



Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy

This policy is informed by the following legislation and aims to reflect the inclusive philosophy of our school.

- Special Educational Needs and Disability code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (2015)
- The Equality Act (2010) & The Children's Act (1989)
- The Disability Discrimination Act (1995)
- Removing Barriers to Achievement (2004)
- Special Educational Needs and Disability Act 2001 (including 2005 amendments to the Disability Discrimination Act). Teacher's standards (2012) LA Policy and Guidelines.
- School Admission Policy
- Purston Infant School SEN Information Report

Rationale

Purston Infant School is committed to providing an education that includes and stimulates all children, as we value each child as a unique individual. We have children with a wide range of abilities and different needs and endeavour to inspire them all through a culture of high aspirations and a love of learning. We support and value the abilities of all children and are committed to inclusion within the school curriculum and participation in all aspects of school life. We recognise that some children will need extra support and adaptations to access the school curriculum and are committed to providing them with the opportunities to reach their full potential. This policy gives details of our approach and the action we may take to support the children in our care.

Aims

- Adopt a whole school approach to the identification, assessment and provision for children with special educational needs (SEND).
- View our SEND provision as an ongoing, developing process.
- To identify at the earliest opportunity, all children that need special consideration to support their needs.
- Ensure that teaching staff raise the aspirations, expectations and achievement for all children with SEND.
- Incorporate Special Educational Needs procedures including Support Me to Learn Plans (SMTLP), My Support Plans and Education Health Care Plans into curriculum planning and make suitable provision for children with SEND to fully develop their abilities, interests and aptitudes and gain maximum access to the curriculum.
- To develop and work in effective partnerships with parents, children and relevant external agencies in order to provide effective high-quality provision for children with special educational needs.
- To work within a 'person centred approach' fostering and promoting effective collaboration with children, parents and outside agencies.
- Ensure that assessment and record-keeping systems provide adequate means of recording attainment and achievement and give sufficient information for carefully planned progression.

- Help all children achieve to the best of their abilities, despite any difficulty or disability they may have and give every child the entitlement to a sense of achievement.
- Ensure that all children with SEND are fully included in all activities of the school in order to promote the highest levels of achievement.
- To work within the guidance of the SEND code of Practice (2015).
- To develop existing skills of all staff in the identification, assessment of and provision for pupils with SEND and to provide training and support as appropriate.
- To promote self-worth and enthusiasm by encouraging independence at all age and ability levels.
- To regularly review the policy and practice in order to achieve best practice.

Roles and Responsibilities

The Governing Body

The Governing Body, in consultation with the Headteacher, determines the school's general policy and approach to provision for children with SEND, establishes the appropriate staffing and funding arrangements and maintains a general overview of the school's work.

The Governing Body, having regard to the Code of Practice:

- Ensures appropriate provision is made for any child with SEND.
- Reports annually to parents on the school's policy for children with SEND.
- Ensures all children, including those with SEND have access to a broad, balanced and appropriately differentiated curriculum.
- Appoints a representative of the governing body to oversee SEND provision.
- Ensures discussions with parents regarding SEND matters are held.

The Headteacher

The Headteacher is responsible for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the school's work, including provision for Special Educational Needs. The Headteacher, in liaison with the SENCO, keeps the Governing Body informed of all developments with regard to SEND.

The SENCO

Mrs A Gascoyne is our SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator). She works with the Headteacher and staff to oversee the provision for children with special educational needs.

The key responsibilities of the SENCO include:

- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEND policy.
- Coordinating provision for children with SEND.
- Liaising with the relevant Designated Teacher where a Child in Care (CIC) has SEND.
- Advising on the Graduated Approach to providing SEND support.
- Advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet children's needs effectively.
- Liaising with parents of children with SEND.
- Liaising with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies.
- Being a key point of contact with external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services.
- Liaising with potential next providers of education to ensure a child and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned.
- Working with the headteacher and school governors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Ensuring that the school keeps the records of all children with SEND accurate and up to date.

Teachers

All staff are aware of the school's procedure for identifying, assessing, monitoring and making provision for children with special educational needs. They carry out these procedures with children in their class, under the direction of the SENCO.

As outlined in the Code of Practice (2015) we aim to use our best endeavours to ensure that such provision is made for those who need it. 'Special educational provision is underpinned by high quality teaching and is compromised by anything less'.

Quality First Teaching

All children should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

All teachers have a responsibility to:

- Use appropriate assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious.
- Plan lessons to address potential areas of difficulty and remove barriers to achievement. In many cases, such planning will mean that children with SEN and disabilities will be able to study the full national curriculum.
- Maintain records and assessments for children with SEND.
- Plan for provision and scaffolding.
- Provide SMTLPs in liaison with support staff, children, parents and carers and SENCO (when necessary).

All Teaching Assistants have a responsibility to:

- Liaise and plan with teachers and SENCO for the provision of children with SEND.

- Record/report on provision and progression of children.

Definition of Special Educational Needs (As stated in the Code of Practice 2015)

A child has SEND when their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, that is provision different from or additional to that normally available to children of the same age. Making higher quality teaching normally available to the whole class is likely to mean that fewer children will require such support. Such improvements in whole-class provision tend to be more cost effective and sustainable.

Broad areas of need (As outlined in the SEND Code of Practice 2015)

Children's needs and requirements may fall into at least one of four areas though many children will have inter-related needs. All areas of need will have a varying degree of impact upon the child's ability to function, learn and succeed. Children experiencing difficulties in any one or a combination of these areas may be entered on either the school's Medical Register or SEND Register or both. Children whose difficulties are solely due to home language differing from the language in which s/he is taught are not identified as having SEND.

Communication and Interaction

Children 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 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 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 (SLD), 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

Children 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.

Our School has clear processes to support children, including how we manage any disruptive behaviour so it does not adversely affect other pupils (see Behaviour Policy).

Hearing, Vision & Physical

Some children 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 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 with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers. (See Accessibility Plan for further details)

SEND Support in School

Where a child is identified as having SEND at Purston, we take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. It is particularly important that there is no delay in making any necessary special educational provision. Early action to address identified needs is critical to the future progress and improved outcomes that are essential in helping the child to prepare for adult life. This SEND support may take the form of a four-part cycle (assess, plan, do, review) through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the child's needs and of what supports the child in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as **the graduated approach**. It draws on more detailed approaches, more frequent review and more specialist expertise in successive cycles in order to match interventions to the SEND of children.

The Graduated Approach

School Support

Children of all abilities are supported through high **quality first teaching**. Where a child is seen to have additional needs school may provide additional support such as:

- Additional small group support with a teacher or a Teaching Assistant.
- Additional resources/Intervention groups e.g. word banks, number squares, Time to Talk, Musical Interaction and Co-operative games.
- Teaching activities to be adapted to the preferred learning style of the child, e.g. a multi-sensory, practical approach or use of visual cues.
- Use of ICT to support learning.
- Individual behaviour systems/charts.
- Sensory breaks.
- Scaffolding of the Curriculum or classroom.
- Alternative methods of recording e.g. pictures, cut and stick activities, ICT.

Support Me to Learn Plans (SMTLPs)

Children identified as having a Special Educational Need will have a SMTLP which includes important information the child and family would like any staff working with their child to know which include short term targets set for the child's progress. These are reflected in teacher's planning and reviewed termly. All relevant personnel and interested parties are invited to contribute to the review process.

SEND Support

Where a child continues to make less than expected progress, despite evidence-based support and interventions that are matched to the child's area of need, our school will consider involving specialists and completing a 'My support Plan'.

Involving specialists

School may involve specialists at any point to advice on early identification of SEND and effective support and interventions. School should always involve a specialist where a child continues to make little or no progress over a sustained period or where they continue to work at levels substantially below those expected of children of a similar age despite evidence-based SEND support delivered by appropriately trained staff. Children and parents will be involved in any decision to involve specialists. The involvement of specialists and what was discussed or agreed will be recorded and shared with parents and teaching staff supporting the child in the same way as other SEND support.

Where assessment indicates that support from specialist services is required, it is important that children receive it as quickly as possible. The school works with a range of external agencies and uses them effectively to support children with SEND. These include:

- Educational Psychology Service
- Learning Support Service
- Speech and Language Therapy
- Sensory Support Service including Visual and Hearing Impairment Team
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Team
- Communication and Interaction Team

- Advisory Teachers for support/advice on areas such as specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyspraxia, dyscalculia
- Occupational Therapy
- Educational Welfare Officer
- CAMHS (Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services)
- School Nurse
- Other medical professionals

My Support Plan

For children who have SMTLP's and receive support from other specialist professionals a 'My Support Plan' may be completed. The My Support Plan draws together the views of the child, parents, school and professionals. It details targets and outcomes to support the child's learning and development and may indicate ways in which our school can best meet the child's needs.

Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP)

For children who have a significant and/or complex level of need, as assessed by school staff and outside agencies, we will speak to parents to ask them whether they will give consent for the initiation of an Education, Health and Care Plan (this only applies to a very small number of children, approximately 2%)

The majority of children with SEN or disabilities will have their needs met within local mainstream early years settings or schools. Some children and young people in our setting may require an EHC needs assessment in order for the local authority to decide whether it is necessary for it to make provision in accordance with an EHC plan.

The purpose of the EHC plan is to make special educational provision to meet the special educational needs of the child, to secure improved outcomes for them across education, health and social care and, as they get older, prepare them for adulthood.

An EHC needs assessment will not always lead to an EHC plan. The information gathered during an EHC needs assessment may indicate ways in which our school can meet the child needs without an EHC plan.

Following a request for an EHC needs assessment, or the child having otherwise been brought to its attention, the local authority **must** determine whether an EHC needs assessment is necessary. The local authority **must** make a decision and communicate the decision to the child's parents or to the young person within 6 weeks of receiving the request.

Reviewing an EHC plan

EHC plans will be used to actively monitor children's progress towards their outcomes and long-term aspirations. They **must** be reviewed by the local authority as a minimum every 12 months.

The Four-Part Cycle

This process underpins our practice.

Assess

In identifying a child needing SEND support the class teacher, working with the SENCo, may carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. This should 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. If the individual's development in comparison to their peers and national data, the views and experience of parents, the child's own views and, if relevant, advice from external support services. Schools will take seriously any concerns raised by a parent. These will be recorded and compared to assessment and information on how the child is developing. This assessment should be reviewed termly.

In some cases, outside professionals from health or social services may already be involved with the child. These professionals should liaise with school to help inform our assessments.

Plan

Where it is decided to provide a child with SEND support, the parents **will** be formally notified, although parents should have already been involved in forming the assessment of needs as outlined above. All teachers and support staff who work with the child will be made aware of their needs. The support and intervention provided should be selected to meet the outcomes identified for the child.

Parents, via review meetings, should be fully aware of the planned support and interventions.

Do

The class teacher is responsible for working with the child on a daily basis. Where the interventions involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class, they still retain responsibility for the child. The class teacher will work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the child's progress will be reviewed termly. The impact and quality of the support and interventions will be evaluated, along with the views of the child and their parents.

Parents and Carer Participation

At Purston we actively encourage and recognise the rights of parents and carers in terms of their involvement in the provision of their child's special educational needs.

With reference to the graduated response, we work in partnership with the parent or carer in decision making regarding the methods by which their child's needs will be met.

Child Participation

At Purston we actively encourage the involvement of children in their education. We aim to further develop the child's self-confidence and self-esteem and encourage the child to comment on SEND provision using an appropriate medium.

This approach is often referred to as a **person-centred approach**. By using this approach within a family context, professionals and local authorities can ensure that children and parents are involved in all aspects of planning and decision-making.

Confidentiality and Information Sharing

The school, and all members of staff at the school, will ensure that all data about children is handled in accordance with the requirements of the law, and any national and local guidance.

Any member of staff who has access to sensitive information about a child or the child's family must take all reasonable steps to ensure that such information is only disclosed to those people who need to know.

Regardless of the duty of confidentiality, if any member of staff has reason to believe that a child may be suffering harm, or be at risk of harm, their duty is to forward this information without delay to the designated member of staff for child protection.

All teachers have a SEND file which must be kept up to date by Class Teachers. These are kept in an accessible but secure place. An electronic system is also used to store confidential documents.

Confidential information is kept by the Headteacher or SENCO in a secure place.

Admissions

Where a child or young person has SEND but does not have an EHC plan they **must** be educated in a mainstream setting except in specific circumstances (see below). The School Admissions Code of Practice requires children and young people with SEND to be treated fairly. Admissions authorities:

Must consider applications from parents of children who have SEND who do not have an EHC plan on the basis of the school's published admissions criteria as part of normal admissions procedures.

Must not refuse to admit a child who has SEND but does not have an EHC plan because they do not feel able to cater for those needs.

Must not refuse to admit a child on the grounds that they do not have an EHC plan.

Transition

We liaise with feeder nurseries and PVI settings to ensure smooth transition of children with SEND. We also value the importance of developing effective relationships feeder junior schools particularly St Thomas Junior School, to which the majority of our children transfer. When a child moves to another primary school all relevant information including Support Me To Learn Plans is forwarded as soon as possible.

Local Authority Network Meetings

'The SEND Information Report' and statutory requirements of SEND provision in school. Mrs A Gascoyne then feeds back information to other school staff. Changes to policy will be referred to the Headteacher and Governing Body.

Staff Training

All teaching and support staff are given opportunities to improve their practice and develop their understanding of SEND issues through a comprehensive system of staff training. Some training is carried out within school during Staff meetings, INSET Days and other training is external.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Review of SEND Policy and Guidelines

This policy will be monitored and reviewed by the SENDco, Headteacher and Governing Body.

Signed: *Alison Gascoyne* - SENDco

Signed: *Philip Barnett* - Headteacher

Signed: *Alan Johnson* - Chair of Governors

Signed: *TBC* - SEND Governor