



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY (SEN/D) POLICY

Date	Review Date	Coordinator	Nominated Governor
Nov 2023	Nov 2024	K. Mearns	S. Gandolfo

Introduction

At St Michael’s School, we believe in providing every possible opportunity to develop the full potential of all children. All children should have the right to a broad and balanced curriculum including extra-curricular activities where appropriate and full access to the National Curriculum. The SENCO at St Michael’s School is Karen Mearns, who has gained the National Award for SEN. She works closely with the named governor for SEN, Sarah Gandolfo and the Headteacher, Judith Arkwright. The SENCO is part of the Senior Leadership Team. This SEN/D Policy reflects the 2014 SEN/D Code of Practice, 0-25 guidance.

What are Special Educational Needs?

Children have special educational needs if they have a learning difficulty or disability that calls for special educational provision to be made for them. Children have a learning difficulty if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age; or have a disability that prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for children of the same age in mainstream schools. **Code of Practice (2014).**

What is Special Educational Provision?

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 school. Health care provision or social care provision that educates or trains a child is to be treated as special educational provision. **Code of Practice (2014).**

Aims

The purpose of St Michael’s approach to SEN/D is to ensure that all children achieve their full potential. We believe that every teacher is a teacher of every child, including those with SEN/D. We provide a focus on inclusion, removing barriers to learning and improving outcomes for children with SEN/D. All children are valued and their self-esteem promoted. We work in close partnership with parents who play an active and valued role in their child’s education. Through early identification and a close working relationship with specialist support services, we aim to provide high quality provision to meet the needs of children with SEN/D.

Objectives

The objectives of our policy are:

- Early identification of children’s needs and early intervention to support them
- Regular target setting and monitoring of outcomes through the Provision Map
- To support children’s emotional well-being so that they can become independent and successful learners
- To involve parents and children in decision making
- To provide high quality teaching to meet the needs of children with SEN/D with a focus on inclusive practice and removing barriers to learning

- To work in close partnership with outside agencies to support the needs and provision for children who have special educational needs

Roles and responsibilities

The role of the SEN/D Governor and Governing Body

The governing body must:

- Do its best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any child who has special educational needs;
- Provide challenge and support to the Headteacher and the SENCO to enable them to perform their role to the best of their ability.
- Have regard to the SEN/D Code of Practice (2014) when carrying out its duties toward all children with special educational needs;
- Have a written SEN/D policy containing the information as set out in the SEN/D Code of Practice (2014)
- Have a written SEN Information Report, available on the website, in accordance with SEN/D Code of Practice (2014)

The governors play an important role in ensuring that:

- They are fully involved in developing and monitoring the school's SEN/D policy;
- They are up-to-date and knowledgeable about the school's SEN/D provision, including how funding, equipment and personnel resources are deployed;
- SEN/D provision is an integral part of the School Improvement Plan and the school's self-evaluation process;
- The quality of SEN/D provision is continually monitored;
- It doesn't treat a child with a disability less favourably than it treats, or would treat, others to whom that reason does not apply, or would not apply;

Role of the SENCO

Currently the SENCO is Karen Mearns who is responsible for:

- Co-ordinating provision for children with SEN
- Advising on the graduated approach to providing SEN/D support
- 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
- Ensuring that the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEN/D up to date
- Contributing to and, where necessary, leading the continuing professional development (CPD) of staff
- Monitoring, evaluating and reporting on the provision for children with SEN/D to the governing body in conjunction with the designated responsible person

Other Staff

The following staff fulfil roles relevant to the provision of SEN/D within the school as follows:

The Headteacher is:

- The designated teacher with specific child safeguarding responsibilities
- Designated person responsible for managing pupil premium grant and Looked After and Adopted Children
- Responsible for managing the school's responsibility for meeting the medical needs of pupils

Identifying Special Needs

The Code of Practice describes four broad categories of need. The purpose of identification is to work out what action the school needs to take, not to fit a pupil into a category. At St Michael's School, we identify the needs of the whole child that will include not just special educational needs.

The four broad categories of need

- **Communication and interaction:** Children may have difficulty saying what they want to, understanding what is being said to them or they may not understand or use social rules of communication.
- **Cognition and learning:** This category covers a wide range of needs including moderate, severe, profound and specific learning difficulties. It also encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia. In addition, some children may learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation.
- **Social, emotional and mental health difficulties:** Children can experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties that may present themselves as withdrawn or disruptive behaviour, attention deficit disorder or attachment disorder.
- **Sensory and physical needs:** Some children require special educational provision because they have a disability that prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided.

How do we know if a child has a Special Educational Need?

St Michael's School assesses each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment on entry, building on information from parents, previous settings and key stages where appropriate. At the same time, we consider evidence that a pupil may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 and, if so, what reasonable adjustments may need to be made for them.

Class teachers, supported by the Headteacher, make regular assessments of progress for all pupils. In this way, we can identify pupils making less than expected progress such as 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

Persistent disruptive or withdrawn behaviours do not necessarily mean that a child has SEN

A graduated approach to SEN/D Support

At St Michael's teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils in the class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants. Where possible we try to meet every child's needs within the classroom through ensuring high quality first teaching in our school. It is the role of the class teacher to provide personalised teaching aimed at promoting good outcomes for all children.

What do we do if a child is not making expected progress?

Where through careful identification and assessment parents and we determine that a child is not making adequate progress, the class teacher will consult the SENCO. They, in conjunction with the child and parents, will review the strategies and approaches that are currently being used and the way these might be developed. Where this review leads to the conclusion that the child needs help over and above that which is normally available within the class or school the child will be placed on the SEN/D register.

Support through the Provision Map

Additional support will be put in place aimed at promoting good outcomes for the child. Targeted interventions will be monitored and outcomes recorded on the class provision map that will detail any additional intervention a child is receiving. This provision map, its outcomes and pupil progress is evaluated regularly by the class teacher, with the support of the Headteacher.

Support through the St Michael's Support Plan

If, despite our best efforts, a child's progress continues to be a cause for concern, we will draw up a St Michael's Support Plan with the parents, SENCO and class teacher. This documents in detail a child's strengths and needs in all four areas. Clear outcomes will be set, alongside children's needs and how best to support them. Where children's needs are high, we will consult with specialist services that support the school. Their report will feed into the St Michael's Support Plan. The Support Plan is reviewed three times a year by the class teacher and parents. At this meeting, the child's progress will be discussed along with what is working, and what is not working and what the next steps should be.

Where a child's needs are complex over a number of areas, we will draw up a Wiltshire Council My Support Plan. A My Support Plan is holistic support plan for young people with additional needs who do not meet statutory criteria for an Education, Health and Care Plan. It is non-statutory and aimed at understanding a child's special educational needs and any other needs which impact on their education, how best to support them and what they hope to do/achieve. They are completed by the SENCO by collating all the available information from the child, parents, school, and external agencies involved in supporting the child.

Support through the statutory Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan)

If a child meets the very specific criteria set out by the local authority, the school will gather the evidence required to apply for a statutory assessment of special needs. Where children have an EHC Plan in place, outcomes will be taken from here, a specific programme of support will be drawn up by the parents, teacher and SENCO, taking into account all of the information provided by the Local Authority and the family. The EHC Plan is formally reviewed annually with parents. Progress against outcomes will be monitored three times a year by the class teacher and parents and six times a year by teachers, with the support of the Headteacher.

Working with parents and children

Parents are important partners in the effective working relationship with the school in raising their child's attainment and achieving their full potential: academically, socially and emotionally. They are fully involved in the identification, assessment and decision-making process in the school. Parents' contribution to their child's education is valued highly by the staff of the school. Parents are encouraged to involve their child in the decision-making processes, including recording children's views and implementing and reviewing where necessary the St Michael's Support Plan. The school will also update parents with relevant information.

The school website contains details of our policy for SEN/D as well as our Special Educational Needs Information Report that includes the arrangements made for children in our school with SEN/D.

Supporting pupils and families

Wiltshire Local Offer

www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk

The Local Offer provides information and guidance on services for children and young people, aged 0-25, with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). The website contains information about education, health, social care, preparing for adulthood and leisure.

SEN/D Information Report

www.stmichaelsaldbourne.co.uk

The school has a statutory requirement to provide a SEN/D Information Report. The SEN/D Information Report can be found on our website.

Parent/Carer Forums and Advice

Details of the following services can be found at: www.wiltshirelocaloffer.org.uk/support-and-guidance/parent-support/

- Wiltshire Parent Carer Council (WPCC)
- Action for Children
- Wiltshire Independent Support and Advice – WISA (formally ASK Wiltshire Parent Partnership Service)

Admission arrangements

Normal admission arrangements apply. We strive to be a fully inclusive school. All children will be treated according to their needs in line with the school's policy for equality of opportunity. No child will be denied admission because of his or her creed, race, physical ability or academic attainment. Where a child has a particular need e.g. wheelchair access the governors will make reasonable adjustments to ensure the child's needs are fully met. If a child is transferring into the school with a statement, or has been receiving extra support from LA centrally funded resources in their previous school, the continuation of this support will be negotiated with the appropriate officer of the LA to ensure that their needs can be met.

Transition

Links are maintained to ensure a smooth transfer on school entry through liaison and visits to local Early Years Settings. Children are invited to visit us for induction visits in the term before they start school. If necessary, the school liaises with other agencies at this stage.

Children with SEN/D who transfer from other schools are supported through their induction to the school by the class teacher, SENCO and by classroom buddies to ensure that they have a smooth transition.

Liaison from Year 6 to Year 7 ensures a smooth transition. Staff from secondary schools are invited to visit us and additional transition visits are arranged where appropriate. If it is felt that the catchment school will not meet the needs of a particular child, the SENCO will establish links with the most appropriate school.

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

The school recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. At St Michaels, we will discuss medical conditions with parents and the school nurse and where appropriate a Care Plan will be drawn up. Training for staff will be put into place where necessary and refreshed annually.

The schools policy on managing the medical conditions of pupils can be found on our website www.stmichaelsaldbourne.co.uk

Monitoring and evaluation of SEN/D

The policy will be evaluated as follows:

- SENCO will undertake drop-ins to lessons to ensure teachers are confident to differentiate learning and remove barriers to learning
- Headteacher, Maths lead and English lead undertake classroom visits three times a year
- Provision maps are reviewed with SENCO three times per year
- Support and achievement of children on the SEN register are reviewed in termly pupil progress meetings
- Involving parents and children with individual outcomes set through discussing, receiving and having their views recorded

- Ensuring that outside agencies, where appropriate, have their comments and recommendations recorded on the St Michael's Support Plan and are involved in their development

Success criteria will be:

- All children are fully included in the life of the school
- Most Children make progress against their Provision Map outcomes
- Children with a St Michael's Support Plan make progress towards the end of Key Stage outcomes
- All St Michael's Support Plans include recorded comments from parents, children, teachers, SENCO and where necessary outside agency involvement

Training and resources

All schools have an amount identified within their overall budget, called the notional SEN/D budget. This is not a ring-fenced amount, St Michael's uses this funding to provide high quality appropriate support from the whole of its budget.

Through the monitoring and evaluating of our provision, the SENCO, with the Headteacher, will identify any particular professional development needs of the staff. This will, where appropriate, link closely to the school's improvement plan and performance management objectives. Staff who attend further courses will feedback on courses attended through staff meetings. The effectiveness of such professional development will be monitored and evaluated by the SENCO, and information provided during the annual evaluation of the school's overall SEN/D provision.

The schools SENCO is part of the Leading SENCO programme supporting the wider education community.

The SENCO regularly meets with the SENCO from a local school to share good practice.

Most of the resources used by children having special educational needs are available within the classroom. Money may also be spent on further additional resources, staffing costs and time allocated to the SENCO to manage the support for special educational needs and meet the objectives of this policy. Any requests for further additional resources should be made to the SENCO.

Reviewing the policy

This policy is reviewed by the SENCO and the SEN/D Governor annually. The next review will be November 2024.

Accessibility

www.stmichaelsaldbourne.co.uk

Our Accessibility Plan can be found on the schools website.

Dealing with complaints

If parents have a complaint concerning provision for their child, they should discuss this with the class teacher/tutor. If this proves unsuccessful, the matter should be referred to the SENCO and Headteacher. Should the matter still be unresolved the parents should contact the 'responsible person' on the governing body. If the complaint remains unresolved, the Chair of Governors should be involved and finally the complaint should be taken to the Local Authority and Secretary of State.

Bullying

<http://www.stmichaelsaldbourne.co.uk>

Our Anti-Bullying Policy can be found on the schools website