



SPECIAL NEEDS POLICY 2025-6

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Definitions of special educational needs (SEND) taken from section 20 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for them. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

- a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if they fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would do so if special educational provision was not made for them.

The coalition government reformed the way in which provision and support is made for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities in England. New legislation (The Children and Families Act 2014) enacted on the 13th March came into force from the 1st September 2014. A new SEND Code of Practice also accompanies this legislation.

More details about the reforms and the SEND Code of Practice can be found on the Department for Education's website:

www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport/SEND

One significant change arising from the reforms is that Statements of Special Educational Needs, for those children with the most complex needs, have now been replaced with a new Education, Health and Care (EHC) Plan. These plans are being supported by an Education, Health and Care Plan Pathway. You can view an animation describing this new pathway on Nottinghamshire's SEND Local Offer website:

www.nottinghamshire.SENDlocaloffer.org.uk

This information is also available by putting the above web address into the browser of a smart phone or tablet.

The SEND Local Offer is a resource which is designed to support children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families. It describes the services and provision that are available both to those families in Nottinghamshire that have an Education, Health and Care Plan and those who do not have a plan, but still experience some form of special educational need. The SEND Local Offer includes information about public services across education, health and social care, as well as those provided by the private, voluntary and community sectors.

Mission statement

We want to inspire our children, including those identified as having a special educational need, to fulfil their own potential in all areas of learning and of life. We will provide them with a safe, happy and nurturing environment where they feel motivated to develop a passion for learning; a love of discovery and be ready for anything. Above all, children will be at the centre of all we do.

Parkdale Primary School is committed to inclusion. We aim to maintain and extend the school's culture, policies and practices of inclusion for all learners. We aim to engender a SENDse of community and belonging, and to offer new opportunities to learners taking into account their needs and experiences. We believe that educational inclusion is about equal opportunities for all learners, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, impairment, attainment and background.

1. Aims and objectives

Aims

We aim to provide every child with access to a broad and balanced education. This includes the National Curriculum in line with the *Special Educational Needs Code of Practice*.

Our aims are:

- To provide a differentiated and personalised curriculum appropriate to the individual's needs and abilities
- To ensure the identification of all pupils requiring SEND provision as early as possible in their school career and to meet their needs
- To ensure that pupils with SEND take as full a part as possible in all school activities
- To work in partnership with parents and carers, sharing views, knowledge and experience
- To seek the views and wishes of the child, in an age appropriate way, and take them into account

Objectives

- **Identify the needs of pupils with SEND as early as possible.** This is most effectively done by gathering information from parents, education, health and care services prior to the child's entry into the school.
- **Monitor the progress of all pupils** in order to aid the identification of pupils with SEND. Continuous monitoring of those pupils with SEND by their teachers will help to ensure that they are able to reach their full potential.
- **Make appropriate provision to overcome all barriers to learning and ensure pupils with SEND have full access to the National Curriculum.** This will be co-ordinated by the SENDCo and curriculum coordinator and will be carefully monitored and regularly reviewed in order to ensure that individual targets are being met and all pupils' needs are catered for.
- **Work with parents** to gain a better understanding of their child, and involve them in all stages of their child's education. This includes supporting them in terms of understanding SEND procedures and practices, providing regular reports on their child's progress, and providing information on the provisions for pupils within the school as a whole.
- **Work with and in support of outside agencies** when the pupils' needs cannot be met by the school alone.
- **Create a school environment where pupils feel safe to voice their opinions of their own needs.** This means providing regular one to one meetings between pupils and their teacher and will be made easier by carefully monitoring the progress of all pupils. Pupil participation is a right. This will be reflected in decision-making but also encouraged through wider opportunities for participation in school life [*e.g. membership of the School Council*].

2. Responsibility for the coordination of SEND provision

- The person responsible for overseeing the provision for children with SEND is Mr Peter Hillier (Head teacher)
- The person co-ordinating the day to day provision of education for pupils with SEND is Mrs Alex Taylor [SENDCO]
- The Governors with particular responsibility for SEND policy, procedures and provision is Mrs Kelly Lee.

3. Arrangements for coordinating SEND provision

The SENDCO will hold details of all SEND Support records such as provision maps for individual pupils.

All staff can access:

- The Parkdale Primary School SEND Policy;
- A copy of the full SEND Register;
- Guidance on identification in the Code of Practice and Notts Graduated Response ('Vulnerable', SEND Support and pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans);
- Information on individual pupils' special educational needs, including individual plans, targets set
- Practical advice, teaching strategies, and information about types of special educational needs and disabilities
- Information on current legislation and SEND provision on staffroom notice boards
- Information available through Nottinghamshire's SEND Local Offer

This information is made accessible to all staff and parents in order to aid the effective co-ordination of the school's SEND provision. In this way, every staff member will have complete and up-to-date information about all pupils with special needs and their requirements which will enable them to provide for the individual needs of all pupils.

Admission arrangements

The admission arrangements for *all* pupils are in accordance with national legislation, including the Equality Act 2010. This includes children with any level of SEND; those with Education, Health and Care Plans and those without.

See Admissions Policy

4. Facilities for pupils with SEND

At Parkdale Primary School we comply with all relevant accessibility requirements. Our building is one on level with only one short flight of stairs between classrooms in Year One. A ramp is installed here. We will undertake to make any reasonable further adjustments or additions to facilitate access for pupils with Special Needs or Disability. Where necessary, we will take guidance and direction from advisors from the SEND team at Notts County Council to this end.

Wherever appropriate and possible, pupils will be taught in the mainstream classroom with their peers. For some children, an alternative provision may be agreed. This may be part-time or for a time-limited period. The school has some capacity to organize an alternative provision for a limited number of pupils.

See Accessibility Plan.

5. Allocation of resources for pupils with SEND

All pupils with SEND will have access to Element 1 and 2 of a school's budget which currently equates to £6,000. Some pupils with SEND may access additional funding. This additional funding might be from a budget which is devolved to and moderated by the Family of Schools. (The Family of Schools comprises of a secondary school and its feeder primary schools). For those with the most complex needs, additional funding is retained by the local authority. This is accessed through the Family of Schools. The Family SENDCO will refer individual applications to a multi-agency panel, which is administered by the Local Authority, who will determine whether the level and complexity of need meets the threshold for this funding.

The Senior Leadership Team, including the SENDCO , decide on the allocation of funding and resources according to the individual needs of the children.

6. Identification of pupils needs

Identification

See definition of Special Educational Needs at start of policy

A graduated approach:

Quality First Teaching and 'Vulnerable' Pupils

- a) Any pupils who are falling significantly outside of the range of expected academic achievement in line with predicted performance indicators and grade boundaries will be monitored.
- b) Once a pupil has been identified as *possibly* having SEND they will be closely monitored by staff in order to gauge their level of learning and possible difficulties.
- c) The child's class teacher will take steps to provide differentiated learning opportunities that will aid the pupil's academic progression and enable the teacher to better understand the provision and teaching style that needs to be applied.
- d) The SENDCO will be consulted as needed for support and advice and may wish to observe the pupil in class.
- e) Through (b) and (d) it can be determined which level of provision the child will need going forward.
- f) Where it is determined that a pupil does not currently meet the criteria to be SEND Support (see below), but circumstances signify that there is a future risk of them doing so, they will be designated **Vulnerable**, in accordance with the Nottinghamshire Graduate Response.
 - a. If a pupil has recently been removed from the SEND list they may also fall into this category as continued monitoring will be necessary.
 - b. Parents will be informed fully of every stage of their child's development and the circumstances under which they are being monitored. They are encouraged to share information and knowledge with the school.
 - c. The child is formally recorded by the school as being under observation due to concern by parent or teacher but this does not place the child on the school's SEND list. Parents are given this information. It is recorded by the school as an aid to further progression and for future reference.
 - d. Pupil progress meetings are used to monitor and assess the progress being made by the child. The frequency of these meetings for children on SEND Support or an EHC Plan is dependent on the individual child's needs and progress being made, but is no less than termly

SEND Support

Where it is determined that a pupil does have SEND, parents will be formally advised of this and the decision will be added to the pupil's school record. The aim of formally identifying a pupil with SEND is to help school ensure that effective provision is put in place and so remove barriers to learning. The support provided consists of a four – part process:

- Assess
- Plan
- Do
- Review

This is an ongoing cycle to enable the provision to be refined and revised as the understanding of the needs of the pupil grows. This cycle enables the identification of those interventions which are the most effective in supporting the pupil to achieve good progress and outcomes.

Assess

This involves clearly analysing the pupil's needs using the class teacher's assessment and experience of working with the pupil, details of previous progress and attainment, comparisons with peers and national data, as well as the views and experience of parents. The pupil's views and where relevant, advice from external support services will also be considered. Any parental concerns will be noted and compared with the school's information and assessment data on how the pupil is progressing.

This analysis will require regular review to ensure that support and intervention is matched to need, that barriers to learning are clearly identified and being overcome and that the interventions being used are developing and evolving as required. Where external support staff are already involved their work will help inform the assessment of need. Where they are not involved they may be contacted, if this is felt to be appropriate, following discussion and agreement from parents.

Plan

Planning will involve consultation between the teacher, SENDCO and parents to agree the adjustments, interventions and support that are required; the impact on progress, development and or behaviour that is expected and a clear date for review. Parental involvement may be sought, where appropriate, to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

All those working with the pupil, including support staff will be informed of their individual needs, the support that is being provided, any particular teaching strategies/approaches that are being employed and the outcomes that are being sought.

Do

The class teacher remains responsible for working with the child on a day-to-day basis. They will retain responsibility even where the interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class /subject teacher. They will work closely with teaching assistants and /or relevant specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and links with classroom teaching. Support with further assessment of the pupil's strengths and weaknesses, problem solving and advising of the implementation of effective support will be provided by the SENDCO.

Review

Reviews will be undertaken in line with agreed dates. The review process will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. It will also take account of the views of the pupil and their parents. The class teacher, in conjunction with the SENDCO will revise the support and outcomes based on the pupil's progress and development making any necessary amendments going forward, in consultation with parents and the pupil.

Parents will be provided with clear information about the impact of support to enable them to be involved in planning the next steps.

Referral for an Education, Health and Care Plan

If a child has lifelong or significant difficulties they may undergo a Statutory Assessment Process which is usually requested by the school but can be requested by a parent. This will occur where the complexity of need or a lack of clarity around the needs of the child are such that a multi-agency approach to assessing that need, to planning provision and identifying resources, is required.

The decision to make a referral for a statement will be taken at a progress review.

The application for an Education, Health and Care Plans will combine information from a variety of sources including:

- Parents
- Teachers
- SENDCO
- Social Care
- Health professionals

Information will be gathered relating to the current provision provided, action points that have been taken, and the preliminary outcomes of targets set. A decision will be made by a group of people from education, health and social care about whether or the child is eligible for an EHC Plan. Parents have the right to appeal against a decision not to initiate a statutory assessment leading to an EHC Plan.

Further information about EHC Plans can found via the SEND Local Offer:

www.nottinghamshire.SENDlocaloffer.org.uk

or by speaking to an Education, Health and Care Plan Co-ordinator on:

0115 9774012 or 0115 9773323

or by contacting the Parent Partnership Service on:

0115 948 2888

Education, Health and Care Plans [EHC Plan]

- Following Statutory Assessment, an EHC Plan will be provided by Nottinghamshire County Council, if it is decided that the child's needs are not being met by the support that is ordinarily available. The school and the child's parents will be involved developing and producing the plan.
- Parents have the right to appeal against the content of the EHC Plan. They may also appeal against the school named in the Plan if it differs from their preferred choice.
- Once the EHC Plan has been completed and agreed, it will be kept as part of the pupil's formal record and reviewed at least annually by staff, parents and the pupil. The annual review enables provision for the pupil to be evaluated and, where appropriate, for changes to be put in place, for example, reducing or increasing levels of support.

7. Access to the curriculum, information and associated services

Pupils with SEND will be given access to the curriculum through the SEND provision provided by the school as is necessary, as far as possible, in line with the wishes of their parents and the needs of the individual.

Every effort will be made to educate pupils with SEND alongside their peers in a mainstream classroom setting. Where this is not possible, the SENDCO will consult with the child's parents for other flexible arrangements to be made.

To ensure access to the curriculum we will ensure that:

- Staff are fully informed of the special educational needs of any pupils in their charge including sharing progress reports, medical reports and teacher feedback
- There are training and learning opportunities for staff on the subject of SEND and SEND teaching. School staff should be up to date with teaching methods which will aid the progress of all pupils including those with SEND
- Staff make use of all class facilities and space
- Staff use in-class provisions and support effectively to ensure that the curriculum is differentiated where necessary.
- Individual or group tuition is available where it is felt that pupils would benefit from this provision.
- Any decision to provide group teaching outside the classroom will involve the SENDCO in providing a rationale and focus on flexible teaching. Parents will be made aware of any circumstances in which changes have been made.
- Appropriate individual targets are set that motivate pupils to do their best, and celebrating achievements at all levels.

8. Inclusion of pupils with SEND

The Head Teacher oversees the school's policy for inclusion and is responsible for ensuring that it is implemented effectively throughout the school.

The school curriculum is regularly reviewed by the curriculum coordinator together with the SENDCO to ensure that it promotes the inclusion of all pupils. This includes learning outside the classroom.

The school will seek advice, as appropriate, around individual pupils, from external support services through the termly 'Springboard meetings', Early Help Unit and the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

The school aims to ensure quality access to all areas of the curriculum including outdoor and extra-curricular activities

9. Evaluating the success of provision

In order to make consistent continuous progress in relation to SEND provision the school encourages feedback from staff, parents and pupils throughout the year.

Pupil progress will be monitored on a termly basis in line with the SEND Code of Practice.

There is an annual formal evaluation of the effectiveness of the school SEND provision and policy. The evaluation is carried out by the Senior Leadership Team and information is gathered from different sources such as: child and parent surveys, teacher and staff surveys and parents evenings. This will be collated and published by the governing body of a maintained school (or the proprietors of Academy schools) on an annual basis in accordance with section 69 of the Children and Families Act 2014.

Evidence collected will help inform school development and improvement planning.

10. Complaints procedure

If a parent or carer has any concerns or complaints regarding the care or welfare of their child, an appointment can be made by them to speak to the SENDCO, who will be able to advise on formal procedures for complaint.

11. In service training (CPD)

We aim to keep all school staff up to date with relevant training and developments in teaching practice in relation to the needs of pupils with SEND.

The SENDCo attends relevant SEND courses, Family SEND meetings and facilitates/signposts relevant SEND focused external training opportunities for all staff.

We recognise the need to train *all* our staff on SEND issues. The SENDCO, with the Senior leadership team, ensures that training opportunities are matched to school development priorities and those identified through the use of provision management (see Section 11).

14. Links to support services

The school continues to build strong working relationships and links with external support services in order to fully support our SEND pupils and aid school inclusion.

Sharing knowledge and information with our support services is key to the effective and successful SEND provision within our school. Any one of the support services may raise concerns about a pupil. This will then be brought to the attention of the SENDCo who will then inform the child's parents.

15. Working in partnerships with parents

.Parkdale Primary School believes that a close working relationship with parents is vital in order to ensure

- a) early and accurate identification and assessment of SEND leading to the correct intervention and provision
- b) continuing social and academic progress of children with SEND
- c) personal and academic targets are set and met effectively

Parents are kept up to date with their child's progress through parent's evenings and reports at the end of the summer term.

In cases where more frequent regular contact with parents is necessary, this will be arranged based on the individual pupil's needs. The SENDCO may also signpost parents of pupils with SEND to the local authority Parent Partnership service where specific advice, guidance and support may be required.

If an assessment or referral indicates that a pupil has additional learning needs the parents and the pupil will always be consulted with regards to future provision. Parents are invited to attend meetings with external agencies regarding their child, and are kept up to date and consulted on any points of action drawn up in regards to the provision for their child.

16. Links with other schools

The school is a member of the Transform Trust and works in partnership with other schools within this. This enables the schools to build a bank of joint resources and to share advice, training and development activities and expertise.

The school is a part of the Carlton-le-Willows Family of schools and works in partnership with other member schools of this. There are regular meetings between Heads and SENDCOs across the family. SENDCOs within the family work closely on moderation of bids for funding, professional development and sharing good practice.

Transition

When children are transferring to secondary school information about the child is passed on to the school and meetings arranged to discuss transition if needed. Where appropriate, additional transition days and exchanges of information are arranged.

17. Links with other agencies and voluntary organisations

Parkdale Primary School invites and seeks advice and support from external agencies in the identification and assessment of, and provision for, SEND. The SENDCo is the designated person responsible for liaising with the following:

- Nottinghamshire Education Psychology Service
- Primary Social and Emotional Development Team
- Social Services
- Speech and Language Service
- Cognition and Learning Support Service
- Specialist Outreach Services
- GPs and Paediatricians
- Early Years/Schools and Families Specialist Support

In cases where a child is under observation or a cause for concern, focused meetings will be arranged with the appropriate agency. Parents will normally be invited to and informed about any meetings held concerning their child unless there are over-riding safeguarding issues.

