



# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) POLICY

NORTHBOURNE.SP.025

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Northbourne CE (A) Primary School

Cockcroft Road,  
Didcot  
OX11 8LJ

## Special Educational Needs (SEN) Policy

High quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised will meet the individual needs of the majority of children. Some children need educational provision that is additional and different to this. This is special educational provision under Section 21 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

A child has special educational needs (SEN) if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

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

- 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

### 1.1 Aims and objectives

The Governors and staff of this school believe in 'nurturing excellence' through an inspiring curriculum that develops the unique talents of all our children, helping them to learn about themselves and the world around them and learning and growing together within the Christian story. We will do this through children, families and staff working together in a committed partnership.

We aim to:

- create motivated and successful learners
- encourage aspiration and high expectations
- provide positive challenge
- prepare children for life in a rapidly changing world
- work within and alongside our community
- provide a safe environment for children to learn and grow

### 1.2 Roles and Responsibilities

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

#### Governors

The Governors of the school, together with the Headteacher, have a legal responsibility for overseeing all aspects of the school's work, including provision for children with special educational needs, and for doing their best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs. They should determine the school's general policy and approach to provision for children with special educational needs and establish the appropriate staffing and funding arrangements.

An appointed representative from the governing body is actively involved in self-review, with the Headteacher and SENCo, of the provision for children with special needs and implementation of the policy within the school. The Governor with responsibility for SEN is Mrs. Jane Basey.

#### SENCo

The Special Educational Needs Coordinator is Rob Woods. He works closely with all staff, the Headteacher, parents and outside agencies ensuring the best possible provision for children with special educational needs.

He is responsible for:

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy
- coordinating provision for children with SEN
- ensuring the involvement of parents and guardians from an early stage and liaising with parents of pupils with SEN
- advising on a graduated approach to providing SEN support, liaising with and advising other members of staff
- helping to identify children with special educational needs, assessing and planning for progress
- maintaining the school's special needs register
- advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- liaising with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies
- being a key point of contact with external agencies, especially the local authority and its support agencies
- liaising with potential and next providers of education to ensure a pupil and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- managing named teaching assistants
- supporting the professional development of teaching assistants
- regularly liaising with the governors' representative

### **Headteacher**

The Headteacher has overall responsibility for the management of provision for children with special educational needs and keeps the governing body fully informed and works closely with the SENCo. He is also responsible for acting as the Designated teacher for Children We Care For (previously Looked After Children) with SEN.

### **Teaching staff and Teaching Assistants**

Class teachers are involved in the development of the school's SEN policy and implement the procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEN, including planning for differentiation. The identification of SEN is built into the overall approach to monitoring the progress and development of pupils. Class teachers are responsible for working with children on a daily basis and closely monitor children involved in interventions away from the main class. Teachers work closely with teaching assistants to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

### **1.3 Co-ordinating and Managing Provision**

The SENCo meets with class teachers to give support and advice. SEN policy and provision are discussed regularly at both staff and SLT meetings in order to raise the achievement of children with SEN. Special needs provision is an integral part of the School Development Plan. The SENCo oversees the provision using provision mapping. The SENCo provides advice to teaching assistants, and contributes to evaluating the impact of this. There is opportunity for informal daily contact between staff to discuss concerns.

Parents/guardians are kept informed by class teachers and are encouraged to be involved in the support of their child whenever possible. The SENCo also liaises with parents and pupils with statements or Education, Health and Care Plans including through the Annual Review which the SENCo will attend. Where there is a concern that parents need extra support, the Headteacher may refer them to the Home School Link Worker and/or the Locality Community Support Service (LCSS). If the situation becomes more worrying, the Early Help process may be used to identify areas for change and engage support from other professionals. Please refer to the Safeguarding Children Policy for further information.

Northbourne CE Primary School strives to be a fully inclusive school. It acknowledges the range of issues to be taken account of in the process of development. All pupils are welcome, including those with special educational needs, in

accordance with the LA Admissions Policy. According to the Education Act 1996, (Section 316), the school will admit a child with a statement or Education, Health and Care Plan subject to the wishes of their parent unless this is incompatible with the efficient education of other children, and there are no reasonable steps that can be taken to prevent the incompatibility.

### **1.4 Specialisms and special facilities**

Children's specific needs are discussed with parents/guardians when admission to school is requested. The previous school and support agencies are contacted should this be appropriate. All staff have responsibility for teaching children with learning difficulties/disabilities and should any specialist advice be required, this will be arranged.

The school has access for wheelchairs. Suitable toilet facilities are available. Where a child has a disability the SENCo and class teachers make sure that all adults are informed about effective management strategies and that other children are made aware as appropriate. Advice is sought from outside agencies on how best to provide for the child's needs and this advice is accessible to the adults working with the child. Arrangements are made to allow as much independence as possible, but with support available as and when necessary.

The SENCo and Governor with responsibility for special needs liaise regularly to discuss provision within the school for all children with SEN.

Staff training is undertaken in various aspects of SEN according to the needs of the children to ensure that the provision made and support given to pupils is appropriate and effective. The training needs of the staff including TAs are reviewed as part of the CPD process in school.

## **2. Identification, Assessment and Provision**

### **2.1 Allocation of resources**

All schools in Oxfordshire receive funding for pupils with SEN in three main ways:

- The base budget (element 1 funding) covers teaching and curriculum expenses as well as the cost of the SENCo.
- The notional SEN budget (element 2 funding) covers the additional educational support required.
- Specific funds may be allocated to pupils with statements or Education, Health and Care Plans.

Northbourne School, as part of normal budget planning, has a strategic approach to using resources to support the progress of pupils with SEN. Northbourne CE Primary School provides additional support up to the nationally prescribed threshold per pupil per year. Where the cost of special educational provision required to meet the needs of an individual pupil exceeds this threshold, schools are not expected to meet the full costs of more expensive special educational provision from their core funding. The Local Authority may provide top-up funding.

### **2.2 Identification, assessment and review**

The progress of children is assessed at regular intervals by staff as part of the school's tracking process. Where progress is slow, the first response is high quality targeted teaching. Slow progress and low attainment do not necessarily mean that a child has SEN. All those working with children are alert to emerging difficulties and respond early.

In deciding whether to make special educational provision, the Headteacher and SENCo consider all the information gathered from within the school about the pupil's progress, alongside national data and expectations of progress.

Where more specific assessment is deemed to be necessary, this will be carried out by the SENCo, who may then involve other professionals from outside the school. The information gathering will include an early discussion with the pupils and their parents. Northbourne CE Primary School recognises that parents know their children best and we ensure we listen to and understand when parents express concerns about their child's development. Consideration of whether special educational provision is required starts with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment and the views and wishes of their parents.

When a child is identified as needing SEN support, school employs a graduated approach of Assess-Plan-Do-Review adopting the recommended model for Special Educational Needs as set out in the Code of Practice (DfE 2014). The LA SEN Guidance is used as a guide for the identification, assessment and provision for SEN, and the forms provided are used for record-keeping. A register of pupils with SEN is kept as a legal requirement.

Criteria for identifying SEN may include:

- A child's early history and/or parental concern
- Low entry profile
- Low outcomes at the end of the Foundation Stage
- A pupil's lack of progress despite receiving a differentiated curriculum
- Low achievement in the National Curriculum i.e. significantly below the suggested level for their age
- Requiring greater attention in class due to behavioural/learning difficulties
- Requiring specialist material/equipment or support for sensory/physical problems

The SENCo and the class teacher, together with specialists, and involving the pupils and parents, consider a range of teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions in order to support the child's progress. Outcomes are agreed and progress reviewed regularly.

Where, despite the school providing SEN support, a child has not made expected progress, school and parents may consider requesting an Education, Health and Care assessment by the local authority. The LA will expect to see evidence of the action taken by the school as part of SEN support.

Reviews for children receiving SEN support are held four times a year: a target-setting meeting in September, and then three reviews (before Christmas, Easter and the end of the summer) led by the child's class teacher. They provide an opportunity for parents to share their concerns and, together with the child and teacher, agree aspirations for the pupil as well as monitoring the progress being made against previously agreed targets.

## **2.3 Provision**

Provision for children with SEN is additional to or different from those provided as part of the school's usual differentiated curriculum and strategies. It is a graduated response to children's individual needs. Such provision is recorded in the child's Record of Educational Provision.

## **2.4 Request for Education, Health and Care Plan**

The school will request an Education, Health and Care Plan from the Local Authority (LA) when, despite an individualised programme of sustained intervention, the pupil remains a significant cause for concern. An Education, Health and Care Plan might also be requested by a parent or outside agency.

An Education, Health and Care Plan will normally be provided where, after an Educational Health Care Needs Assessment, the LA considers the pupil requires provision beyond what the school can offer. However, the school

recognises that a request for an Educational Health Care Needs Assessment does not inevitably lead to an Education, Health and Care Plan.

## 2.5 Categories of Special Educational Need

Children's needs and requirements fall into four broad areas, but individual pupils may well have needs which span two or more areas. For example, a pupil with general learning difficulties may also have communication difficulties or a sensory impairment.

Communication and interaction	Speech, Language and Communication needs Autistic Spectrum Disorder including Aspergers and Autism
Cognition and Learning	Learning difficulties Specific Learning Difficulties e.g. dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia
Social, emotional and mental health difficulties	Behaviour reflecting underlying mental health difficulties (e.g. anxiety, depression) Attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD), attachment disorder
Sensory and/or physical	Hearing Impairment Visual impairment Physical disability Multi-sensory impairment

## 2.6 Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Where children with SEN also have medical needs, their provision is planned and delivered in a co-ordinated way with the healthcare plan. School has regard for the statutory guidance supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (DfE, 2014).

## 2.7 Curriculum access and inclusion

Northbourne CE (A) Primary School strives to be an inclusive school, engendering a sense of community and belonging through its:

- Inclusive ethos
- Broad and balanced curriculum for all pupils
- Systems for early identification of barriers to learning and participation
- High expectations and suitable targets for all children

## 2.8 Evaluating effectiveness

Parents/guardians, staff and pupils meet regularly, both formally and informally, to plan outcomes, review and, as necessary, adapt provision and celebrate success. The effectiveness of the school's SEN Policy and provision is evaluated through:

- Monitoring of classroom practice by SENCo and subject coordinators
- Analysis of pupil tracking data and test results – for individual pupils and for cohorts
- Progress data for pupils on the SEN register

- Monitoring of procedures and practice by the SEN governor three times a year
- School self-evaluation
- Monitoring the quality of Record of Educational Provision and review meetings
- The School Development and Raising Attainment Plan

## **2.9 Complaints procedure**

If a parent or guardian is concerned about SEN provision for their child, initial contact should be made with the class teacher. A meeting will be arranged, which may include the Headteacher and/or SENCo, to discuss the concern. Parents can request an appointment with the Headteacher directly. The Parent Partnership Service is available to support parents in meetings concerning their child's progress and welfare.

In the event of a formal complaint concerning SEN provision, parents/guardians are advised to contact the Headteacher and follow the Oxfordshire LA procedure in the first instance. Parents may also contact the Governing Body. Government publications regarding parents' rights are available in school.

## **3. Partnership within and beyond the school**

### **3.1 Staff development**

The school is committed to gaining further expertise in the area of Special Needs education. Current training includes school-based whole school INSET, training sessions for TAs and lunchtime supervisors, SENCo and TA group meetings, attendance at County meetings and the reading and discussion of documents on SEN. Staff meetings are arranged to respond to the particular needs of the school.

Arrangements for the induction of ECTs and new staff into the school's policy and SEN procedures are detailed in the Staff Handbook.

### **3.2 Links with other agencies, organisations and support services**

The school is able to call upon the expertise of a wide range of support services. These support services are consulted after discussions with the Headteacher or SENCo, and with the full agreement of parents. For assessment and advice from most of these services a request form must be filled in first then additional information may be required e.g. the service's own checklist, and information about strategies already in use. The SENCo holds contact addresses and request forms for other agencies and support services.

### **3.3 Partnership with parents**

Our school believes that good communication between parents/guardians and staff is essential so that parents can share their knowledge and expertise about their child. This is important in enabling children with special educational needs to achieve their potential. Parents are always welcome to visit the school to discuss any concerns about their child with the class teacher, at a mutually agreed time. There is opportunity for parents to discuss their child's needs, progress and strengths at the child's SEN Review meetings. Parents are involved in the initial identification of their child's needs and are always part of the review process to monitor provision and progress. Wherever possible, parents are involved in any strategies instigated, and we aim to support parents with their child's difficulties if necessary. Parents are consulted and permission sought before involving outside agencies in the assessment of a child's progress or behaviour. Information about the Parent Partnership Service is given to parents so they may use it

if they wish, and information is available for parents of children with learning difficulties/disabilities in school. Parents have right of access to records concerning their child.

### **3.4 The voice of the child**

All children are encouraged to participate in discussions about their learning and to feel that their views are valued right from the start of their education. At Northbourne CE Primary School we encourage pupils to participate in their learning through discussion with teachers in advance of the review meeting or by being present for at least part of review meetings, depending on their level of maturity, to share their wishes and feelings with families and staff. This is difficult for some children, so it is important to recognise success and achievements as part of the review process as well as addressing any difficulties. Pupils are encouraged to take part in the reviews and be part of the evaluation of their successes and needs.

### **3.5 Transfer arrangements**

The SENCo, class teachers and Headteacher liaise over the internal transfer of pupils with SEN. Placements are considered carefully in order to meet a child's particular needs, and pupils visit their new class before transfer.

Y6 children transferring to local secondary schools ordinarily have the chance to visit their new school. Children with special needs which might make the transfer more difficult than it would normally be are invited to take part in additional visits, sometimes accompanied by teaching assistants or staff from Northbourne. Representatives from the Secondary Schools visit to talk with the children. The SENCo and Year 6 teachers liaise over the transfer procedure and when transfer is local, meetings are arranged between the appropriate staff. At all times of transition, SEN information is gathered together and records transferred to the new teacher or school.

For pupils with Statements or Education, Health and Care Plans, the child's statement should be amended in the light of recommendations of the annual review by 15th February in the year of transfer to ensure that time is available to make necessary transfer arrangements re needs and provision. The SENCo of the receiving school will be invited to the final annual review in primary schools of pupils with statements or Education, Health and Care Plans where the particular school has been named.

### **Monitoring and Review**

The implementation of this policy will be monitored by the SEN Governor. This policy will be updated in line with new initiatives together with any streamlining of school processes. This policy will typically be reviewed annually.