Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) policy

Stalbridge C of E Primary School



"Believe - Discover - Aspire"

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Aims and objectives

Stalbridge Primary follows a whole school approach to SEND, where all teachers are teachers of SEND and where successful inclusion for SEND children is a whole school responsibility. Inclusion does not mean all children having the same, but rather that every child has what they need to succeed.

We work towards aspirational outcomes for our children and work hard to ensure that all adults have the knowledge and understanding to scaffold, support and challenge children to be the best that they can be.

At Stalbridge Primary we aim for all children with SEND make good progress.

Quality first teaching is of a very high standard, offering a rich curriculum which is accessible to all and which demands the very best from our children. Expectations are high in all areas and appropriate classroom adjustments, scaffolding and support address barriers to learning and success.

Our aim is to create a whole school approach to SEND, ensuring an inclusive, compassionate and knowledgeable approach in all areas of school life. Every teacher and teaching assistant is able to develop knowledge and expertise to work in the very best way with all children, so that all children can participate in all aspects of school life.

- We aim to identify any difficulties early and respond quickly and appropriately.
- We aim to work closely with families at each stage of our graduated approach.
- Work in close partnership with outside agencies, seeking advice and guidance where appropriate.

We aim to ensure that children are central to the planning and monitoring of their support, and that systems are in place to ensure that their voice is heard.

Our objectives are to:

- identify and provide for pupils who have special educational needs and additional needs
- work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice 2014
- operate a whole school approach to the management and provision of support for special educational needs
- provide a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO)
- provide support and advice for all staff working with special educational needs and or disability pupils.

2. Vision and values

"Believe - Discover - Aspire"

Our values inform all that we do at Stalbridge Primary and are the underpinning of our curriculum and provide an environment which prepares our pupils as confident, happy citizens. We believe in building each other, in discovering the potential of our world and in ourselves, we aspire to be the best that we can be. Therefore, we have high expectations of all children and believe that with the right support at the right time all children should enjoy success.

"Allowing a student with a hidden disability - like ADHD, ASD, Anxiety or Dyslexia – to struggle academically or socially, when all that is need for success are appropriate accommodations and explicit instruction, is no different than failing to provide a ramp for a person in a wheelchair."

Our Christian and inclusive atmosphere welcomes every child and family.

At our school we will provide all pupils with access to a broad and balanced curriculum.

We are committed to making sure all our pupils have the chance to thrive and supporting them to meet their full potential.

We are focused on creating an inclusive environment, where provision is tailored to the needs and abilities of pupils, no matter how varied.

3. Legislation and guidance

This is based on the statutory <u>Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Code of Practice</u> and the following legislation:

> Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014, which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND

- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014, which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- ➤ The Equality Act 2010 (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities
- > The <u>Public Sector Equality Duty</u> (section 149 of the Equality Act 2010), which set out the school's responsibilities to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation; and advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic (which includes having a disability) and those who don't share it
- > The Governance Handbook, which sets out governors' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- ➤ The <u>School Admissions Code</u>, which sets out the school's obligation to admit all pupils whose education, health and care (EHC) plan names the school, and its duty not to disadvantage unfairly children with a disability or with special educational needs

4. Inclusion and equal opportunities

At our school we strive to create an inclusive teaching environment that offers all pupils, no matter their needs and abilities, a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. We are committed to offering all pupils the chance to thrive and fulfil their aspirations.

We will achieve this by making reasonable adjustments to teaching, the curriculum and the school environment to make sure that pupils with SEND are included in all aspects of school life.

5. Definitions

5.1 Special educational needs

Many children who have SEN may also have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities. This definition provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise: 'long term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial'

SEND Code of Practice 2014

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a **learning difficulty or disability** if they have:

- > A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- > A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools

Special educational provision is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

5.2 Disability

Pupils are considered to have a **disability** if they have a physical or mental impairment that has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on their ability to do normal daily activities.

The school will make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities, so that they are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

5.3 The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or do not understand or use the social rules of communication. Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.
Cognition and learning	 Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers. A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including: Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia Moderate learning difficulties Severe learning difficulties Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment
Social, emotional and mental health	 These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have: Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder Suffered adverse childhood experiences These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.
Sensory and/or physical	Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided. Pupils may have: • A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment • A physical impairment These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

6. Roles and responsibilities

6.1 The SENCO

The SENCO at our school is Sharon Reddyhoff.

They will:

- > Inform any parents that their child may have SEN and then liaise with them about the pupil's needs and any provision made
- > Work with the headteacher and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- > Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- > Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- > Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils
- > Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- > Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to ensure that appropriate provision is provided
- > Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- > When a pupil moves to a different school or institution: Make sure that all relevant information about a pupil's SEN and the provision for them are sent to the appropriate authority, school or institution in a timely manner
- > Work with the headteacher and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- > Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate
- > With the headteacher, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- > With the headteacher, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- > Prepare and review information for inclusion in the school's SEN information report and any updates to this policy
- > With the headteacher and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.2 The governing body

The governing board is responsible for making sure the following duties are carried out, though the duties can be delegated to a committee or an individual:

- > Co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and developing the local offer
- > Do all it can to make sure that every pupil with SEND gets the support they need
- Make sure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who don't have SEND
- > Inform parents when the school is making special educational provision for their child
- > Make sure that the school has arrangements in place to support any pupils with medical conditions
- > Provide access to a broad and balanced curriculum
- > Have a clear approach to identifying and responding to SEND
- > Provide an annual report for parents on their child's progress

- > Record accurately and keep up to date the provision made for pupils with SEND
- > Publish information on the school website about how the school is implementing its SEND policy, in a SEN information report
- > Publish information about the arrangements for the admission of disabled children, the steps taken to prevent disabled children being treated less favourably than others, the facilities provided to assist access of disabled children, and the school's accessibility plans
- > Make sure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for the school and that the key responsibilities of the role are set out, and monitor the effectiveness of how these are carried out
- > Determine their approach to using their resources to support the progress of pupils with SEND

6.3 The SEND link governor

The SEND link governor is Debbie Chant.

The SEND governor will:

- > Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing board meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- Work with the headteacher and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

6.4 The headteacher

The Head teacher, Simon Elledge, will:

- > Work with the SENCO and SEND link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- > Work with the SENCO and school governors to make sure the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- > Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND, and their progress
- > Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils
- > Make sure that the SENCO has enough time to carry out their duties
- > Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register
- > Advise the LA when a pupil needs an EHC needs assessment, or when an EHC plan needs an early review
- > With the SENCO, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- > With the SENCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- > With the SENCO and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

6.5 Class teachers

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- > Planning and providing high-quality teaching that is differentiated to meet pupil needs through a graduated approach
- > The progress and development of every pupil in their class

- > Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- > Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- > Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report
- > Communicating with parents regularly to:
 - Set clear outcomes and review progress towards them
 - o Discuss the activities and support that will help achieve the set outcomes
 - o Identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school
 - Listen to the parents' concerns and agree their aspirations for the pupil

6.6 Parents or carers

Parents or carers should inform the school if they have any concerns about their child's progress or development.

Parents or carers of a pupil on the SEND register will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about the pupil's SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. They will be:

- > Invited to termly meetings to review the provision that is in place for their child
- > Asked to provide information about the impact of SEN support outside school and any changes in the pupil's needs
- > Given the opportunity to share their concerns and, with school staff, agree their aspirations for the pupil
- > Given an annual report on the pupil's progress

The school will take into account the views of the parent or carer in any decisions made about the pupil.

6.7 The pupil

Pupils will always be given the opportunity to provide information and express their views about their SEND and the support provided. They will be invited to participate in discussions and decisions about this support. This might involve the pupil:

- > Explaining what their strengths and difficulties are
- > Contributing to setting targets or outcomes
- > Attending review meetings
- > Giving feedback on the effectiveness of interventions

The pupil's views will be taken into account in making decisions that affect them, whenever possible.

7. SEN information report

The school publishes a SEN information report on its website, which sets out how this policy is implemented in the school.

The information report will be updated annually and as soon as possible after any changes to the information it contains.

8. Our approach to SEND support

8.1 Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school. This will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. We will also consider any evidence that the pupil may have a disability and if so, what reasonable adjustments the school may need to make.

Class teachers will regularly assess the progress of all pupils and identify any whose progress:

- > Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- > Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- > Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- > Widens the attainment gap

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, wider development or social needs.

When teachers identify an area where a pupil is making slow progress, they will target the pupil's area of weakness with differentiated, high-quality teaching and intervention. If progress does not improve, the teacher will refer to the SENCO to have an initial discussion about whether this lack of progress may be due to a special educational need. The SENCO will look at what support the child has in place in the classroom and what interventions the child has been part of as well as attainment and progress data. Where necessary they will, in consultation with the pupil's parents or carers, consider consulting an external specialist.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN.

Potential short-term causes of impact on behaviour or performance will be considered, such as bullying or bereavement. Staff will also take particular care in identifying and assessing SEN for pupils whose first language is not English.

When deciding whether the pupil needs special educational provision, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

If a pupil is joining the school, and:

- > Their previous setting has already identified that they have SEN
- > They are known to external agencies
- > They have an education, health and care plan (EHCP)

then the school will work in a multi-agency way to make sure we get relevant information before the pupil starts at school, so support can be put in place as early as possible.

8.2 Consulting and involving pupils and parents

The school will put the pupil and their parents at the heart of all decisions made about special educational provision.

When we are aiming to identify whether a pupil needs special education provision, we will have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents. These conversations will make sure that:

- > Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- > We take into account any concerns the parents have
- > Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- > Everyone is clear on what the next steps are

Notes of these early discussions will be added to the pupil's record and given to their parents.

We will formally notify parents if it is decided that a pupil will receive special educational provision.

8.3 The graduated approach to SEN support

Once a pupil has been identified as having SEN, we will take action to remove any barriers to learning, and put effective special educational provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.

1. Assess

The pupil's class teacher and the SENCO will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. The views of the pupil and their parents will be taken into account. The school may also seek advice from external support services.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

2. Plan

In consultation with the parents and the pupil, the teacher and the SENCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the pupil's needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are needed. This information will be recorded on our management information system, SIMS and staff will develop a Provision Map, SEN Support Plan or EHCP Support plan. Pupils on the SEN register will have a one page pupil profile.

Parents will be fully aware of the planned support and interventions, and may be asked to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

3. Do

The pupil's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. They 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.

The SENCO will support the teacher in further assessing the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

4. Review

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents and pupils
- The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil

The teacher and the SENCO will revise the outcomes and support in light of the pupil's progress and development, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents.

At Stalbridge Primary we have 4 levels:

Level 1 Quality First Teaching- for all children to meet all needs.

Level 2 School based delivered intervention- time bound, progress tracked and Provision Map in place

Level 3 Referral to SENCo and possible referral to outside agencies/professionals. Child placed on SEN register, SEN Support Plan

Level 4 EHCNA and EHCP- EHCP Learning Support Plan in place, annual review.

School-based SEN provision- Level 3

Pupils receiving SEN provision will be placed on the school's SEND register. These pupils have needs that can be met by the school through the graduated approach. Where the pupil's needs cannot be adequately met with in-house expertise, staff will consider involving an external specialist as soon as possible.

The provision for these pupils is funded through the school's notional SEND budget.

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code K.

Education, health and care (EHC) plan- Level 4

Pupils who need more support than is available through the school's school-based SEN provision may be entitled to an EHC plan. (EHCP) The school The plan is a legal document that describes the needs of the pupil, the provision that will be put in place, and the outcomes sought.

The provision for these pupils will be funded from the school's notional SEND budget, and potentially from the LA (from the high-level needs funding block of the dedicated schools grant).

On the census these pupils will be marked with the code E.

8.5 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- > Tracking pupils' progress, including by using provision maps
- > Carrying out the review stage of the graduated approach in every cycle of SEN support
- > Using pupil questionnaires
- > Monitoring by the SENCO
- > Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- > Getting feedback from the pupil and their parents

9. Expertise and training of staff

Stalbridge Primary School follow a School Development Plan developed by the SLT and Governors. It will clearly set out the whole school training outcomes over a 3 year period.

Training will regularly be provided to teaching and support staff. The headteacher and the SENCO will continuously monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs and will incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development.

10. Links with external professional agencies

The school recognises that it won't be able to meet all the needs of every pupil. Whenever necessary the school will work with external support services such as:

- · Speech and language therapists
- Specialist teachers or support services
- · Educational psychologists
- · Occupational therapists, physiotherapists, health professionals
- · General practitioners, paediatricians consultants
- School nurses
- Health Visitors (up to age of 5)
- · Portage (transitions from nursery to Reception)
- Child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS)
- Education welfare officers/Locality Early Help workers

- Social services
- · Attendance officers
- SEN Provision Leads and Managers
- · Play therapists

11. Admission and accessibility arrangements

Stalbridge Primary uses the local authority, Dorset Council, arrangement for school admissions.

The arrangement is mindful of national requirements supporting all children, including those who are disabled, in a fair and non-discriminatory way, securing admission to school. In addition, Stalbridge Primary adhere to Dorset Council's Accessibility Strategy and will ensure appropriate adjustments to accommodate those who are disabled. Where adaptations are required to support physical or medical needs, Stalbridge Primary liaises with the local authority, health services and parents to ensure that appropriate arrangements are made to meet individual medical conditions.

11.1 Admission arrangements

Dorset Council manage all admissions to Stalbridge Primary School including children with a disability or special educational needs. The school will give a school place to all children who apply, if there is a place available. A school cannot refuse a child because they have SEND.

If a child has had significant difficulties in their previous school, which has resulted in a high number of suspensions, is not able to attend school full time due to their needs or has significant low attendance, Dorset Council may use In Year Fair Access to ensure the child gets the right support for their transition to a Dorset school.

If a child has an EHCP, and wishes to attend Stalbridge Primary, the previous LA will liaise with the Dorset SEN Team about the needs of the child and the provision that is required at school. If the EHCP has a named mainstream school Dorset SEN will consult with Stalbridge Primary to find out if the school has the resources to meet the child's needs. The Head/SENCO will provide a consultation response within 15 days of receiving the EHCP and all relevant paperwork. Stalbridge Primary will always endeavour to admit a child with an EHCP and make plans to meet the child's needs as long as the admission does not compromise the learning and resources of children already at the school.

If the school is full and oversubscribed parents will need to work with Dorset Council and follow their policies on appeal. https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/-/appeal-a-school-admission-decision

11.2 Accessibility arrangements

The school has an Accessibility Plan that is monitored, reviewed and reported upon annually to the Governing body in compliance with legal requirements. We are mindful of the duties under the Equality Act 2010 as amended in September 2012 to provide Auxiliary Aids and Services where appropriate as detailed 'The Equality Act 2010 and School (May 2014). We comply with the requirement to support children with disability as defined by the act.

At Stalbridge Primary School we draw on expertise from within the school and from outside agencies and provide training to ensure that provision matches with any special educational needs. We incorporate advice and guidance provided as a result of assessments and strategies described in a child's Education and Health Care Plan (EHCPs).

12. Complaints about SEND provision

Where parents have concerns about our school's SEND provision, they should first raise their concerns informally with the classteacher and then the SENCo. We will try to resolve the complaint informally in the first instance. If this does not resolve their concerns, parents are welcome to submit their complaint formally.

Formal complaints about SEND provision in our school should be made to the Headteacher in the first instance. They will be handled in line with the school's complaints policy.

https://www.stalbridge.dorset.sch.uk/policies/

If the parent or carer is not satisfied with the school's response, they can escalate the complaint. In some circumstances, this right also applies to the pupil themselves.

To see a full explanation of suitable avenues for complaint, see pages 246 and 247 of the <u>SEN Code of Practice</u>.

https://www.dorsetcouncil.gov.uk/w/challenging-decisions-about-support-for-children-with-send

13. Monitoring and evaluation arrangements

13.1 Evaluating the effectiveness of the policy

We are constantly looking for ways to improve our SEND policy. We will do this by evaluating whether or not we are meeting our objectives set out in section 1.

We will evaluate how effective our SEND provision is with regards to:

- > All staff's awareness of pupils with SEND at the start of the autumn term
- > How early pupils are identified as having SEND
- > Pupils' progress and attainment once they have been identified as having SEND
- > Whether pupils with SEND feel safe, valued and included in the school community
- > Comments and feedback from pupils and their parents

13.2 Monitoring the policy

This policy will be reviewed by The SENCO **every year**. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the full governing board.

14. Links with other policies and documents

https://www.stalbridge.dorset.sch.uk/policies/

- > SEN information report
- > The local offer
- > Accessibility plan
- > Behaviour policy
- > Equality information and objectives
- > Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy
- > Attendance policy
- > Safeguarding / child protection policy
- > Complaints policy