



New Hartley First School

Special Educational Needs Policy

Vision Statement

Our vision for teaching and learning is for every child to experience high quality teaching and have access to engaging learning experiences. To foster a love of learning and develop enquiring minds. To enable children to see the value of mistake making and never be afraid to try.

Our Beliefs and Values

- Provision for children with SEND is the responsibility of the whole school and we expect every member of staff to accept and embrace this responsibility.
- Class teachers are responsible for the teaching, learning and progress of all pupils in their class, including those with SEND.
- We recognise the need to work in partnership with parents and value the contribution parents make to their child's education. Children also contribute their views on the provision provided.
- We recognise the individuality of each child and strive to help them achieve their full potential. Every child is valued regardless of race, culture or religious beliefs and whatever their abilities or needs.
- All children have the ability to learn and progress and we work to provide an environment where all children are valued, their potential nurtured and their achievements celebrated.

This policy was developed in consultation with the LA. The consultation process involved staff, parents and governors. It was written to reflect and be compliant with the SEND Code of Practice, 0-25 guidance.

Northumberland County Council Local Offer

<https://www.northumberland.gov.uk/Children/Northumberland-Local-Offer-SEND-0-to-25-years/Your-local-offer.aspx>

The aim of The Local Offer is to support children and young people with SEND and disabilities to feel included within their communities and to be independent. It can help

them to make choices and decisions that may have a positive impact on their lives now and into the future.

Aims and Objectives

- To work in partnership with children and their families at every stage of the SEND process
- To create an environment that meets the special educational needs of each child
- To ensure that the special educational needs of children are identified, assessed and provided for
- To make clear the expectations of all partners in the process
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of staff in providing for children's specific educational needs
- To enable all children to have full access to all elements of the school curriculum.

Introduction

Our School promotes high standards and all pupils, regardless of their particular needs, are offered inclusive teaching, which enables them to make the best possible progress and develop as valued members of our school community.

We offer a range of provision to support children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND), including those with Communication and Interaction difficulties, Cognition and Learning difficulties, Social, Emotional and Mental Health and Sensory or Physical Needs. We have high expectations of all children and staff and we believe that it is the entitlement of all children to have the opportunity to achieve their full potential.

Compliance

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (July 2014) and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents;

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- SEND Code of Practice 0-25 (July 2014)
- Schools SEND Information Report Regulations (2014)
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Needs (2022)
- Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers Standards 2012

Definition of SEND (Appendix 1)

The Special Education and Disability Code of Practice: 0-25 years (2014) states: 'A child or young person has SEND if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her.'

It also states that schools must make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services, to ensure that disabled children and young people are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

Broad Areas of SEND Need

There are four broad areas of need:

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

When children are assessed and identified with SEND, we ensure that their needs are met and additional support is given where required, either within school or in collaboration with specialist external agencies. Children with SEND are taught and managed sensitively with a view to promoting their inclusion in all school activities as far as this can be reasonably arranged as well as promoting independence.

All children have access to a challenging curriculum, which is broad, balanced, relevant and adapted.

When additional specialist advice and support, beyond what is offered in school, is necessary, we contact the appropriate external agencies and work closely with them and empathetically with parents to promote the child's well-being and development. Our Local Offer provides further information about the agencies we work with.

Identification of SEND

A key principle under the Code is that there should be no delay in making any necessary SEND provision in early years as delay at this stage can give rise to learning difficulty and subsequently to loss of self-esteem, frustration in learning and to behaviour difficulties. The Code states that:

“Early action to address identified needs is critical to the future progress and improved outcomes that are essential in helping the child to prepare for adult life”

If parents have any concerns about their child they should contact their class teacher in the first instance. Alternatively, they may make an appointment to see the SENDCO or the Head teacher.

Some children arrive at our school with identified SEND, in which case the SENDCO will liaise with the previous school, nursery or setting to ensure there is a smooth transition and continuity of provision.

Some children arrive at our school with a need that has not yet been diagnosed or acknowledged or during a child's time at our school teachers or parents may have concerns about pupil progress or attainment. In these cases, parents will be contacted to discuss concerns and share their views. There is a period of monitoring and review. There will be an analysis of the child's progress compared to peers, national data and expectations of progress. Following this, and in consultation

with relevant staff at school, the child (if appropriate) and the child's parents SEND may be identified and appropriate provision will be made.

Many children may be subject to this period of monitoring and review for a short time, receiving time-limited and targeted interventions until they have progressed sufficiently to work at age-related expectations.

Here at New Hartley First School we follow the Graduated Approach. The initial focus is placed on high quality teaching. Secondly, if pupils still struggle and are in need of additional input we move them on to Pupil Passport which involves structured interventions/ classroom adaptations that are tracked and monitored. Thirdly, if pupils have longer term needs then a SEN Support Plan is written along with long term interventions and adaptations, outside agency support may also be sought.

Where a child is identified as having SEND we work in partnership with parents to establish the support the child needs. Once a child's needs have been discussed by relevant parties they are recorded and decisions made about the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment for that child. The views and wishes of the child and their parents are central to these discussions.

A Pupil Profile is written. This is aimed at removing barriers to learning and putting effective special provision in place that is implemented and reviewed regularly (at least termly). Parents are invited to discuss this plan with the relevant class teacher. Class teachers and the SENDCO are available for further discussion by appointment through the school office.

We adopt a graduated approach with four stages of action: assess, plan, do and review.

Assess - in identifying a child as needing SEND support the class teacher, working with the SENDCO, the child (if appropriate), and the child's parents, carries out an analysis of the child's needs. This assessment draws on the teacher's assessment and experience of the child, their previous progress and attainment, as well as any other available (rate of progress, attainment, and behaviour etc.). This assessment should be reviewed regularly. In some cases, outside professionals from health or social services may already be involved with the child. With the agreement of the parents, these professionals should liaise with the school to help inform the assessments.

Plan - Where it is decided to provide additional / SEND support, and having formally notified the parents, the class teacher and the SENDCO agree, in consultation with the parent, the desired outcomes. Interventions and/or support are put in place, the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, and a clear date for review recorded. All teachers and support staff who work with the child are made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required.

Do - The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a daily basis. With support from the SENDCO, they oversee the implementation of the interventions or programmes agreed as part of additional / SEND support. Where the interventions involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher, they should still retain responsibility for the child. The SENDCO should support the practitioner /class teacher in assessing the impact of the action taken, in problem solving and advising on the effective implementation of support.

Review - The effectiveness, impact and quality of the support / interventions is reviewed, in line with the agreed date, by the class teacher, Learning Support Assistant and SENDCO, taking into

account the child's parents and the child's views. This should feedback into the analysis of the child's needs. They revise the support in light of the child's progress and development, deciding any changes to the support and outcomes. Parents should have clear information about the impact of the support and interventions provided, enabling them to be involved in planning next steps.

This cycle of action is revisited. At agreed times parents are engaged with school, contributing their insights to assessment and planning. Intended outcomes are shared and reviewed with the child (if appropriate) and parent as well as the school.

The Graduated Approach to SEND

Quality First Teaching (QFT) and Initial Concerns

Children receive inclusive quality first teaching (QFT) which may include the provision of differentiated classwork.

Teachers may go on to complete a SENDCO referral form which clearly states to the SENDCO any possible areas of concern. Following this, the SENDCO will meet with the class teacher to discuss the next appropriate steps taking into account the individual child's needs.

Pupil Passport (level 1)

Continued or increased concern may lead to children receiving additional, time-limited and targeted interventions to accelerate their progress to age-related expectations. These interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching. The SENDCO and class teachers will work closely with any support staff to plan and assess the impact of the support and interventions and to link them to classroom teaching. At this stage input from other agencies may be sought and parents/carers are frequently liaised with.

SEND Support (Level 2)

Where a child continues to make less than expected progress, despite interventions, they receive highly personalised interventions to accelerate their progress and enable them to achieve their potential. When appropriate, a specialist outside agency may support with this. The SENDCO and class teachers work with specialists to select effective teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions in order to support the child's progress.

EHCP

If support is not impacting on the child's progress and this is still of significant concern, the school, after consultation with parents and other professionals, will request an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment from the Local Authority. Parents can also request an EHC Needs Assessment.

Home School Partnership

At New Hartley we highly value the contribution of parents. Parents are always welcome to discuss their child and their views are respected and their concerns are taken into consideration

at all stages of the SEND procedure. Parent's consent must always be gained for the involvement of external professionals

All parents and /or carers are invited to meet with their child's class teachers at two formal parents' evenings during the year as well as receiving an annual report.

Parents of children identified as having SEND are invited to a coffee morning throughout the year. Parents will receive the pupil passport / SEN support plan for their child from school. If they have any questions they are welcome to make an appointment with the SENDCO / class teacher.

Support plans (Written in July) are introduced and reviewed at the following key points throughout the year.

Overview of Pupil Passports/SEN Support

Autumn 1 – September: following on with Plan 1 (written in Summer 2 by previous class teacher will be shared with parents). This plan then runs until January.

Spring 1 – January: reviewed targets from Plan 1 and a new plan (Plan 2) written – both shared with parents.

Summer 2 - June: reviewed targets from Plan 2 and a new plan (Plan 3) written – both shared with parents.

NB - These are working documents, if targets are met before the deadline then new targets must be written and implemented.

Pupil Views

Children's views matter to us. SEND pupils complete pupil profiles that ensure provision can run smoothly throughout their learning journey here at New Hartley.

All children are aware of their termly targets (on their individual support plans) and are encouraged to self-review against these in order to encourage ownership and to be more child friendly. As part of the review process, SEND pupils are also asked about their views on their strengths, the areas in which they feel they would like to develop and the support they would like to receive.

For their annual review children with EHCPs are asked more formally about their views, their learning, their targets and the support and interventions they are given by a member of staff.

In order to ensure the most effective SEND provision, the SENDCO has the following procedures in place;

- Termly meeting with the Governor responsible for SEND to discuss the current picture of SEND.
- Half termly meetings with all Class Teachers to discuss children on the SEND register and their provision, as well as further meetings and discussion as required.
- There are opportunities for staff to meet with the SENDCO.
- Pupil progress meetings and the tracking of all pupils.

- Regular meetings with 1-1 support staff.
- Behaviour Support Plans, behaviour strategies and relevant resources supplied to class teachers
- SENDCO ensures time is allocated so that children can be visited and observed in class and teaching staff can be given appropriate support and advice without delay.

Staff Development

The school is committed to providing CPD and staff development and SEND is a regular part of this. We monitor, review and develop all teachers and support staff understanding of strategies to identify and support pupils with SEND.

Conclusion

Our intention is to provide the opportunity for all children, including those with SEND, to progress towards achieving their full potential. The partnership between home and school is highly valued and children’s views are listened to.

Related policies

This policy should be read in conjunction with other school policies, particularly;

- Admission Policy (Nursery only)
- Behaviour Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Complaints Procedure
- Supporting Children with Medical Needs Policy

Updated	September 2024
Review date	September 2025
Head Teacher	Mrs Keri Dowdney
Chair of Governors	Ms Kim Ashby

Appendix 1 Broad areas of need From Code of Practice (0-25) 2014

Communication and interaction

.6.28 Children and young people with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have difficulty in communicating with others. This may be because they have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they do not understand or use social rules of communication. The profile for every child with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives.

.6.29 Children and young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

Cognition and learning

. 6.30 Support for learning difficulties may be required when children and young people learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where children are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication, through to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where children are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or Sensory impairment.

6.31 Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health

.6.32 Children and young people may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children and young people may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.

.6.33 Schools and colleges should have clear processes to support children and young people, including how they will manage the effect of any disruptive behaviour so it does not adversely affect other pupils. The Department for Education publishes guidance on managing pupils' mental health and behaviour difficulties in schools – see the References section under Chapter 6 for a link.

Sensory and/or physical needs

. 6.34 Some children and young people require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time. Many children and young people with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning, or habilitation support. Children and young people with an MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties. Information on how to provide services for deafblind children and young people is available through the Social Care for Deafblind Children and Adults guidance published by the Department of Health (see the References section under Chapter 6 for a link).

.6.35 Some children and young people with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers