



# St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN) POLICY

### MISSION STATEMENT

Let it be known to all who enter here that Christ is the reason for this school, the unseen but ever present teacher in all its classes, the model for its children, the inspiration for its staff.

**Love and Learn in the Footsteps of Christ.**

### LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

This Policy complies with the guidance given in **Statutory Instrument : Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations (Clause 65)**. It has been written as guidance for staff, parents or carers and children with reference to the following guidance and documents:

SEN Code of Practice (which takes account of the SEN provisions of the SEN and Disability Act 2001) September 2014;  
Ofsted Section 5 Inspection Framework August 16;

Ofsted SEN Review 2010 "A Statement is not enough";

Equality Act 2010;

Children and Families Act 2014.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** This school provides a broad and balanced curriculum for all children. The National Curriculum is our starting point for planning that meets the specific needs of individuals and groups of children. When planning, teachers set suitable learning challenges and respond to children's diverse learning needs. A minority of children has particular learning and assessment requirements that could create barriers to learning.
- 1.2** These requirements are likely to arise as a consequence of a child having special educational needs. Teachers take account of these requirements and make provision, where necessary, to support individuals or groups of children and thus enable them to participate effectively in curriculum and assessment activities.
- 1.3** Children may have special educational needs either throughout, or at any time during, their school career. This Policy ensures that curriculum planning and assessment for children with special educational needs takes account of the type and extent of the difficulty experienced by the child.



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## 2 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

### 2.1 The aims of this Policy are:

- to provide curriculum access for all;
- to secure high levels of achievement for all;
- to meet individual needs through a wide range of provision;
- to attain high levels of satisfaction and participation from pupils, parent and carers;
- to carefully map provision for all vulnerable learners to ensure that staffing deployment, resource allocation and choice of intervention is leading to good learning outcomes;
- to ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need, through well targeted continuing professional development;
- to work in co-operative and productive partnership with the Local Authority and other outside agencies to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners;
- to “promote children’s self-esteem and emotional well-being and help them to form and maintain worthwhile relationships based on respect for themselves and others”. (National Curriculum, 2014).

The Headteacher and the Governing Body have delegated the responsibility for the ongoing implementation of this Inclusion Policy to the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO).

The SENCO is responsible for reporting regularly to the Headteacher and the Governor with responsibility for SEN on the ongoing effectiveness of this Inclusion Policy.

The Ethnic Minority Achievement (EMA) Co-ordinator has strategic responsibility for the inclusion of children who have English as an Additional Language (EAL) and the achievement of vulnerable ethnic minority groups (this role may be also included within the SENCO role).

The Designated Teacher for Looked After Children has strategic responsibility for the inclusion of children who are adopted or in Local Authority care.

**All staff in school have a responsibility for maximising achievement and opportunity of vulnerable learners** – specifically, all teachers are teachers of pupils with special educational needs and EAL. Staff are aware of their responsibilities towards all vulnerable learners and a positive and sensitive attitude is shown towards all pupils at all times.



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**The name and contact details of the SEN Co-ordinator:**

***Sue Seaholme & Alice Scally***

***SENCO@stjosephs775.herts.sch.uk***

***0208 428-5371***

## **3 EDUCATIONAL INCLUSION**

**3.1** Through appropriate curricular provision, we respect the fact that children:

- have different educational and behavioural needs and aspirations;
- require different strategies for learning;
- acquire, assimilate and communicate information at different rates;
- need a range of different teaching approaches and experiences.

**3.2** Teachers respond to children's needs by:

- providing support for children who need help with communication, language and literacy;
- planning to develop children's understanding through the use of all available senses and experiences;
- planning for children's full participation in learning, and in physical and practical activities;
- helping children to manage their behaviour and to take part in learning effectively and safely;
- helping individuals to manage their emotions, particularly trauma or stress, and to take part in learning.

## **4 SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL PROVISION (SEP)**

*'Special Educational Provision is education or training provision that is additional to, or different from that made generally for others of the same age.'*

### **4.1 Four Categories of SEN**

#### **Communication and interaction**

- Speech, language and communication needs (SCLN)

#### **Cognition and Learning**

- Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), Profound and Multiple Difficulties (PMLD) and Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD)



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## Social, Mental and Emotional Health

- Immature social skills or behaviour/conduct disorders

## Sensory and/or Physical

- Visual Impairment (VI), Hearing Impairment (HI), Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI) or Physical Disability (PD).

- 4.2** Children with special educational needs have learning difficulties that call for special provision to be made. All children may have special needs at some time in their lives.

In agreeing our staged arrangements, the school has taken into account the following statements and definitions:

*“Defining achievement in terms of the number of targets on an individual education plan achieved across a given time rarely ensured rigorous evaluation of provision or pupils’ progress. What made the difference to higher outcomes was effective target-setting within the curriculum or personalised programme as part of a whole-school policy on assessment.”*

**‘Inclusion: does it matter where pupils are taught?’ (Ofsted, 2006a)**

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

**SEN Code Of Practice (2014: Para 1.24)**

*“This is not necessarily “more literacy” or “more maths” but would be interventions which address the underlying learning needs of the pupil in order to improve his or her access to the curriculum.”*

**“Achievement for All” (National Strategies : 2009)**

*“Across all the education providers visited, the keys to good outcomes were good teaching and learning, close tracking, rigorous monitoring of progress with intervention quickly put in place, and a thorough evaluation of the impact of additional provision.”*

**Ofsted SEN Review 2010**



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*“Ensuring that schools are clear about their provision that is normally available for all children, including targeted help routinely provided for those falling behind and the additional provision they make for those with SEN, should simplify the process of planning the right help at school level” (p68)*

**SEN Code of Practice 2014**

**Wave 1 Well-differentiated, quality first teaching, including, where appropriate, the use of small group interventions. All vulnerable learners to be included on a whole-school provision map.**

- All learners will have access to quality first teaching.
- Some vulnerable learners will have access to carefully differentiated activities or approaches directly related to the school curriculum which are part of our good practice in making teaching and learning accessible to pupils learning at different rates. These will probably be pupils who are underachieving and have been identified by the school as needing to make accelerated progress but will not necessarily be pupils with special educational needs. This is considered to be a differentiation of the usual school curriculum – not a special intervention for pupils with SEN.
- All vulnerable learners will be included on a detailed whole-school provision map which outlines and monitors all additional intervention across the school. The whole school provision map enables the school to:
  - plan strategically to meet pupils’ identified needs and track their provision;
  - audit how well provision matches need;
  - recognise gaps in provision;
  - highlight repetitive or ineffective use of resources;
  - cost provision effectively;
  - demonstrate accountability for financial efficiency;
  - demonstrate to all staff how support is deployed;
  - inform parents, LA, external agencies and Ofsted about resource deployment;
  - focus attention on whole-school issues of learning and teaching as well as individual needs, providing an important tool for self-evaluation.

## **Identification and Assessment at Wave 1**

Children’s needs should be identified and met as early as possible through:



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- the analysis of data including entry profiles, Foundation Stage Profile scores, reading ages, other whole-school pupil progress data;
- classroom-based assessment and monitoring arrangements. (Cycle of planning, action and review.);
- following up parental concerns;
- tracking individual children's progress over time;
- liaison with feeder nurseries on transfer;
- information from previous schools;
- information from other services;
- maintaining a provision map for all vulnerable learners but which clearly identifies pupils receiving additional SEN Support from the school's devolved budget or in receipt of High Needs funding. This provision map is updated termly through meetings between the teachers and SENCO;
- undertaking, when necessary, a more in depth individual assessment - this may include a range of commercially available assessments, carefully chosen to deliver appropriate, useful information on a pupil's needs. It may include a bilingual assessment where English is not the first language;
- involving an external agency where it is suspected that a special educational need is significant.

## **Curriculum Access and Provision for vulnerable learners**

Where children are underachieving and/or identified as having special educational needs, the school provides for these additional needs in a variety of ways and might use a combination of these approaches to address targets identified for individual pupils:

- teachers differentiate work as part of quality first teaching;
- small group withdrawal time (limited and carefully monitored to ensure curriculum entitlement is not compromised);
- individual class support / individual withdrawal;
- Reading Recovery;
- further differentiation of resources;
- Graduated Process of Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans tutorials

## **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of our provision for vulnerable learners is carried out in the following ways:

- classroom observation by the SENCO and senior leaders;
- ongoing assessment of progress made by intervention groups;
- work sampling on a termly basis;
- scrutiny of planning;
- teacher interviews with the SENCO;



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- informal feedback from all staff;.
- pupil interviews when setting new Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans targets or reviewing existing targets;
- pupil progress tracking using assessment data (whole-school processes)
- monitoring Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans and targets, evaluating the impact of Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans on pupils' progress;
- attendance records and liaison with Attendance Improvement Officer;
- regular meetings about pupils' progress between the SENCO and the Headteacher;
- Headteacher's report to parents and governors.

## Wave 2 Additional SEN Support

- Pupils will be offered additional SEN support when it is clear that their needs require intervention which is "additional to" or "different from" the well-differentiated curriculum offer for all pupils in the school ie they have a special educational need as defined by the SEN Code of Practice 2014.
- Under-achieving pupils and pupils with EAL who do not have SEN will **not** be placed on the list of pupils being offered additional SEN support (but will be on the school's provision map).
- In keeping with all vulnerable learners, intervention for pupils on the SEN list will be identified and tracked using the whole-school provision map.
- It may be decided that a very small number (but not\_all) of the pupils on the SEN list will require additional Exceptional Needs funding, for which an application needs to be made to the Local Authority, to ensure their underlying special educational need is being addressed. This may particularly be the case where outside agencies have been involved in assessing the pupil or contributing to their provision.
- Where a pupil has a significant, severe and sustained need, it may be necessary to enter a multi-disciplinary assessment process with health and social care in order to consider the need for an Education Health and Care Plan.
- Our approach to Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans, which we recognise are prescribed in the SEN Code of Practice 2014, is as follows:



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- Our Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans are a planning, teaching and reviewing tool which enables us to focus on particular areas of development for pupils with special educational needs. They are seen as working document which can be constantly refined and amended.
- Our Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans will only record that which is *additional to* or *different from* the differentiated curriculum plan which is in place as part of provision for all children. Targets will address the underlying reasons why a pupil is having difficulty with learning.
- Our Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans will be accessible to all those involved in their implementation – pupils should have an understanding and “ownership of the targets”.
- Our Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans will be based on informed assessment and will include the input of outside agencies.
- Our Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans have been devised so that they are manageable and easily monitored and therefore will be monitored and evaluated regularly.
- Our Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans will be reviewed termly.
- Our Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans will have a maximum of three medium term SMART targets set for or by the pupil.
- Our Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans will state what the learner is going to learn.
- Targets for an Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans will be arrived at through:
  - discussion between teacher and SENCO;
  - discussion, wherever possible, with parents/carers and pupil;
  - discussion with another professional;
  - our Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans will be reviewed at least termly by class teachers in consultation with the SENCO.

## **Stage 3 Statement of Special Educational Needs or Education Health and Care Plan**

- Pupils with a Statement of Educational Needs (pre September 2014) or an Education Health and Care Plan (post September 2014) will have access to all arrangements for pupils on the SEN list (above) and, in addition to this, will have an Annual Review of their statement/plan.
- Our school will comply with all local arrangements and procedures when applying for
  - Exceptional Needs Cluster Funding
  - an Education Health and Care Plan





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and will ensure that all pre-requisites for application have been met through ambitious and pro-active additional SEN Support using our devolved budget at an earlier stage.

- Our review procedures fully comply with those recommended in Section 6.15 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and with local HCC policy and guidance - particularly with regard to the timescales set out within the process.

## 5 Role and Responsibilities

### 5.1 Headteacher

- The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of all pupils and for making strategic decisions which will maximise their opportunity to learn.
- The Headteacher and the Governing Body will delegate the day to day implementation of this policy to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) and Ethnic Minority Achievement Co-ordinator.
- The Headteacher will be informed of the progress of all vulnerable learners and any issues with regard to the school's provision in this regard through:
  - analysis of the whole-school pupil progress tracking system
  - maintenance and analysis of a whole-school provision map for vulnerable learners (could be devolved to another member of the SLT and SENCO);
  - pupil progress meetings with individual teachers;
  - regular meetings with the SENCO;
  - discussions and consultations with pupils and parents.

### Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO)

In line with the recommendations in the SEN Code of Practice 2014, the SENCO will oversee the day-to-day operation of this policy in the following ways:

- maintenance and analysis of whole-school provision map for vulnerable learners;
- identifying on this provision map a staged list of pupils with special educational needs – those in receipt of additional SEN support from the schools devolved budget, those in receipt of High Needs funding and those with statements of Special Educational Need or Education Health and Care plans;
- co-ordinating provision for children with special educational needs;
- liaising with and advising teachers;
- managing other classroom staff involved in supporting vulnerable learners;



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- overseeing the records on all children with Special Educational Needs;
- contributing to the in-service training of staff;
- implementing a programme of Annual Review for all pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan. Complying with requests from an Education Health and Care Plan Coordinator to participate in a review;
- carrying out referral procedures to the Local Authority to request High Needs funding and/or an Education Health and Care Plan when it is suspected, on strong evidence arising from previous intervention (additional SEN support from devolved budget), that a pupil may have a special educational need which will require significant support;
- overseeing the smooth running of transition arrangements and transfer of information for Year 6 pupils on the vulnerable learners' provision map monitoring the school's system for ensuring that Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans, where it is agreed they will be useful for a pupil with special educational needs, have a high profile in the classroom and with pupils (see section below on Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans).

## **Class Teacher**

The Class teacher will liaise with the SENCO to agree:

- which pupils in the class are vulnerable learners;
- which pupils are underachieving and need to have their additional interventions monitored on the a vulnerable learners' provision map – but do not have special educational needs;
- which pupils (also on the provision map) require additional support because of a special educational need and need to go on the school's SEN list. Some of these pupils may require advice/support from an outside professional and, therefore, an Individual Education Plan to address a special educational need (this would include pupils with statements/EHC Plans).

In addition, the class teacher will secure good provision and good outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners by:

- providing differentiated teaching and learning opportunities, including differentiated work for EAL pupils which reduces linguistic difficulty whilst maintaining cognitive challenge;
- ensuring there is adequate opportunity for pupils with special educational needs to working on agreed targets which are genuinely “additional to” or “different from” those normally provided as part of the differentiated curriculum offer and strategies”. (SEN Code of Practice 2013);
- ensuring effective deployment of resources – including Teaching Assistant support - to maximise outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners.



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## The Governing Body

The Governing Body does its best to secure the necessary provision for any pupil identified as having special educational needs. The governors ensure that all teachers are aware of the importance of providing for these children. They consult the LEA and other schools, when appropriate, and report annually to parents on the success of the school's policy for children with special educational needs.

The Governing Body has decided that children with special educational needs will be admitted to the school in line with the school's agreed Admissions Policy.

## 6 Allocation of resources

- 6.1 The SENCO is responsible for the operational management of the specified and agreed resourcing for special needs provision within the school, including the provision for children with statements of special educational needs.
- 6.2 The Headteacher informs the Governing Body of how the funding allocated to support special educational needs has been employed.
- 6.3 The Headteacher and the SENCO meet annually to agree on how to use SEN funds. The Head/SENCO draws up the resources bid when the school is planning for the next school improvement plan.

## 7 Assessing and Reviewing pupils' progress and the effectiveness of our educational provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs

- Depending upon the stage of support as outlined above, the progress of our pupils will be assessed and reviewed through:
  - the school's generic processes for tracking the progress of all pupils;
  - half termly evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions on the provision map (in relation to the progress of each pupil);
  - at least half termly evaluation of whether pupils in receipt of High Needs Funding and/or with Education Health and Care Plans are meeting their individual targets which have been written to address their underlying special educational need;
  - annual review of Statements/Education Health and Care Plans are prescribed in the SEND Code of Practice (September 2014);
  - The class teacher and the SENCO assess and monitor the children's progress in line with existing school practices.

- 7.1 The SENCO works closely with parents and teachers to plan an appropriate programme of intervention and support.



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**7.2** The assessment of children reflects as far as possible their participation in the whole curriculum of the school. The Class teacher and the SENCO can break down the assessment into smaller steps in order to aid progress and provide detailed and accurate indicators.

## **8 Access to the Curriculum**

**8.1** All children have an entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is differentiated to enable children to:

- understand the relevance and purpose of learning activities;
- experience levels of understanding and rates of progress that bring feelings of success and achievement.

**8.2** Teachers use a range of strategies to meet children's special educational needs. Lessons have clear learning objectives; we differentiate work appropriately and we use assessment to inform the next stage of learning.

**8.3** Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans, which employ a small-steps approach, feature significantly in the provision that we make in the school. By breaking down the existing levels of attainment into finely graded steps and targets, we ensure that children experience success. All children on Special Needs Register have Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans.

**8.4** We support children in a manner that acknowledges their entitlement to share the same learning experiences that their peers enjoy. Wherever possible, we do not withdraw children from the classroom situation. There are times though when, to maximise learning, we ask the children to work in small groups or in a one-to-one situation outside the classroom.

## **9 Partnership with parents**

**9.1** The School Prospectus contains details of our Policy for Special Educational Needs and the arrangements made for these children in our school. The Governors' Annual Report to Parents contains an evaluation of the policy in action. A named governor takes a special interest in special needs and is always willing to talk to parents.

**9.2** At all stages of the special needs process, the school keeps parents fully informed and involved. We take account of the wishes, feelings and knowledge of parents at all stages. We encourage parents to make an active contribution to their child's education.



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9.3 We have regular meetings each term to share the progress of special needs children with their parents. We inform the parents of any outside intervention and we share the process of decision-making by providing clear information relating to the education of children with special educational needs.

## 10 Monitoring and evaluation

10.1 The INCO monitors the movement of children within the SEN system in school. The INCO provides staff and governors with regular summaries of the impact of the policy on the practice of the school.

10.2 The SENCO is involved in supporting teachers involved in drawing up Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans, for children. The SENCO and the Headteacher hold regular meetings to review the work of the school in this area. The SENCO and the named governor with responsibility for special needs also hold annual meetings.

10.3 The Governing Body reviews this policy annually and considers any amendments in light of the annual review findings by staff.

## 11 Disability Equality Scheme

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- This Policy supports the school's Disability Equality Scheme and it is available in a range of different formats, for disabled parents and the wider public.
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- Every Child Matters Outcomes: Be Healthy; Stay Safe; Enjoy and Achieve; Make a Positive Contribution.



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## SEN Information Report

All children may have special needs at some time in their lives. Children with special educational needs may need special provision to be made to allow them to access school life, engage in learning and develop good mental health. Most areas of need will fall under one (or more) of these categories:

### Communication and interaction

- Speech, language and communication needs (SCLN)

### Cognition and Learning

- Severe Learning Difficulties (SLD), Profound and Multiple Difficulties (PMLD) and Specific Learning Difficulties (SpLD)

### Social, Mental and Emotional Health

- Children with Social Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) difficulties may experience a variety of social and emotional struggles that can have a big impact on their wellbeing. A child with SEMH may show signs of being withdrawn by isolating themselves and appearing very sad and/or anxious. They may also present challenging behaviour, such as being disruptive and hyperactive during lessons.

**Sensory and/or Physical** isual Impairment (VI), Hearing Impairment (HI), Multi-Sensory Impairment (MSI) or Physical Disability (PD).



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**Who is the best person to speak to at St Joseph's if I believe my child might have difficulties with learning/special educational needs/social and emotional needs/a disability?**

<p><b>Your child's class teacher</b></p> <p>Your child's teacher will be able to listen to any questions or concerns you may have. They will be able to discuss your child's academic progress as well as their opinion of how your child is developing socially and emotionally. They will then liaise with the SENCO and, together, you can agree on whether further provision is appropriate.</p>	<p><b>Responsible for</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• providing personalised, quality-first teaching and learning opportunities;</li> <li>• monitoring and assessing your child's academic progress;</li> <li>• ensuring there is adequate opportunity for pupils with special educational needs to work on agreed targets;</li> <li>• ensuring effective deployment of resources – including teaching assistant support - to maximise outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners.</li> </ul>
<p><b>SENCO / INCO – Mrs Sue Seaholme/ Mrs Alice Scally</b></p> <p>Where concerns persist and a pupil continues to make less than expected progress (academically or emotionally) in spite of evidence-based interventions, the SENCO/INCO can help you with further support.</p> <p>They can help your child to be referred to external professionals for further advice. In some cases, your child may have a special educational need which will require significant support, if this is the case they may need an Education Health and Care</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ maintenance and analysis of whole-school provision map for vulnerable learners;</li> <li>▪ co-ordinating provision for children with special educational needs;</li> <li>▪ liaising with and advising teachers;</li> <li>▪ managing other classroom staff involved in supporting vulnerable learners;</li> <li>▪ overseeing the records on all children with special educational needs;</li> <li>▪ contributing to the in-service</li> </ul>



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<p>Plan or Exceptional Needs Funding which the SENCO/INCO can apply for.</p> <p>Parents/carers will always be involved in any decision regarding applications or involving any specialists.</p>	<p>training of staff;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ implementing a programme of Annual Review for all pupils with an Educational Health Care Plan. Complying with requests from an Education Health and Care Plan Coordinator to participate in a review;</li> <li>▪ carrying out referral procedures to the Local Authority to request Exceptional Needs Funding and/or an Education Health and Care Plan when it is suspected, on strong evidence arising from previous intervention (additional SEN support from devolved budget), that a pupil may have a special educational need which will require significant support.</li> </ul>
<p>Headteacher – Mrs Linda Payne</p>	<p>The Headteacher is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of all pupils and for making strategic decisions which will maximise their opportunity to learn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• analysis of the whole-school pupil progress tracking system;</li> <li>• pupil progress meetings with individual teachers;</li> <li>• regular meetings with the SENCO;</li> <li>• discussions and consultations with pupils and parents;</li> <li>• deployment of staff</li> </ul>
<p>SEND Governor – Mrs Alex Walsh</p>	<p>The governors ensure that all teachers are aware of the importance of providing for these children. They consult with the LEA and other schools, when appropriate, and report annually to parents on the success of the</p>





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	school's policy for children with special educational needs.
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## How does the school know if children/young people need extra help?

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School we are committed to early identification of Special Educational Needs (SEN) in line with the SEN Code of Practice 2014.

Individual children's needs are identified and tested by the school in different ways.

### We know when pupils need help if:

- concerns are raised by parents/carers, teachers or the child;
- limited progress is being made in accordance with age-related expectations;
- there is a change in the pupil's behaviour or progress;
- the child seems persistently in heightened states of emotion or is very withdrawn;
- concerns are raised by external agencies (e.g. GP or school nurse);
- information is provided from the previous setting (e.g. nursery).

## What will happen next if it is identified that my child needs additional support?

If your child needs support that is additional to differentiated quality first teaching then they may need a support plan called an 'Assess, Plan, Do, Review'. This will be agreed by you, your child and your child's class teacher and/or the SENCO. It will outline the adjustments, interventions and support to be put in place as well as the desired impact. A date for review will be set.

It may be that your child will require significant support, such as the involvement of external agencies, to offer specialist advice or an Education Health and Care Plan. An Education Health and Care Plan **is a legal document which describes a child's or young person's special educational needs, the support they need and the outcomes they would like to achieve.**

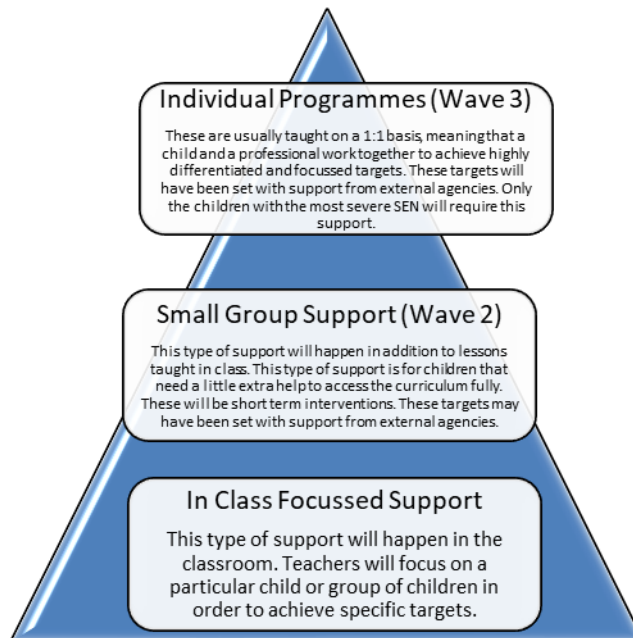
The special educational provision described in an EHC plan **must** be provided by the child's or young person's local authority ("LA"). This means an EHC plan can give a child or young person extra educational support. It can also give parents and young people more choice about which school or



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## How will school staff support my child?

In accordance with the SEN Code of Practice 2014, St Joseph's Catholic Primary School adopts a graduated response to SEN provision determined by the support each individual child requires. We use a three-tier approach to classify educational needs that are additional to, or different from, everyday classroom provision.



**Graduated Process shown within Assess, Plan, Do, Review**



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## How will my child and I be involved in discussions about and planning for my child's education?

At St Joseph's Catholic Primary School we believe in a child-centred approach. When children have been identified as having additional needs, the thoughts and feelings of the child and the parents/carers are taken into account, together with the views of school staff and relevant professionals. This may be through:

- informal discussion with staff;
- teacher and child meetings;
- teacher and parent meetings;
- review meetings, including outside agencies, where appropriate.

Parents/carers will **always** be involved in any decision regarding applications or involving any specialists.

## How will I know how my child is doing?

Parents and carers will be informed of their child's progress and involved in target setting throughout the academic year and in a variety of ways. These may include:

- meetings with teachers;
- a 'home/school link book' for regular updates;
- creation and reflection of Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans for children with significant SEN;
- Parents Evenings;
- Annual Review meetings for children with a Education, Health and Care Plan (replacing Statements of SEN);
- multi-agency meetings, for children that have support from external agencies, e.g. Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy, Educational Psychologist.
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## **What is the approach for teaching children with Special Educational Needs and how will my child's progress be assessed and reviewed?**

Our school strives to provide an engaging and exciting curriculum for all children through quality first teaching. Your child's class teacher will plan for the variety of needs in the classroom by providing appropriate tasks and achievable outcomes to consolidate and extend children's learning. For children with special educational needs, the teacher may provide different resources for children to use or there may be an adult to assist a small group of children to complete the task as independently as possible. Your child's outcomes will be continuously monitored through a range of assessments and you will be spoken to about how they are progressing.

If your child has specific targets that are on an Assess, Plan, Do, Review or an Education and Health Care Plan, they will have a review date where the class teacher and/or SENCO will meet with you to discuss how they are getting on.

By using this child centred approach and working together (parent, child, school) we ensure the effectiveness of the provision in place for your child is consistently monitored and adapted when needed.

## **What specialist services and expertise are available at or accessed by the school? Are the staff trained in supporting Special Educational Needs?**

External support services play an important part in helping St Joseph's identify, assess and provide appropriate provision for pupils with SEN.

We have access to the following services where appropriate:

- DSPL 9 Watford and Three Rivers training for various aspects of special needs, for example ASD, behaviour, mental health and SEN benchmarking;
- educational psychologists;
- specialist provision for children with EHC plans, sensory impairment or physical difficulties;
- speech and language therapists;
- SPLD Base advisory teachers;
- occupational therapists;
- physiotherapists;
- school nurses;
- play therapists;



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- Acorn Centres;
- Chessbrook Educational support centre;
- CAMHS.

Multi-agency liaison and planning meetings are held, as appropriate, to ensure effective collaboration in identifying and planning to provide appropriate support for vulnerable pupils.

St Joseph's staff all receive regular training to ensure they stay up to date with the best approaches for supporting children with special educational needs. This is arranged through Herts for Learning, Specific Learning Difficulties Bases such as Laurence Haines, Colnbrook Outreach Services and DSPL9 support.

## **How will you help me to support my child?**

The collaborative planning and target setting systems that are in place at St Joseph's as part of SEN pupils' Assess, Plan, Do, Review Plans mean that parents/carers are consistently involved and supported in order to help children reach their targets.

Parents/carers are informed and supported in school via needs that arise due to target setting or multi agency planning meetings. St Joseph's will then aim to support the family with a focus on meeting the child and family centered objectives that are set within those meetings. This might mean that the family is referred to an additional support network.

In addition to this, St Joseph's hosts a number of parents' information and training events throughout the year through each class's teacher or subject leader, where appropriate. Information about upcoming events will be issued to parents/carers through letter/email/newsletter.

## **What support will there be for my child's emotional and social development?**



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St Joseph's is committed to promoting children's mental health and wellbeing and ensuring children have the emotional tools needed to succeed and thrive.

We aim to develop children's emotional and social well-being in partnership with parents and carers. Various Nurture Groups are run each week that focus on developing resilience, self-regulation, reducing anxiety and ways to build bonds and communicate effectively with peers. In addition to this, extra 1:1 pastoral support is available, when needed, e.g. Lego Therapy, Drawing and Talking therapy, daily Feelings Check Ins with staff members etc.

In some cases, additional pastoral support may be provided by specialist services, such as Play Therapists, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and school nurses. Education, Health Care plans and pastoral support plans can also be used to meet specific needs. These plans are created in collaboration with school, parents and pupil and they are monitored and reviewed at agreed intervals.

## **How will my child be encouraged to engage in activities with children who do not have SEN? What measures are in place to prevent bullying?**

It is the school's policy to enable every child to participate as fully as possible in all elements of the wider curriculum. We ensure that all children attend school trips and residential visits with support, as appropriate. Where necessary, the school will meet with parents and carers to discuss individual needs prior to any visit or activity. We have various Nurture Groups which run weekly to encourage peer bonding and social skills, as well as interventions such as 'Circle of Friends' which promote friendships and an enhanced understanding of inclusion.

Acceptance, diversity, compassion and kindness are all things that underpin our Catholic ethos and are explicitly taught and discussed daily. Bullying of any kind is not tolerated at St Joseph's. Please refer to our Anti-Bullying Policy for further information.

## **How accessible is the school environment?**



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All Hertfordshire schools comply with Equality Act 2010.

Please refer to the School Accessibility Plan and Equality Scheme for more information.

## **How will the school prepare and support my child to join the school, transfer to a new school or the next stage of education and life?**

We recognise that transitions can be difficult for a child with SEN and we take steps to ensure that any transition is as smooth as possible.

### **If your child is joining us from another school:**

- the SENCO will undertake a pre-visit, where appropriate;
- your child will be able to visit our school and stay for taster sessions, if this is appropriate.

### **If your child is moving to another school:**

- we will contact the school SENCO and ensure he/she knows about any special arrangements or support that need to be made for your child;
- where possible, a planning meeting will take place with the SENCO from the new school;
- we will make sure that all records about your child are passed on as soon as possible.

### **When moving classes in school:**

- information will be passed on to the new class teacher in advance and a transition planning meeting will take place with the new teacher;
- there will be opportunities to make additional visits to the new classes, if this is appropriate.

### **In Year 6:**

- the SENCO will discuss the specific needs of your child with the SENCO of the child's secondary school;
- your child will participate in focused, learning relating to aspects of transition, to support their understanding of the changes ahead.

**How can I find information about the Local Authority's Local Offer of services and provision for children and young people with special educational needs and disability?**

**Please visit Herts Local offer site at:**



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<http://directory.hertsdirect.org/localoffer>

## ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL LOCAL OFFER

St Joseph's Catholic Primary School is an inclusive school and offers the following range of provision to support all children.

### To develop children socially, emotionally and morally

- RE curriculum;
- daily prayer and weekly meditation time;
- play therapy and support by play therapist, when available;
- opportunity to talk 1:1 with adults;
- a range of extra-curricular activities;
- School Council;
- Social Skills programme;
- Nurture Groups focusing on self-regulation, emotional literacy, social skills and peer bonding;
- PSHE;
- assembly.

### To develop positive learning behaviours

- use of school's Behaviour Policy, incorporating some aspects of the Herts Steps;
- use of incentives, including 'Ready to Learn' Awards;
- whole class focus on specific learning behaviours;
- weekly certificates to reward positive learning behaviours;
- recognition of learning through mistakes;





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- reflective time with teacher or teaching assistant;
- a supportive programme on social skills in small groups.

## To develop children mathematically

- numeracy "Working Walls" in every classroom;
- maths computer programs in the computer suite and on iPads;
- opportunity to decide own level of challenge;
- differentiation in class;
- investigative maths lessons and practical resources to support learning;
- times Tables certificates to encourage children to learn times tables;
- small group catch up maths Intervention programmes tailored according to the needs of individuals/small focussed groups of children;
- 1:1 tutoring;
- Numicon.

## Speaking and Listening

- daily use of talk partners;
- Pie Corbett Talk for Learning strategies;
- opportunity for children to explain regularly in sentences;
- withdrawal by a specialist teaching assistant for 1:1 support;
- use of Talking Partners;
- Elkan trained teaching assistants;
- Makaton trained teaching assistant.

## Reading/Phonics

- daily Read Write Inc in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1;
- phonics interventions to support KS 2 children;
- reading logs for all children;
- differentiated guided reading sessions;
- small group literacy interventions;
- reading recovery designed and implemented by a SEN specialist teacher specifically for the school;
- Read and Write programme for year ½;
- personalised literacy programmes created by a specialist literacy support base.

## Writing

- use of Pie Corbett writing strategies;
- development of units built from high quality texts;
- cross curricular links;
- small group support in class through Guided Teaching;
- Handwriting certificates and pens to encourage development of good handwriting skills;
- whole school strategy to support spelling;
- Rainbow Road activities (OT programme).



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## **To develop children academically, physically and creatively**

- cross curricular and subject specific teaching of foundation subjects;
- opportunity to have individual music lessons with specialist teachers;
- use of specialist sports apprentice in P.E.;
- Sports Apprentice programmes to develop gross and fine motor skills;
- opportunity to go on school trips to enhance learning;
- After school /Before school/dinner time/ clubs /activities;
- Breakfast Club from 8 a.m.

## **To develop independent learning skills**

- use of visual timetables in all classrooms and personalised, where appropriate;
- pre teaching of vocabulary and content;
- access to personal ICT;
- "Chunking" of activities;
- use of individualised success criteria;
- use of aids as required e.g writing slopes, wobble cushions etc.

## **To support good progress for all**

- half termly pupil progress reviews involving all staff working with a child;
- half termly pupil progress tracking and monitoring;
- Strong feedback and marking dialogue between teacher and child;
- use of talk partners;
- individual targets;
- annual reporting to parents;
- two Parent Teacher consultations each year;
- parent support using dedicated parent support workers;
- support for parents through school workshop sessions;
- Drop-in parents sessions.

## **To support children medically**

- staff trained in paediatric first aid skills and general first aid skills;
- yearly updated training for asthma and anaphylaxis /use of epi-pens;
- strategies for the use of personal medication;
- individual protocols for children with significant medical needs and allergies;
- provision of aids and resources to support learning.

## **Additional support for children with SEN**

- Individual Support Plans incorporated into the assess plan do review sheets – Pastoral and Learning;
- additional Support Plan meetings available with SENCO;
- interventions from a speech and language therapist;
- liaison with specialist agencies for support and advice;
- continual professional development for all staff on inclusive practice;



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- referral to play therapy, well being team, school nurses, as required;
- personalised visual timetables and prompt cards;
- specialist equipment to access curriculum;
- Sound Field systems in each classroom.

**Signed:** *Linda Payne & Adrian Ramsden*

**Date:** October 2020