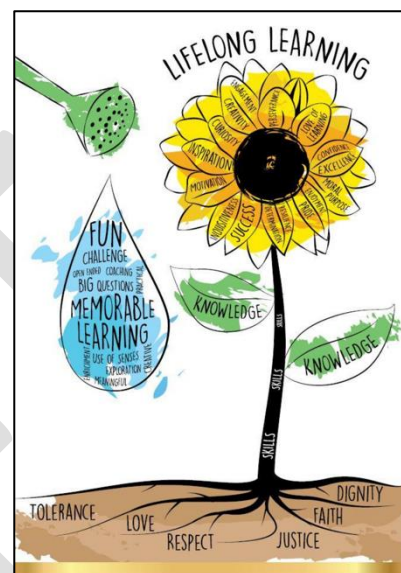


## DSEN POLICY

### INTRODUCTION AND AIMS:

St. Philip's is a Catholic school and has the life and teaching of Jesus Christ as its foundation. By developing children spiritually, morally, socially and culturally, we believe children are better equipped to face the diverse and everchanging world that we live in; ready to thrive and contribute positively to life in modern Britain and indeed globally.

We offer a learning environment that is joyful, supportive, and stimulating – an environment in which children can learn through a rich tapestry of experiences that are thoughtfully crafted to cater for different learning styles, abilities and needs. By celebrating our God-given uniqueness, children are able to develop their skills and knowledge in a wide range of subjects and topics, hence developing all aspects of their being.



We aim to equip all of our children with skills and knowledge to make them independent and resilient learners; learners who are able to make connections, who are adaptable in their approaches and who can express themselves creatively. We aim to develop knowledge and understanding through an enriched, creative and carefully structured curriculum.

Our SEND policy is built upon the belief that every child can fulfill their potential, irrespective of ability. Through high quality, adaptive teaching and providing appropriate intervention and support for children who have needs that are “additional to and different from’ we ensure every child is a happy and successful learner at Saint Philip’s.

### DEFINITION OF SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITIES

**The SEND Code of Practice (2014) states that:**



St. Philip's  
RC Primary School

*“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. A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:*

- has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age.*
- has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.”*

For these children, we will provide educational provision, that is different from or additional to that made generally for other children of the same age.

**The SEND Code of Practice (2014) states that:**

*“Special educational provision is a provision that is different from or additional to that normally available to pupils or students of the same age, which is designed to help children and young people with SEN or disabilities to access the National Curriculum at school or to study at college.”*

**The Equality Act (2010) states that:**

*“A child is defined as having a disability when they have, 'a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.”*

For these children, we will make reasonable adjustments, including making our best endeavours to provide auxiliary aids and services, to ensure that our disabled children are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers.

A number of children at some stage during their education at St Philip's will have special educational needs, e.g., difficulty in acquiring learning skills, emotional and/or social difficulties, communication difficulties or physical difficulties.

As special educational needs exist along a continuum, pupils' needs may vary from being temporary and/or slight, to severe and/or long lasting.



## AIMS

At St. Philip's all pupils, regardless of their particular needs, are provided with inclusive teaching which will enable them to make the best possible progress and feel that they are a valued member of the wider school community. We expect that all pupils with SEND will meet or exceed the high expectations we set for them against national data and based on their age and starting points. We will use our best endeavours to give pupils with SEND the support they need, whilst having access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Working in partnership with families, it is our aim that pupils will become confident individuals able to make a successful transition on to the next phase of their education.

## OBJECTIVES

To ensure a clear process for identifying, assessing, planning, providing and reviewing for SEND pupils with the pupils and their parents/carers at the centre.

To develop effective whole school provision management of support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities.

To deliver training and support for all staff working with pupils with SEND in order to develop our practice within the guidance set out in the Code of Practice, 2014.

## KEY ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### **SENDCo:**

The SENDCo at St. Philip's is Miss Lavelle, who also forms part of the Senior Leadership Team, in the role of Assistant Headteacher. The SENDCo is responsible for:

- the DSEN policy and its implementation
- co-ordinating support for children with SEND
- updating the SEN register and maintaining individual pupil records
- monitoring the quality of provision and impact of interventions
- attending network meetings and updating staff
- referrals to and liaison with outside agencies
- line managing TAs with responsibility for SEND
- liaising with and advising staff
- maintaining regular liaison with parents/carers



- co-ordinating annual reviews
- supporting staff in identifying pupils with SEN

### **Teachers:**

Class teachers are responsible for:

- the progress and development of all pupils including those with SEND
- ensuring the plan is implemented in the classroom
- regular liaison with parents and the SENCO
- effective deployment of additional adults
- Supporting the SENDCo in the writing and reviewing of targets for pupils with SEND

### **SEND Governor:**

The SEND governor is Dr Imelda Hughes, who is one of our foundation governors. She has responsibility for:

- monitoring the effective implementation of the DSEN policy
- liaising termly with the SENDCo
- reporting to the governing body on SEND
- ensuring that pupils with SEND participate fully in school activities

### **Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):**

The headteacher, Miss McNamara, has specific responsibility for safeguarding and is the DSL.

## **IDENTIFICATION OF SEND**

Early identification of children with special educational needs is crucial so that action can be taken to help pupils. All class teachers have a key role in the identification of pupils' needs and monitoring all aspects of pupil performance.

The identification of SEN is embedded in the whole school process of monitoring the progress and development of all pupils. We recognise the benefits of early identification and making effective provision in improving the long-term outcomes for children with SEN. The purpose of identification is to work out what action the school needs to take, not to fit the pupil into a category. It is also important to identify the full range of needs, not simply the primary need of an individual pupil.



The Code of Practice refers to four broad areas of need:

- **Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties**-children 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 displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) or attachment disorder.
- **Communication and Interaction**-these children have a 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. For example, children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), including Asperger syndrome, 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**-children with learning difficulties learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs from moderate learning difficulties (MLD) to children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning, such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.
- **Sensory and/or Physical Needs**-some children require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. Many children with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and /or equipment to access their learning.

## A GRADUATED APPROACH TO SEND SUPPORT

### How the school decides whether to make special educational provision

A process of on-going teacher assessments and termly pupil progress meetings with the leadership team identifies those pupils making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances. Class teachers also discuss any concerns they have with the SENDCo.

The school's first response is high quality targeted teaching by the class teacher. Where progress continues to be less than expected, the SENDCo will consider all the information gathered from within the school about the pupil, alongside the views of parents/carers and pupil. If the support needed can be provided by adapting the school's core offer, then a child might not be considered SEN or placed on the SEN register.

If, however, the support required is different from or additional to what is ordinarily offered by the school, the child will be placed, with parental consent, on the SEN register at SEN Support. The school will then seek to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is written to help the pupil make progress with specific targets. These targets are SMART- Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Relevant and Time-limited. This begins a cycle of assess, plan, do, review with the child/young person at the centre of the process.



#### **The four part cycle:**

##### **Assess:**

We will ensure that we regularly assess all pupils' needs so that each child's progress and development is carefully tracked compared to their peers and national expectations. We will listen to the views and



experience of parents/carers and the pupil. In some cases, we will draw on assessments and guidance from other education professionals' agencies.

**Plan:**

Where SEN Support is required, the teacher and SENDCo will put together a plan outlining the adjustments, interventions and support which will be put in place for the pupil as well as the expected impact on progress and outcomes, including a date when this will be reviewed. Targets for the pupil will be shared with her/him using child friendly language and with parents/carers. All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the plan.

**Do:**

The class teacher is responsible for working with the pupil on a daily basis. She/he will also liaise closely with TAs or specialists who provide support set out in the plan and monitor the progress being made. The SENDCo will provide support, guidance and advice for the teacher.

**Review:**

The plan including the impact of the support and interventions will be reviewed each term by the teacher, SENDCo, parent/carer and the pupil. This will inform the planning of next steps for a further period or where successful the removal of the pupil from SEN Support.

Where pupils have higher levels of need, and with parental permission, the school may seek advice from external agencies. This advice contributes further to the pupils' IEP. These agencies include:

- Educational Psychology Service (EPS)
- Learning Support Service (LSS)
- Speech and Language Therapy Service
- Educational Welfare Team
- PIT Team
- Children's Services
- School Nurse/Paediatric health team
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

**Parents/carers and pupil involvement in the process**



We believe in a person-centred approach to information gathering. Termly reviews and target setting meetings are planned with parents where targets are shared with pupils and successes are celebrated. Pupils with an EHCP will send an invitation to their parents to attend their annual review and will attend part of the meeting to share their achievements for the year and aspirations for the future.

## SEN PROVISION

SEN support can take many forms. This could include:

- an individual learning programme
- evidence-based interventions
- extra help from a teacher or a learning support assistant
- making or changing materials, resources or equipment
- working with a child in a small group
- maintaining specialist equipment
- observing a child in class or at break and keeping records
- helping a child to take part in the class activities
- helping other children to work with a child, or play with them at break time
- supporting a child with physical or personal care difficulties, such as eating, getting around school safely, toileting or dressing

The school implements the recommendations from the EEF's report on 'Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools'. In daily teaching and school life we:

### **1. Create a positive and supportive environment for all pupils without exception.**

At Saint Philip's our broad and carefully constructed curriculum alongside our approach to behaviour ensures inclusivity is designed and is not an after-thought. Through positive relationships and engaging learning experiences we develop a supportive environment where all pupils thrive.

### **2. Build an ongoing, holistic understanding of your pupils and their needs.**

At the heart of our school are positive relationships. Teachers support the holistic development of each child. Through IEPs, learning is personalised, and we follow the 'assess, plan, do, review' approach as explained above.

### **3. Ensure all pupils have access to high-quality teaching.**





Teachers are adaptive in their lessons. They use a range of strategies to ensure pupils make progress, including the 'Five-a-day' principle from the EEF recommendations.

**4. Complement high-quality teaching with carefully selected small-group and one-to-one interventions.**

At Saint Philip's we recognise that some children may require more than high quality teaching. We recognise that interventions can have a positive impact on pupils' learning. We ensure that these interventions are carefully selected, and targets are SMART.

**5. Work effectively with teaching assistants.**

All staff recognise the positive impact that teaching assistants can have on a child's learning. Teachers have responsibility for a child's progress and know how to effectively deploy teaching assistants to aid positively with this.

## MANAGING THE NEEDS OF PUPILS ON THE SEN REGISTER

Each pupil with SEND is an individual and their plan is tailored to meet their particular needs. Plans are reviewed termly with parents and pupils. Decisions regarding the level of support provided are needs led, working within the constraints of the school budget.

## CRITERIA FOR REMOVING PUPILS FROM THE SEN REGISTER

When a child has made sufficient and sustained progress towards achieving their personal targets and it is felt that they are able to maintain this with quality first teaching, they may be removed from the SEN register. The school will continue to monitor pupils recently removed from the register to ensure good progress is maintained. The register is mobile.

## REQUESTING AN EDUCATIONAL, HEALTH AND CARE (EHC) NEEDS ASSESSMENT

A small number of pupils, whose needs are complex and long term, may require a greater level of support than that provided at SEN Support from the school's own resources. For these pupils, a request will be made to the local authority to conduct an assessment of education, health and care needs. This may result in an Education, Health and Care (EHC) plan being provided. This brings together the child's health and social care needs as well as their special educational needs.

## SUPPORTING PARENTS/CARERS AND CHILDREN



We provide support in the following ways:

- the head teacher and SENDCo operate an open-door policy for parents/carers seeking support and advice.
- the dedicated SEND Governor who is available as a contact point
- individual arrangements can be made for phased entry into Nursery/Reception class
- additional time and special arrangements for assessments
- support for transition between classes
- a transition period can be organised for vulnerable Y6 pupils transferring to secondary school
- inviting the SENDCo of the receiving secondary school to the final Annual Review in Year 6

#### SUPPORTING PUPILS AT SCHOOL WITH MEDICAL CONDITIONS

The school recognises that pupils with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Where it is the case that a medical condition meets the criteria of disability the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010. Reasonable adjustments will always be made to promote access to all areas of the school curriculum for pupils with a disability, for example, an extra adult to accompany a child on a school trips/residential.

Specific staff have training to support particular needs, eg: technical knowledge to maintain auxiliary aids and equipment or administering an epi pen.

The class teacher is responsible for the administration of medicines and health care plans/protocols. Medication such as asthma inhalers and creams are kept in a safe and known place in the classroom of the children whom require it. Controlled medication in the form of tablets, liquid medicines or injections are kept in the office in a secure place. All staff who work with the named children will be aware of where the medication is kept and will have immediate access to it at all times.

#### MONITORING AND EVALUATION OF SEN

The headteacher and the SLT regularly monitor and evaluate the quality of provision for all pupils. The school aims to use interventions in school that have proven outcomes and are evidence based. The impact of SEN provision on the progress and outcomes for children on the SEN register is measured through:

- analysis of pupil tracking data and test results
- progress against national data and based on their age and starting points.



- interventions baseline and exit data
- progress against individual targets – including meetings with the SENDCo when targets are not related to written assessments.
- pupils' work and interviews

The SENDCo along with the Head teacher maps provision for each class. Decisions are made as to whether specific interventions are proving to be effective in terms of impact, time spent on them, and the finance used in providing them. Each year we review the needs of the cohort and if necessary, make changes to our provision.

#### TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

Training needs are identified in response to the needs of pupils currently on the SEND register. The SENDCo attends network meetings to share good practice with colleagues in the Local Authority and to keep up to date with SEND developments. The SENDCo ensure all staff receive relevant training.

#### STORING AND MANAGING INFORMATION

Pupil records and SEN information may be shared with staff working closely with pupils with SEND to enable them to better meet the individual child's needs. We are grateful to parents for their information sharing and openness and respect their confidentiality. Pupil SEND files are kept in a locked filing cupboard and secure system. Individual SEN files are transferred to receiving schools when pupils leave St. Philip's RC Primary School.

#### REVIEWING THE SEND POLICY

The SEND policy is reviewed annually by the governing body.

#### COMPLAINTS

We urge parents/carers with any concerns regarding the SEND policy or the provision made for their child at St. Philip's RC Primary School to speak to us as soon as possible.

The procedure for complaints at St Philips R.C. Primary School are as follows:

1. Parents will speak with their child's class teacher.
2. If they are not satisfied with the response, they can speak with the SENDCo.



3. If they are not satisfied with the response, they can speak with the headteacher. (If the complaint is about the headteacher, they should write directly to the Chair of Governors.)
4. If they are not satisfied with the headteacher's response, parents write to the Chair of Governors.
5. After this, parents can contact the LA to investigate.
6. Parents can then write the Secretary of State on the grounds that the LA/Governing Body are acting unreasonably.

## HOW THE POLICY WAS PUT TOGETHER

This policy was created in consultation with stakeholders, including the SEN Governor, staff, representative parents and pupils with SEND. The policy reflects the statutory guidance set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice 0-25 years (2014), The Equality Act (2010), the Local Authority and other policies current within the school.

## ACCESS TO THIS POLICY

You can get a copy of our policy in a number of ways:

- The school website.
- A hard copy on request at the school office

Please let us know if you need this policy to be made available to you in a different format e.g. enlarged font or a language other than English.

## COMPLIANCE

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

Equality Act 2010: advice for schools 2014

The National Curriculum in England Key Stage 1/2 2014

Safeguarding Policy

Teachers Standards 2021

Disability Equalities Scheme 2016

EEF Special Educational Needs in Mainstream Schools 2021