the previous educational setting
- Tracking information – is the child performing below age expected levels
- School based assessment
- Concerns raised by parents
- Concern raised by school staff
- Concern raised by pupil
- Liaison with external agencies
- Health diagnosis

The school currently follows the guidance contained in the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice (April 2014). This recommends a graduated approach.

The code does not assume that there are hard and fast categories of special educational need, but recognises that children's needs and requirements may fall within or across four broad areas. These are:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, mental and emotional health
- Sensory and/or physical

Communication and interaction

Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile for every child with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.

Children and young people with an Autism Spectrum Disorder, including Asperger's Syndrome and Autism, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication, social interaction and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

Cognition and learning

Support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication,

through to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment.

Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

Social, emotional and mental health difficulties

Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.

Sensory and/or physical needs

Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time. Many children and young people with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning. Children and young people with an MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties, which makes it even more difficult for them to access the curriculum or study programme than for those with a single sensory impairment.

Some children and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional on-going support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

Where possible we will try to meet every child's needs within the classroom through ensuring that our planning, teaching and approaches meet the needs of the majority of the children in our school. However, where through careful identification and assessment we and/or the parents/carers determine that a child is not making adequate progress, the class teacher will consult the SENCO.

These are pupils who need interventions **additional to** or **different from** those provided through - **Quality First Teaching** and **intervention groups**.

Our procedures are designed to offer a graduated approach to SEND in line with the SEN Code of Practice 2014 including the following stages:

TEACHER ACTION

An informal stage where class teachers will review the strategies and approaches that are currently being used and the way these might be developed. (These will be noted by the class teacher on the school's SEND referral form):

This review will:

- identify a concern about a pupil's progress
- gather available information about the pupil
- discuss strategies for providing appropriate work for the pupil with the SENCO/ Assistant SENCO
- seek to discuss concerns with the pupil's parents/carers review progress

Following a period of additional provision (at least half a term) the teacher action is reviewed.

If the review leads to the conclusion that the child needs help over and above that which is normally available within the class (quality first teaching) the referral will be escalated to the formal stage of 'SEN Support'.

SEN Support

In identifying a child as needing 'SEN Support' the class or subject teachers, working with the SENCO and parents, will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. This will draw on the teacher's assessment and experience of the pupil, their previous progress and attainment, as well as information from the school's core approach to pupil progress, attainment, and behaviour. It will also draw on other subject teachers' assessments where relevant, the individual's development in comparison to their peers and national data, the views and experience of parents, the pupil's own views and, if relevant, advice from external support services. We will take seriously any concerns raised by a parent. These will be recorded and compared to our own assessment and information on how the pupil is developing.

The class teacher remains responsible for working with the pupil on a daily basis and for planning and delivering targets on a pupil profile in conjunction with the Learning and Progress Assistants.

The SENCO, Assistant SENCO or Learning and Progress Assistants will discuss and review the pupil profile with the pupil and parent once a term, (Pupil Profile Reviews) and provide interventions that are **additional to or different from** those provided as part of the normal differentiated work of the class. The updated Pupil Profile will then be shared with all staff and updated information / targets highlighted.

Reviews of SEN pupils' progress should be held once a term, but can be more frequent if necessary. The review will discuss the outcomes of the Pupil Profiles and decide whether the pupil has:

- Made sufficient progress to be removed from the SEN Register;
- Maintained sufficient progress to remain on a similar programme.
- Made insufficient progress and needs a change of resources, teaching style or may require more support.
- Made insufficient progress and needs outside professionals to liaise with school to help inform the progress of the individual. Parental permission is needed for children to be assessed individually by outside agencies.
- Decide upon new targets for the next Pupil Profile.

This support follows a graduated approach as outlined in the SEN Code of Practice 2014 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review'. We will move students from the 'SEN Support' category if insufficient progress is made.

Provision plan/EHC Plans from Sept 2014

The next step will be to liaise with parents, pupils, staff and outside agencies to create a 'Provision Plan'. When reviewing this it may be necessary to draw up an application for an 'Education and Health Care Plan' and to identify a CRISP profile as to whether additional funding is required. For further information on SEN categories and funding please see the 'SEND Report' on our school website.

7. THE ALLOCATION OF RESOURCES

The Principal, with the academy committee, maintains an overview of resources (human and teaching materials) designed to specifically meet the needs of SEND children. They decide upon the amount of money to be allocated to SEN each year.

Funding is provided through the main school SEN notional budget and CRISP profiles of children who meet LA criteria for Special Educational Needs and or Disability. Young people and parents of children who have EHC plans have the right to request a 'Personal Budget', which may contain elements of education, social care and health funding guided by Birmingham Local Authority. Funding may be used to provide learning assistant support and teaching materials/programs. Learning and progress assistants are deployed appropriately across the school based on the level of need within each cohort.

The annual budget for SEND resources is spent at the discretion of the SENCO and the Principle. This SEN budget is also used to provide:

- Training for all teachers and assistants so that they can meet children's needs more effectively;
- Appropriate books and equipment (including ICT);
- Funding is also provided for the involvement of outside agencies.

- CPD/Inset for staff as required within the school.

NB Extra consideration regarding access arrangements in assessments and exams will be given to pupils based on their individual needs in line with requirements from DFE/JCQ.

8. EXTERNAL AGENCIES

Close links are maintained with the LA and voluntary support services in order to ensure that the school makes appropriate provision for children with SEND. Where it is necessary to contact outside agencies, the SENCO will usually make the necessary arrangements and discuss with parents/carers accordingly. These agencies normally include the Educational Psychology Service, Pupil and School Support, Communication and Autism Team, CAMHS and other health services. Any or all of these agencies may be involved in the provision, delivery or review of individual targets in order to ensure children's attainment is raised.

9. TRANSITION

We encourage all new children to visit the school prior to starting. For children with SEND we would encourage further visits to assist with the acclimatisation of the new surroundings. We may also visit them in their current school, attend review meetings and liaise with the appropriate staff. We run a specifically tailored programme to aid transition for the more vulnerable pupils.

- We liaise closely with staff when receiving and transferring children to different classes or schools ensuring all relevant paperwork is passed on and all needs are discussed and understood.
- If your child has complex needs then a review meeting will be used as a transition meeting during which we will invite staff from both schools to attend.
- Pupils with EHC Plans, when considering change of placement may need extra meetings with staff and relevant agencies.
- For students identified as 'SEN Support' or with an EHC plan from year 9 onwards have in-depth transition planning with pupils and parents involving our careers officer (Sarah Forsyth), Connexions and other agencies involved with the individual.

10. PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Parents/carers are important partners in the effective working relationship with the school in raising their child's attainment. They are fully involved in the identification, assessment and decision-making process in the school. Parents/carers' contribution to their child's education is valued highly by the staff of the school. Parents/carers are encouraged to involve their child in the decision-making processes, including recording children's views and implementing and reviewing the pupil profile. The school will also update parents/carers with relevant information. Annually the schools will review their own SEND report with parental consultation. (See school website and local authority website)

11. COMPLAINTS

There is a clear stepped approach that parents should take when making a complaint. This is outlined in our school Complaints Policy, which can be found on our school website: www.bishopwalsh.net