



**Walkwood**  
Church of England  Middle School

# Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Governing Body Committee responsible:	Ethos, Inclusion and Care		
Approval granted:	2 March 2020	Review date:	Spring 2021

“Love is always supportive, loyal, hopeful, and trusting.”

1 Corinthians 13:7

“Church of England Schools have at their heart a belief that all children are loved by God, are individually unique and that the school has a mission to help each pupil to fulfil their potential in all aspects of their personhood: physically, academically, socially, morally and spiritually. Schools have a duty to try to remove any factor that might represent a hindrance to a child’s fulfilment. We want all pupils to want to engage in learning in a safe and welcoming ethos.”

*Valuing All God’s Children, Church of England, 2014*

“The core purpose of any Church school is to maximise the learning potential of every pupil within the love of God.”

*SIAMS (Statutory Inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools) 2012*



## Introduction

Walkwood Church of England Middle School has a named Special Education Needs and Disability Coordinator (SENDCo) who has the accredited SENDCo Award and a named Governor. They ensure that the Walkwood Special Educational Needs policy works within the guidelines and inclusion policies of the Code of Practice (2015) and other policies within our school.

It is our belief that all children have an equal right to a full and rounded education which will enable them to achieve their full potential. We endeavour to secure special educational provision for pupils for whom this is required, that is 'additional to and different from' that provided within the differentiated curriculum to better respond to the four areas of need identified in the current Code of Practice (September 2015).

Any reference to 'parents' also includes a pupil's carers or guardians.

## What are special educational needs?

A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty or disability is a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age. Special educational provision means educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age in a mainstream setting in England... Health care provision or social care provision which educates or trains a child or young person is to be treated as special educational provision. (Code of Practice 2015.)

Walkwood prides itself on all pupils achieving their maximum potential. Through Quality First teaching your pupils' needs are met. Sometimes it is not enough for some pupils and extra support may have to be put into place. The additional support would be in the way of interventions that would run alongside the main curriculum. This will help to boost skill levels, confidence and eventually much needed independence for the pupil to develop in preparation for life beyond school.

The school recognises that the needs of high achieving children should also be catered for and recognised as a 'special educational need'.

This SEND policy details how, at Walkwood, we will do our best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs and that those needs are known to all who are likely to work with them. We will ensure that teachers are able to identify and provide for those pupils with special educational needs, allowing them to join in all school activities together with pupils who do not have special educational needs.

## Categories of SEND

- Communication and interaction, for example, autistic spectrum disorder, Asperger's Syndrome, speech and language difficulties.
- Cognition and learning, for example, dyslexia, dyspraxia.



- Social, mental and emotional health, for example, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
- Sensory/physical, for example, visual impairments, hearing impairments, processing difficulties, epilepsy.

If a child displays behaviour that is causing him/her to have difficulties with focusing on learning, it is the SENDCo's responsibility, with the help of other agencies, to identify why the pupil is behaving the way they are.

## Aims and objectives

The aims of this policy are:

- to create an environment that meets the special educational needs of each child in order that they can achieve their learning potential and engage in activities alongside pupils who do not have SEND;
- to request, monitor and respond to parents/carers and pupil's views in order to evidence high levels of confidence and partnership;
- to make clear the expectations of all partners in the process;
- to ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need, through well targeted continuing professional development;
- to ensure support for pupils with medical conditions, inclusion in school activities by ensuring consultation with health and social care professionals;
- to identify the roles and responsibilities of all staff in providing for children's special educational needs;
- through reasonable adjustments to enable all children to have full access to all elements of the school curriculum;
- to work in cooperation and productive partnerships with SEND Services and other outside agencies, to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners.

## Equal Opportunities and Inclusion

Through all subjects we ensure that the school meets the needs of all, taking account of gender, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, sexual orientation, age, ability, disability and social circumstances. It is important that in this school we meet the diverse needs of pupils to ensure inclusion for all and that all pupils are prepared for full participation in a multi-ethnic society. We also measure and assess the impact regularly through meetings with our SEND coordinator and individual teachers to ensure all children have equal access to succeeding in this subject.

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.

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 participation in learning, and in physical and practical activities;
- helping children to manage and own 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.

## Identification, Assessment and Provision

Provision for children with special educational needs is a matter for the whole school. The governing body, the school's principal, the SENDCo and all other members of staff, particularly class teachers and teaching assistants, have important day-to-day responsibilities. **All teachers are teachers of children with special educational needs.**

The school will assess each child's current levels of attainment on entry in order to ensure that they build on the patterns of learning and experience already established during the child's First School years. If the child already has an identified special educational need, this information may be transferred from other partners in their First School setting and the class teacher and SENDCo will use this information to:

- provide starting points for the development of an appropriate curriculum;
- identify and focus attention on action to support the child within the class;
- use the assessment processes to identify any learning difficulties;
- ensure ongoing observation and assessments provide regular feedback about the child's achievements and experiences to form the basis for planning the next steps of the child's learning.

The identification and assessment of the special educational needs of children whose first language is not English requires particular care. Where there is uncertainty about a particular child, an appointed teacher will look carefully at all aspects of the child's performance in different subjects to establish whether the problems are due to limitations in their command of English or arises from special educational needs.

### The Role of The SENDCo and what provision looks like at Walkwood

The Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Co-ordinator's [SENDCo] responsibilities include:

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEND policy;
- co-ordinating provision for children with SEND;
- liaising with and advising fellow teachers;
- overseeing the records of all children with SEND;



- liaising with parents of children with SEND;
- contributing to the in-service training of staff;
- liaising with local high schools so that support is provided for Y8 pupils as they prepare to transfer;
- liaising with external agencies including the Learning Support Teachers and Educational Psychology Services, Health and Social Services and voluntary bodies;
- co-ordinating and developing school based strategies for the identification and review of children with SEND;
- making regular visits to classrooms to monitor the progress of children on the SEND Register;
- to oversee the school's maintenance of its MAB (Mainstream Autism Base) Autism friendly status, ensuring that appropriate strategies are employed throughout the school and that staff training is kept up to date.

### Monitoring Children's Progress

The school's system for observing and assessing the progress of individual children will provide information about areas where a child is not progressing satisfactorily. Under these circumstances, teachers may need to consult the SENDCo to consider what else might be done. This review might lead to the conclusion that the pupil requires help over and above that which is normally available within the particular class or subject.

The key test of the need for action is that current rates of progress are inadequate.

### Adequate progress can be identified as that which:

- prevents the attainment gap between the child and her/his peers from widening;
- closes the attainment gap between the child and her/his peers;
- betters the child's previous rate of progress;
- ensures access to the full curriculum;
- demonstrates an improvement in self-help, social or personal skills;
- demonstrates improvements in the child's behaviour.

In order to help children with special educational needs, Walkwood will adopt a graduated response. This may see us using specialist expertise if as a school we feel that our interventions are still not having an impact on the individual. The school will record the steps taken to meet the needs of individual children through internal planning and the SENDCo will have responsibility for ensuring that records are kept and available when needed.

When any concern is initially noticed it is the responsibility of the class teacher to take steps to address the issue. Parents may be consulted and specific intervention put in place and monitored for an initial period of up to 6 weeks. Progress should then be reviewed and next steps identified and discussed with parents.

After discussion with the SENDCo, the class teacher will then provide additional interventions that are additional to those provided as part of the school's differentiated curriculum and the child will be given individual learning targets which will be applied within the classroom. These targets will be monitored by the class teacher and teaching assistants within the class and reviewed formally with the SENDCo, parents and child.

Reasons for a child being added to the SEND register may include the fact that he/she:



- makes little or no progress, even when teaching approaches are targeted particularly in a child's identified area of weakness;
- shows signs of difficulty in developing literacy or mathematics skills which result in poor attainment in some curriculum areas;
- presents persistent emotional or behavioural difficulties which are not improved by the behaviour management techniques usually employed in the school;
- has sensory or physical problems, and continues to make little or no progress, despite the provision of specialist equipment;
- has communication and / or interaction difficulties, and continues to make little or no progress.

## Partnership with parents

Partnership plays a key role in enabling children and young people with SEND to achieve their potential. Parents hold key information and have knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of a child's needs. All parents of all children especially those with special educational needs will be treated as partners, playing an active and valued role in their child's education.

Children and young people with special educational needs often have a unique knowledge of their own needs and their views about what sort of help they would like. They will be encouraged to contribute to the assessment of their needs, the review and transition process.

The school website contains details of our policy for special educational needs, the special educational needs information report including the arrangements made for children in our school with special educational needs.

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 and have meetings as and when required to discuss progress of special needs children with their parents. We inform the parents of any outside intervention, and share the process of decision-making by providing clear information relating to the education of their child.

Parents always have access to the SENDCo through a school email address.

## The Nature of Intervention

The SENDCo and the interventions team will decide on the action needed to help the child progress in the light of earlier assessments. This may include:

- different learning materials or specialist equipment;
- some group or individual support, which may involve small groups of children being withdrawn to work with the SENDCo; or, with Teaching Assistant support or other interventions such as Numicon, Precision Teaching, Rapid Reading;



- extra adult time to devise/administer the nature of the planned intervention and also to monitor its effectiveness;
- staff development and training to introduce more effective strategies.

After initial discussions with the SENDCo, the intervention teacher will be responsible for working with the child and ensuring delivery of any individualised programme. Parents will continue to be consulted and kept informed of the action taken to help their child, and of the outcome of any action. Parents will be invited to meet regularly with the interventions team and SENDCo.

The SENDCo will support further assessment of the child where necessary, assisting in planning for their future needs in discussion with colleagues and parents.

## The use of outside agencies

These services may become involved if a child continues to make little or no progress despite considerable input and adaptations. They will use the child's records in order to establish which strategies have already been employed and which targets have previously been set.

The external specialist may act in an advisory capacity, or provide additional specialist assessment or be involved in teaching the child directly. The child's Individual targets will set out strategies for supporting the child's progress. These will be implemented, at least in part, in the normal classroom setting. The delivery of the interventions recorded in the Provision Maps continues to be the responsibility of the intervention teacher.

### Outside agencies may become involved if the child:

- continues to make little or no progress in specific areas over a long period;
- continues working at National Curriculum levels substantially below that expected of children of a similar age;
- continues to have difficulty in developing literacy and mathematical skills;
- has emotional or behavioural difficulties which regularly and substantially interfere with the child's own learning or that of the class group;
- has sensory or physical needs and requires additional specialist equipment or regular advice or visits by a specialist service;
- has ongoing communication or interaction difficulties that impede the development of social relationships and cause substantial barriers to learning;
- despite having received intervention, the child continues to fall behind the level of her/his peers.

### School Request for Statutory Assessment or Education Health and Care Plans (from September 2014)

A request will be made by the school to the County SEND Services if the child has demonstrated significant cause for concern. The SEND Services will be given information about the child's progress over time, and will also receive documentation in relation to the child's special educational needs and any other action taken to deal with those needs, including any resources or special arrangements put in place.



### The evidence will include:

- previous provision maps and targets for the pupil;
- records of regular reviews and their outcomes;
- records of the child's health and medical history where appropriate;
- attainment levels in literacy and numeracy;
- education and other assessments, for example from an advisory specialist support teacher or educational psychologist;
- view of the pupil, where appropriate;
- views of the parents.

The parents of any child who is referred for statutory assessment will be kept fully informed of the progress of the referral. Children with a statement of special educational needs will be reviewed in line with the statutory annual assessment cycle. When this coincides with transfer to high school, the SENDCo from the high school will be invited to the review to aid effective transition.

### Internal support measures

Strategies employed to enable the child to progress will be recorded within internal plans which will include information about:

- the targets set for the child;
- the teaching strategies to be used;
- the provision to be put in place;
- how the targets will help the child in their learning?
- what they are responsible for;
- how the child can be successful?
- the review date;
- mid-point review sheets are stored on the school system and updated termly by teachers and teaching assistants;
- the child's views will be sought and taken into account, as will those of the parents, whose support is vital if progress is to be achieved and maintained.

### Access to the Curriculum

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 and experience levels of understanding and rates of progress that bring feelings of success and achievement. Teachers use a range of strategies to meet children's special educational needs. Lessons have clear learning objectives and staff differentiate work appropriately, and use assessment to inform the next stage of learning. Teaching staff receive ongoing training on 'Teaching and Learning styles' and this has led to members of staff planning lessons that incorporate the different learning styles that children have Individual education 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.

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.



### Allocation of resources

The SENDCo 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 and Education Health and Care plans.

The Principal informs the governing body of how the funding allocated to support special educational needs has been employed.

The Principal and the SENDCo meet annually to agree on how to use funds directly related to statements.

### The role of the governing body

The governing body challenges the school and its members to secure necessary provision for any pupil identified as having special educational needs. They ask probing questions to ensure all teachers are aware of the importance of providing for these children and ensure that funds and resources are used effectively.

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.

The Governing Body reviews this policy annually.

### Monitoring and evaluation

The SENDCo monitors the movement of children within the SEND system in school and provides staff and governors with regular summaries of the impact of the policy on the practice of the school. They are involved in supporting teachers and in drawing up plans of support for children and the communication of these for implementation by teaching staff. The SENDCo and the principal hold regular meetings to review the work of the school in this area. In addition, the SENDCo and the named governor with responsibility for special needs also hold regular meetings.



## Appendix 1

### Designated personnel

The coordinator for special educational needs and disabilities is: [Mrs L Monfardini](#)

The designated safeguarding lead is: [Mr S West](#)

The alternate designated safeguarding leads are: [Mrs G McKenna](#)  
[Mrs L Monfardini](#)

