



Latimer Primary School

Special Educational Needs Policy

DATE APPROVED: November 2023	SIGNATURE CHAIR OF GOVERNORS:
FREQUENCY OF REVIEW: Annually	
DATE OF NEXT REVIEW: November 2024	

Aims

At Latimer Primary School, we are committed to providing an inclusive, high quality education which values the achievement of **all** pupils. This will enable our pupils to:

- Achieve their best
- Become confident individuals living fulfilling lives
- Make successful transition to their next phase of education.

All teachers have the highest aspirations and expectations for **all** pupils, including those with special educational needs.

We aim to achieve a community where parents and those working in school have a mutual trust and confidence in each other, created through clear, consistent approaches to communication and collaborative working, to enable outstanding outcomes for children with SEND.

We aim to provide all children, including those with special educational needs and disabilities, with a broad, balanced academic and social curriculum, which is accessible and ensures they are fully included in all aspects of school life and feel equally valued and fully part of the school community.

Objectives

To achieve this aim we will:

1. Strive to establish a fully inclusive school, eliminate prejudice and discrimination and create an environment where all children can be happy, flourish and feel safe.
2. Respond to learners in ways which take account of their varied needs and life experiences, doing everything we can to meet their needs and to promote active learning.
3. Commit to identifying a pupil's special educational needs at the earliest point and then establish effective provision, as this is known to improve long term outcomes.
4. Work in close partnership with parents to achieve these aims. We are committed to parents participating as fully as possible in decisions and being provided with information and support necessary to enable this.

5. Support pupils themselves to participate in discussions and express their views and be fully involved in decisions which affect them, encouraging them to become increasingly effective self-advocates.
6. Work in close partnership with a range of specialist agencies to enable us to provide effective targeted support.
7. Provide support, advice and training for all staff working with pupils with special educational needs to enable them to be increasingly able to adapt teaching to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils.
8. Appoint a qualified Special Needs Coordinator who will have responsibility for the day-to-day operation of the SEN policy and coordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans.

The head teacher, SENCo, all staff and the Governing Body will work within the guidance outlined in the SEND Code of Practice 0 -25 (2015)

Identification of Special Educational Needs

A pupil has SEN where their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision to be made for them, that is provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age. For some children, SEN can be identified at an early age. However, for other children and young people difficulties become evident only as they develop.

The identification of SEN is built into the overall approach to monitoring the progress and development of **all** pupils. Class teachers will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment on entry, building on information from previous settings. Class teachers then make regular assessments of progress for all pupils identifying in particular where pupils are making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances. Where a pupil's progress is causing concern, this may be characterised by progress which:

- is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
- fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers
- widens the attainment gap

It can include progress in areas other than attainment – for instance where a pupil needs to make additional progress with wider development or social needs.

At the point in which a pupil's progress causes a concern the SLT and SENCo are alerted and a graduated approach is entered into, with monitoring of progress and provision taken into consideration. When a pupil's progress continues to be characterised as described above placement on the SEN register may be initiated. Parents are involved in all stages of this process.

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

The needs of all pupils vary and these four broad areas give an overview of areas in which needs could be placed. In practice, individual children or young people often have needs that may span across all these areas and their needs may change over time.

- Communication and Interaction
- Cognition and Learning
- Social, Emotional and Mental Health
- Sensory and/or Physical

The purpose of identification is to work out what action the school needs to take, not to fit a pupil into a category. At Latimer Primary School, the needs of the whole child will always be considered in this process.

There are other factors that may impact on progress and attainment that are not considered SEN:

- Disability
- Attendance and punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- English as an additional language
- Being in receipt of pupil premium grant
- Being a looked after child
- Being a child of a service personnel

Any concerns relating to a child's behaviour may be an underlying response to a need which the school would work with parents to identify.

The Graduated Approach to SEN Support

Identifying and adapting teaching to meet pupils' needs is a process that is in place for all pupils. The school has a rigorous and regular system, through termly pupil progress meetings, to identify where pupils are not making expected progress or working below national expectations. Class teachers will put in place if necessary, relevant and timely interventions, through quality first teaching, appropriate differentiation and in-class support, aimed at closing the gap or raising the attainment. The class teacher will also talk with parents to ensure there is a shared understanding of pupils needs and to gain parental perspective on any emerging concerns and areas of strength.

Where a pupil's needs are persistent, the class teacher will collaborate with the SENCo and record their initial concerns. At this time, the classteacher and SENCo consider any additional interventions or classroom adaptations to support the pupil. These initial concerns will also be communicated with parents in order for parents and school to work closely in order to best meet the needs of the pupil. Where appropriate, the child's views will be sought.

If, following a review of the school's response to the initial concern, it is clear that continued different and additional provision is required to meet the child's needs and the pupil's progress

continues to match the characteristics described earlier, the child will then be placed on the school SEN record at 'SEN Support'. The parents will be informed if the school is making special educational provision for a child.

The class teacher remains responsible and accountable at all times for the progress and development of all children in his/her class, even where a child may be receiving support from a teaching assistant. High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils is always seen as the first step in responding to pupils who may have SEN.

Working together the SENCo, class teacher, parents and child (where appropriate) will select appropriate support and intervention to meet the outcomes identified for the pupil, based on reliable evidence of effectiveness. This will be delivered by staff with sufficient skills and knowledge. This SEN support will take the form of a four-part cycle (assess - plan - do - review) through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the pupils needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as the Graduated Approach. It draws on more detailed approaches, more frequent reviews and more specialist expertise in successive cycles in order to match interventions to the SEN of a child.

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed each term, usually through pupil progress meetings held with the SLT. The review process will include an evaluation of the impact and quality of the support and intervention and the views of the pupil and their parents. This review will then feed back into the analysis of the pupil's needs. The class teacher, with support from the SENCo where needed, will revise the support in light of the pupil's progress and development, deciding on any changes to the support and outcomes in consultation with the parent and pupil.

The school can involve specialists at any point for advice regarding early identification and effective support. However, where a pupil continues to make less than expected progress, despite evidence based support and interventions that are matched to the pupil's area of need, the school will consider involving specialists, including those secured by the school itself or from outside agencies. Parents will always be involved in any decision to involve specialists along with the child's class teacher and in appropriate cases, the child them self. Specialist agencies will only be contacted where parents are in agreement. It is the SENCo's role to contact any specialist agencies and ensure that the involvement of specialists and following recommendations are shared and understood by all concerned.

Examples of specialist agencies used by and that are available to be used by the school

- Educational psychologists
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (referral via GP)
- Education Inclusion Service specialist teachers
- Specialist Teaching Services for children with hearing and vision impairment, including multi-sensory impairment, autism, and for those with a physical disability
- Speech and language therapists
- Consultant paediatrician (referral via GP)
- School nurse
- Occupational therapists and physiotherapists (referral via GP)

In many cases, there is a charge for accessing specialist agency support; funding for which will come from the school's notional SEN budget and will be monitored by the SENCo and head teacher. Where pupils are made subject to an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan, the school will work in close partnership with any specialist agencies as named on the plan to provide support and specialist advice.

The Local Authority SEN Support Plan and Education Health and Care Plan process

In certain circumstances, the special educational provision required to meet the child or young person's needs cannot reasonably be provided from within the resources normally available to the school. When this occurs, the school, in consultation with parents, will consider requesting from the Local Authority either additional funding to provide adequate resources for an SEN Support Plan or assessment for an Education, Health and Care Plan, as appropriate. To inform this decision, the SENCo will have close regard to the local authority's criteria for funding through an SEN Support Plan or for an EHC Plan assessment. This can be found on the Leicestershire Local Offer website along with information on the EHC plan coordinated assessment process and will be shared in full with parents to ensure that they are confident and clear about the process and how they are involved in it.

Leicestershire's Local Offer can be found at:

<https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs-and-disability/about-the-local-offer>

Removing pupils from the SEN register

The SENCo, in consultation with parents and teaching staff, will consider removing a pupil from the SEND register when:

- the pupil has made sustained good progress that betters the previous rate of progress and has sufficiently closed the attainment gap between the child and their peers of the same age,
- a child's wider development and /or social needs have improved and progress in the targeted area is considered to be sustained
- an SEN Support Plan is no longer required to ensure this progress is sustained.

Pupils will continue to be closely monitored once removed from the SEN register.

Supporting Parents/Carers of Children with SEN

The school is fully committed to a meaningful partnership with parents of children with special educational needs where they can be as fully involved as possible in decisions and are provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions.

The school will do this by:

- Always making parents feel welcome and actively listening to their concerns, wishes and aspirations for their child, instilling confidence and building effective partnerships.

- Providing all information in an accessible way.
- Arranging appointments through the school office to speak with the SENCo.
- Publishing about how the school implements the SEND Policy on the school web site following the information set out in the SEN information regulations (2014) and as part of the school's contribution to the Local Offer.
- Class teachers meeting with parents, in addition to parent evening appointments, to discuss concerns regarding pupils' progress at the earliest opportunity, raised either by the class teacher or the parents themselves.
- Class teachers will meet during extended parent evenings to set and review the outcomes of support, discuss the activities and support that will help achieve them, and identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school. It will provide an opportunity for the parents to share their views. The school will ensure that teaching staff are supported to manage these conversations as part of their professional development. Where necessary, this meeting may be supported by the SENCo.
- Supporting and guiding parents in ways that they can help with their child's learning and development at home.
- Providing a record of the outcomes, actions and support agreed through the discussion, which will be shared with all the appropriate school staff and a record will be given to the pupil's parents.
- Signposting parents to wider support, information and services pertinent to their child's SEN by ensuring they know how to access the Local Offer and the LA's Parent Partnership Service.
- Seeking parents' views through periodic questionnaires and considering adjustments to practice in the light of analysis.
- Planning in additional support for parents at key times, for example, when considering and making a referral for a coordinated assessment for an EHC plan and to ensure smooth and successful transition into the school or to next phase of education.

Supporting the Pupil Voice

At Latimer, we recognise that all pupils have the right to be involved in making decisions and exercising choice. We aim to develop pupils' self-advocacy skills to enable them to transfer to their next phase of education confident and able to communicate, convey, negotiate or assert their own interests, desires, needs, and rights and becoming increasingly able to make informed decisions about their learning and future and take responsibility for those decisions.

How the school will do this:

- Self-knowledge is the first step towards effective self-advocacy so, with their parents, we will support pupils to understand their strengths, needs and approaches to learning that are particularly successful for them and to have the confidence to voice their concerns, hopes and aspirations.
- Wherever possible and in an age appropriate manner, pupils with SEN are involved in monitoring and reviewing their progress and are involved as fully as possible in making decisions about future support and provision. Their views are recorded and shared.
- All staff will actively listen to and address any concerns raised by children themselves.

- Planning in additional support for pupils at key times, for example, when considering and making a referral for a coordinated assessment for an EHC plan and to ensure smooth and successful transition into the school or to next phase of education.
- Pupils are also provided with additional support to contribute as fully as possible in their Annual Review. This can be, for example, by attending part of the review meeting in person, preparing a statement to be shared at the meeting, using a peer advocate to support them in the meeting or by preparing a recorded presentation to share at the meeting.
- Seeking pupils' views through regular questionnaires / group interview activities undertaken by the SENCo and / or SEN Governor. Adjustments may be necessary after analysing pupils' opinions and views.

Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions

At Latimer Primary School, we recognise 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.

It should be noted that pupils with medical conditions, do not always have a special educational need. This will be determined and reviewed following the procedures described above, for all children. However, some pupils may also have Special Educational Needs (SEN) and may have an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan which brings together health and social care needs, as well as their special educational provision where the SEN Code of Practice (2015) is followed. Arrangements in place in schools to support pupils at school with medical conditions are detailed with the school's policy for 'Supporting pupils with Medical Conditions'.

Monitoring and Evaluation of SEN

The school regularly and carefully monitors and evaluates the quality and effectiveness of provision for all pupils, including those with SEN. This is done through scrutiny of data related to the achievement of pupils with SEN, work sampling, observation and parent and pupil questionnaires. The school's SEN Governor also has a role in scrutinising the findings of the school's self-evaluation and relevant data as part of the Governing Body's process of monitoring the effectiveness of the school's SEN Policy.

Training

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. Training needs of staff are identified through the school's self-evaluation process.

All teachers and support staff undertake an induction process 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.

The school SENCo regularly attends SEN meetings, alongside other SENCos, in order to keep up to date with local and national updates in SEND.

Funding for SEN and Allocation of Resources

The school's core budget is used to make general provision for all pupils in the school including pupils with SEN. In addition, every school receives an additional amount of money to help make special educational provision to meet children's SEN. This is called the 'notional SEN budget'.

The amount in this budget is based on a formula which is agreed between schools and the local authority. The government has recommended that schools should use this notional SEN budget to pay for up to £6,000 worth of special educational provision to meet a child's SEN. Most children with SEN need special educational provision that comes to less than £6,000. If the school can show that a pupil with SEN needs more than £6,000 worth of special educational provision, it can ask the local authority to provide intervention funding to meet the cost of that provision. Where the local authority agrees, the cost is provided from funding held by the local authority in their high needs block. Schools are expected to use this funding to make provision for that individual pupil.

The school may also use Pupil Premium Funding, where a pupil is registered as SEN and is also in receipt of Pupil Premium grant, to address the needs of these pupils and enhance learning and achievement.

Each term, in consultation with the head teacher and class teachers, the SENCo will map the targeted provision in place for pupils on the SEN record to show how resources are allocated and to monitor the cost of the whole of our SEN provision. This targeted provision is outlined on the school's Provision Map.

Roles and Responsibilities

Teachers

Teachers will raise concerns about pupils in their class who may be underachieving or with a suspected special educational need. These concerns will be discussed fully with parents and SENCo and concerns recorded. Intervention, providing additional or different work to that given in class, may be necessary to target the pupil's areas for development. Should intervention over time, or referral to an external specialist be deemed necessary, the pupil will be placed on the Special Educational Needs Record at SEN Support.

For those pupils on the SEN Record, teachers will be expected to maintain all relevant paperwork including the writing of individual education plans (IEP) and reviews, collaborating with parents and pupils to complete pupil passports and working with pupils to compile a 1-page profile. These documents should reflect the needs of the pupils and their personal targets. These will be regularly monitored by the class teacher, pupil and SENCo.

A new IEP will be written at least termly and reviewed with parents who will be consulted about all decisions. When a pupil is removed from the SEN Record, they will continue to be monitored to ensure progress is maintained.

SENCo

The key responsibilities of the SENCo are taken from the SEND 0- 25 Code of Practice (2015) and include:

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy
- coordinating provision for children with SEN
- liaising with the relevant Designated Teacher where a looked after pupil has SEN
- advising on the graduated approach to providing SEN support
- advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- liaising with parents of pupils with SEN
- liaising with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies
- being a key point of contact with external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services
- liaising with potential next providers of education to ensure a pupil and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- working with the head teacher and school governors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- ensuring that the school keeps up to date the records of all pupils with SEN.

Head Teachers

The head teachers, SENCo and governing body will establish a clear picture of the resources that are available to the school and will consider the strategic approach to meeting SEN, in the context of the total resources available, including any resources targeted at particular groups, such as the pupil premium.

The head teachers will ensure that the SENCo has sufficient time and resources to carry out his / her functions. This will include providing the SENCo with sufficient administrative support and time away from teaching to enable them to fulfil their responsibilities.

Governing Body

The Governing Body will ensure that, in line with SEN Information Regulations, information is published on the school's website about the implementation of the school's policy for pupils with SEN. The information published will be updated annually and any changes to the information occurring during the year will be updated as soon as possible.

A member of the Governing Body is appointed to have specific oversight of the school's arrangements for SEN and disability and to ensure that the full governing body is kept informed of how the school is meeting the statutory requirements.

Storing and Managing Information

All records containing sensitive information, relating to the Special Educational Needs or disabilities of pupils in school, will be treated as highly confidential and securely stored.

This policy should be read with reference to the following school policies:

- Anti-bullying
- Equalities
- Supporting Pupils with Medical Needs
- Accessibility
- Child protection

Dealing with Complaints

Any complaints concerning SEN should be made in accordance with the school's Complaints Policy and Procedures and/or the SEN appeals regulations at LEA level.

Reviewing this Policy

This policy will be formally reviewed annually.

Compliance

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (Jan. 2015) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (Jan. 2015)
- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- School SEN Information Report regulations (2014)
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (2015, updated 2017)
- Primary National Curriculum (2015)
- Safeguarding Policy

The process of developing the draft of this policy was initially carried out by the Affinity TSA SENCo Leadership Development Group. It was then finalised by the SENCo in consultation with SEN Governor, parents, pupils and staff at the school.