

GISBURN ROAD C.P. SCHOOL BARNOLDSWICK

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY POLICY



DATE AGREED: JANUARY 2025

REVIEW DATE: JANUARY 2026 (ANNUALLY)

Gisburn Road CP School

Policy for Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)



INTRODUCTION

- The school's SENCo is Mrs S Whittaker
- Email: senco@gisburnroad.lancs.sch.uk
- Mrs Whittaker is a member of the senior leadership team (SLT)
- Mrs Whitaker completed the SENDCo award in July 2024

This policy explains how Gisburn Road C Primary School makes provision for pupils with SEND, in line with the school ethos and with current legislative requirements (SEND Code of Practice 2015, Equality Act 2010)

Definition of Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.

These needs can be categorised in four key areas that may create barriers to learning:

- Communication and interaction;
- Cognition and learning;
- Social, emotional and mental health difficulties;
- Sensory and/or physical needs.

A student has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of students of the same age;
- Has a disability, which prevents or hinders the child from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

Parents requiring further information about the provision for SEND in the school should, in the first instance, talk to their child's class teacher or contact the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCo).

The SEN Information Report and School's Contribution to the Local Offer provides much greater detail on the context of the school and the provision for children with SEND and should be read in conjunction with this policy. **The SEN Information Report and School's Contribution to the Local Offer is available from the school office and the school's website:**

<https://www.gisburnroad.com>

Gisburn Road is a mainstream school. We believe that every teacher is a teacher of every child or young person, including those with SEND. If children are not able to 'learn the way we teach' then we must 'teach the way they learn'. Good practice for pupils with special educational needs is good practice for all.

POLICY AIMS

- Our school community aims to provide an education that develops all children to their full potential within a safe, happy and creative environment. We believe that people learn best in different ways. At our school, we provide a rich and varied learning environment that allows all children to develop their skills and abilities to their full potential.
- We aim to maintain an ethos that encourages a life-long enthusiasm for learning and fosters mutual respect for people of all faiths and cultures. Each child is encouraged to be the best version of themselves.
- We are committed to meeting the special educational needs of pupils and ensuring that they make good progress and reach their full potential. This is achieved through targeted and focused provision with maximum impact, building confidence and self-esteem. We aim to raise the aspirations of and expectations for all pupils with additional or special educational needs.
- This policy aims to provide full access to the National Curriculum and to encourage success and participation for all pupils, whatever their level of ability.

POLICY OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve these aims, we will:

- Use our best endeavours to make sure that a child with SEND gets the support they need;
- Ensure that students with SEND engage in activities alongside those students who do not have SEND;
- Identify pupils with SEN as early as possible and to make appropriate intervention through using appropriate teaching methods;
- Identify pupils of all ability who are underachieving, act upon this and support pupils to make optimum progress.
- Provide a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) who will work with the SEND Policy;
- Provide support and advice for all staff working with special educational needs pupils;
- Develop partnerships with parents / carers in the education of their child and involve parents /carers and pupils in the review process;
- Produce an annual SEN Information Report.

IDENTIFYING SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The identification of SEN is built into the overall approach to monitoring the progress and development of all pupils through the school's Policy on Teaching and Learning;

It is really important that in school we identify pupils who experience difficulties accessing learning and general school life opportunities early. This is achieved through continual use of classroom observations and assessments of all pupils. Progress is tracked on a termly basis and where appropriate, more frequently than this. The SENCo liaises closely with the subject leaders to analyse data and individually track pupils who are experiencing difficulties.

Class teachers discuss any concerns with the SENCo and Subject leaders. If further action is deemed necessary, the parents are informed immediately. All criteria for defining Special Educational Needs are in accordance with Lancashire Education Authority policy.

Despite appropriate, good quality teaching, intervention and differentiated learning experiences, taking into account the child's age and stage of development, triggers for identification of a Special Educational Need could be:

- Little or no progress made when teaching approaches/learning styles are particularly targeted to improve the child's identified area of need;
- Working continues at levels significantly below those expected for a child of a similar age in certain areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage or in literacy and mathematics skills resulting in poor attainment in some framework or curriculum areas;
- Communication or interaction difficulties which create barriers to learning and specific interventions are needed;
- Social, emotional or mental health problems which are not improved by the techniques normally employed in the nurturing environment of the school;
- Sensory or physical problems create barriers to progress despite the provision of personal aids or specialist equipment.

If, following several weeks of additional support, the child continues to experience difficulties, the school may, with parental permission, seek the advice of external agencies such as Acorn Psychology and Support Services, the Special Educational Needs and Disability Service (SENDs) or similar. Additionally, some children may receive support from our National Health Service colleagues e.g. Speech Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Child & Adolescent Mental Health Services etc. Any plans shared with the school by these agencies are carried out by staff within school in liaison with the appropriate agency.

Factors which are NOT SEN but may affect a child's progress and attainment are taken into consideration and adaptations are made accordingly. These may include:

- A disability under the Equality Act 2010 - all reasonable adjustments will be made in order that they can access the full curriculum.
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant
- Being a Looked After Child
- Being a child of Serviceman/woman

Persistent disruptive or withdrawn behaviour does not necessarily mean that a young person has SEN. Any concerns over a pupil's behaviour will be investigated on the premise that the behaviour is an underlying response to a need. This may be a learning difficulty or another factor, as noted above. School staff will endeavour to recognise and quickly identify the reasons for the behaviour and take all reasonable steps to address the root cause.


THE GRADUATED APPROACH TO SEN SUPPORT: Assess - Plan - Do - Review


The key principles:

- All class teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff. All

children are included in all lessons through an ethos of Quality First Teaching which is adapted to respond to their strengths and needs, as set out in the Teachers' Standards (updated 2021);

- High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. However, despite this, some children need additional help to make progress in their learning;
- Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching;
- Pupils are only identified as SEN if they do not make adequate progress once they have been given good quality personalised teaching, access to adaptations and intervention;
- Pupils who join school (either from an Early Years setting or another Primary School) with an already identified SEND will be catered for in the same way as those identified by this school;
- When planning work for children with special educational needs, teachers give due regard to information and targets contained in the children's Individual Education Plans (IEPs), Personalised Provision Plans (PPPs) and or Pupil support plans. Additionally, teachers modify teaching and learning as appropriate for children with disabilities.

	What	Who	How
ASSESS 	Initial Concern	Parents / School	Professional Dialogue Discussions with Parents Learning Walks Pupil Progress Meetings
	Classroom adaptations and/or targeted support in class	Class teacher Teaching Assistants	Examples may include: Classroom Positioning Organisations Aids (Task Ladder etc) Coloured Overlays Focus Group with CT/TA
	Targeted and time-limited small group interventions	Teaching Assistants under the direction of the Class Teacher	Usually in withdrawal for limited periods Extra Provision is Recorded – this is known as 'Provision Mapping'
	Further information gathered	Parents / pupil / colleagues / SENCo	Professional Dialogue Discussions with Parents
	Possible further adaptations and/or additional targeted support in class	Class teacher Teaching Assistants SENCo / Inclusion Lead	
	Observation and or additional assessments	SENCo	Examples may include: YARC and/or BPVS, CTOPP-2 etc

	What	Who	Notes
 PLAN	Parents informed of intention to make additional provision	Class Teacher	Meeting if possible Telephone call
	Pupil added to SEN register	SENCo	
	SEN Pupil Profile created	Class teacher / Parents / SENCo / Pupil	This is an overview of a pupil's additional needs

Individual Education Plan (IEP) written (usually*) with 1, 2 or 3 Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Realistic, Timed (SMART) targets OR Personalised Provision Plan (PPP) for higher needs children	Class teacher with support from SENCo.	Parents are involved throughout the IEP/PPP process. They are encouraged to help pupils to meet their targets and are kept informed when targets are met and/or adjusted.
--	--	---

* For some children with additional needs, an IEP may not be necessary. This will be decided when the SEN Pupil Profile is written.

	What	Who	When
DO ↓	1:1 teaching towards IEP targets or Delivery of Personalise Curriculum through PPP	IEPs delivered by TA, supervised by Class Teacher. PPP – all staff	Little and often, as specified on the IEP or PPP delivered throughout the day
	Progress towards IEP targets monitored	TA, supervised by Class Teacher. Pupils are involved in this process	Weekly (Through the Weekly Monitoring Sheet). Checked by CT every 2-3 weeks
	Revision of IEP targets Revision of PPP	Class Teacher	As and when necessary (when targets met or adjusted)
	Teachers and/or Teaching Assistants access Continuing Professional Development courses to enhance their understanding of a specific difficulty relating to a child in their class	Class Teachers (Need identified by CT, SENCo and/or Senior Leadership)	When appropriate

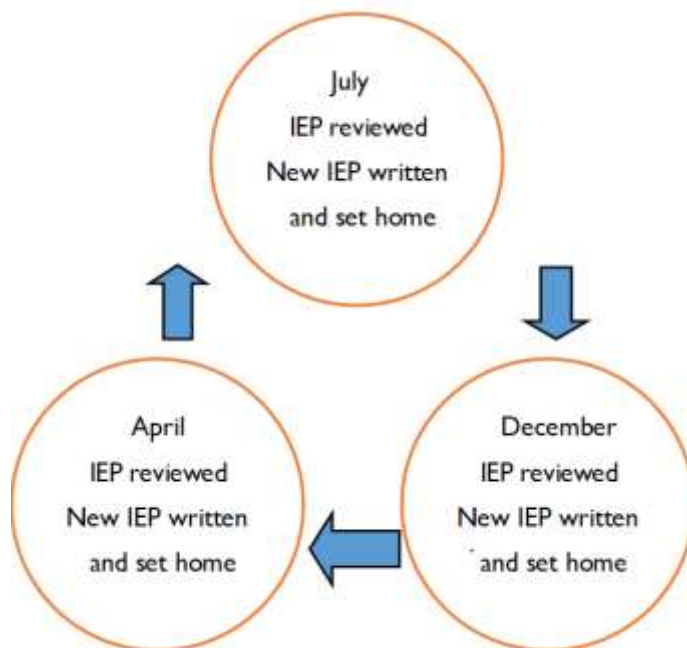
	What	Who	Notes
REVIEW	Full review of IEP 3 times per year (See below) PPP reviewed on a regular basis, as agreed at time of writing.	Class teacher (informed by weekly monitoring)	Evaluations of IEPs sent home to parents. Evaluation of PPP shared with parents
	SEN Pupil Profile updated annually	Class teacher / Parents / SENCo / Pupil	Significant changes mid-year will also result in an update.

At any point in the Review Process, there are several possible outcomes:

	Outcome	Next Steps	Notes
OUTCOMES OF REVIEW	Progress is accelerated and provision needed to maintain this is commensurate with peers	Needs can now be met through classroom differentiation, adaptations and/ or intervention Removed from SEN register	Professional dialogue between teachers and SENCo and/or consideration at Pupil Progress Meetings before decision to remove from SEN register is made. Evaluation shared and parents informed.

Progress is good but additional provision needs to continue	New IEP/PPP written Continue with cycle to next review	Evaluation and new IEP/PPP shared with parents
Progress remains slow / inadequate despite the use of evidence based approaches and well matched interventions.	With the permission of parents, school will refer the pupil for specialised assessments and advice from external agencies and professionals.	Where a pupil has a pre-existing recognised difficulty (for example: speech and language difficulty or autistic spectrum condition), the expertise of external agencies and professionals may, with parental permission, be sought at an earlier stage.
Despite the school having taken the relevant action to identify, assess and meet the needs of a pupil (as above), the pupil has not made expected progress	The school is unable to fully meet the needs of the pupil through its own provision arrangements*. School and parents/carers should consider applying for an EHC Needs Assessment.	Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP) are the replacement for Statements of Special Educational Needs.

The IEP Cycle



PROVISION AND PROVISION MAPPING

The provision which the school makes is fully detailed in the SEN Information Report and School's Contribution to the Local Offer which is available from the school office or on the website: <https://www.gisburnroad.com/>

- Provision for any pupil with an existing EHCP will be in accordance with their EHCP.
- Any additional provision for all children (whether or not they have SEND) is carefully recorded ('mapped') by the Senior Leadership Team. Concurrently, the progress of all children who are receiving additional provision is carefully tracked. This information is then scrutinised by the Senior Leadership Team and SENCo to ensure that the effectiveness and efficiency of provision is maximised.

- Pupils will have access to this provision on an evidenced-needs basis and we will endeavour to ensure all pupils' needs are fully met. However, occasionally we may identify that we are unable to fully meet the needs of a pupil through our own provision arrangements. In these circumstances, a request for Education Health and Care Needs Assessment may be made to the Local Authority and/or an assessment of the unmet needs may be carried out through the EHA (Early Help Assessment). Both of these processes involve parents, the pupil and all agencies working with the pupil (and their family, where appropriate).

SUPPORTING PUPILS AND FAMILIES

- The Local Authority's Local Offer (Regulation 53, Part 4) may be found at www.lancashire.gov.uk/SEND. This links back to the school's SEN Information Report and School's contribution to the Local Offer, which details how the school works with, and supports, families of pupils with SEND. It also details other arrangements such as access to Statutory Assessment Tests (SATs) and transition to high schools;
- The Local Authority's Local Offer also includes links to many other agencies which can support families and pupils;
- Parents and carers are valued and their contribution in terms of identification and support for pupils with SEN is fully recognised. Parents/carers are always welcome to discuss any matter relating to their child's progress. The arrangements to keep parents informed about matters relating to SEND (as described in this policy), are additional to the standard methods of reporting and consulting available to all parents;
- The school's statutory SEN Information Report (Regulation 51, Part 3, section 69(3)(a) of the Act) is available on the school website;
- Pupils with special educational needs will be admitted to school in line with the school's admissions policy. The school is aware of the statutory requirements with regard to SEND and will meet these requirements. The school will use induction meetings to work closely with parents to ascertain whether a pupil has been identified as having special educational needs or a disability. If the school is alerted to the fact that a pupil may have SEND, we will endeavour to collect all relevant information and plan a relevant differentiated curriculum.

SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

- The school recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some children with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010;
- Pupils who have medical needs may require intervention and support from staff in school and will have a Care Plan written for them, in liaison with the Health Service and the parents. This ensures a safe, agreed set of principles and procedures to ensure the pupil's needs are fully met and all health and safety arrangements have been addressed. If appropriate, a Medical Information Card with the pupil's photograph, stating emergency procedures and contact details will be included in the front of the class register and further details will be held in a secure location in the school office;
- Some pupils may also have special educational needs (SEN) and may have an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision and the SEND Code of Practice (2015) is followed. Provision will be made for these pupils in accordance with their EHCP.
- The school's policy for supporting pupils with medical conditions can be obtained from the school office.

CHILDREN LOOKED AFTER (CLA) BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY

- Pupils who are being looked after by the local authority may require intervention and support from staff in school and will have a Personal Education Plan written for them, in liaison with the Social Services.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SEND

- The SENCo, via the Head teacher, reports annually on the efficient and effective use of resources for pupils identified as having SEND through evaluation of the SEN Information Report;
- The monitoring and evaluation of progress of pupils with SEND is detailed in the Graduated Approach section (above);
- For pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan, annual reviews (6 monthly for under 5s) are carried out in accordance with the appropriate legislation and the SEND Code of Practice;
- The Head teacher and SENCo collect and analyse tracking data for all pupils on the SEND register and use this, in conjunction with information gathered from other sources (SEND learning walks, professional dialogue, discussions with pupils and parents etc) to inform the evaluation of the effectiveness of the provision;
- The SENCo liaises with the SEN Governor once per term and they jointly produce a report on the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision;

TRAINING AND RESOURCES

- The overall level of funding (the Notional Budget) for SEN is delegated to the school by the LA and is identified in the school budget statement. This amount is not ring-fenced;
- The responsibility for determining the amount of resource for SEN lies with the school Governors who will seek advice from the Head teacher;
- The resources for SEND are used to provide teaching assistants, specific training on SEND and specialist resources. The costs of the SENCo are met from the main school budget;
- In order to maintain and develop the quality of teaching and provision to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils, all staff are encouraged to undertake training and development. All teaching staff and teaching assistants will be provided with general or specific training on meeting the needs of SEND within their classroom. The SENCo is aware of relevant courses within the local area relating to SEND. All staff to have access to this information and the SENCo advises as necessary;
- Whole school training on SEND is arranged, as appropriate and teaching assistants are invited;
- There is an expectation that staff who receive training will disseminate their knowledge to others to benefit all working in SEND;
- All teachers and support staff undertake induction on taking up a post and this includes a meeting with the SENCo to explain the systems and structures in place around the school's SEND provision and practice and to discuss the needs of individual pupils.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- The Governors must have regard for the Code of Practice (Children and Families Act 2014, part 3) when carrying out their duties towards all students with SEND;
- The Governors and Head teacher are responsible for the school's policy and approach to meeting students' special educational needs and disabilities;

- The Head teacher is the school's "responsible person" and manages the school's special educational needs work. The Head teacher will keep the Governing Body informed of the special educational needs provision made by the school;
- The SENCo is responsible for keeping a register of pupils with SEND and updating this; supporting teachers in writing Individual Education Plans (IEPs) or Personalised Provision Plans (PPPs) and assessing pupil progress; purchasing and organising resources; liaising with external agencies; making referrals; ensuring that appropriate records are kept; supporting the transition of pupils with SEND into the school and into high school; liaising with the SEN Governor and preparing appropriate reports; liaising with non-teaching staff in relation to SEN;
- Teaching Assistants are a valuable part of the support for students with SEND. They work under the direction of the class teacher to deliver targeted 1:1 teaching, as detailed in a child's IEP and focused in-class support whilst encouraging independence.

STORING AND MANAGING INFORMATION

- Documents relating to children with SEND are stored in a locked cupboard in school, on an encrypted electronic storage device and the online Microsoft SharePoint and CPOMs systems, as appropriate. Access to such documents is limited to only those who need them. All records relating to children who have left are passed to the new school as soon as is practical.
- Please refer to GDPR Statement.

REVIEWING THE POLICY

- This policy will be reviewed on an annual basis. The process of review will involve the SENCo, the SEND Governor, the Chair of Governors and the Head teacher. Review of the policy will take into account:
 - The progress made by students with SEND at the school;
 - The success of the school at including students with SEND;
 - Any recommendations from Ofsted or the LA about improving practice;
 - Any factual changes, such as names of personnel.

ACCESSIBILITY

- A lift is available outside the children's centre to ensure access to the grounds and building for all.
- The school's accessibility plan is available from the school office;
- Further detail on the school's accessibility (including curriculum, written and physical accessibility) can be found in the SEN Information Report and School's Contribution to the Local Offer;
- School operates an Open Door policy so parents can contact the school office (01282 812287) at any time throughout the day to arrange an appointment to see a member of staff. Teaching staff are usually available every morning before school and every afternoon immediately after school without prior appointment.

DEALING WITH COMPLAINTS

- If a parent of a pupil with SEND is concerned about the provision that school is making for them, they should, in the first instance, refer the matter to the pupil's class teacher and/or the SENCo.

- Reference should be made to the school's Complaints Policy should further action be deemed necessary. We aim to deal with any complaints at the earliest opportunity in accordance with the complaints policy.

BULLYING

- The school's Anti-Bullying Policy is available from the website or the school office.
- Further details about how the school keeps children with SEND safe can be found in the SEN Information Report and School's Contribution to the Local Offer on our web-site.

Adopted: January 2025

To be reviewed : January 2026