

# PENSHURST C.E. PRIMARY SCHOOL



## Special Education Needs (SEN) and Disability Policy

File name: Special Education Needs (SEN Policy)	Current version revised: October 2021	Statutory: Yes
Policy Owner: Teaching and Learning Committee	Next revision due: October 2022	Review period: Annually
Approved by the Governing Body on		
Signed by the Chair of Governors: .....		
Signed by the Headteacher: .....		

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:-

- Children and Families Act 2014
- SEN Code of Practice 2014
- SI 2014 1530 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
- Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators
- Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEN information report
- Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer
- Equality Act 2010
- Schools Admissions Code, DfE 1 Feb 2012
- SI 2012 1124 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
- SI 2013 758 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

This policy should be read in conjunction with the following school policies;

- Behaviour policy
- Safeguarding policy
- Complaints policy
- Equality policy

This policy was developed with the engagement and participation of the SENDCO, a governor with specific oversight for SEN, parents, teachers and teaching assistants.

**This policy will be reviewed annually.**

### **Definition of SEN**

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 him or her.

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

- (a) Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- (b) 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 or mainstream post-16 institutions. SEN Code of Practice (2015, p 15)

### **Definition of disability**

Many children and young people who have SEN may also have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is ‘...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’. This definition provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise: ‘long-term’ is defined as ‘a year or more’ and ‘substantial’ is defined as ‘more than minor or trivial’ SEN Code of Practice (2015, p16)

## **The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made at the school**

At Penshurst CE Primary School, we can make provision for every kind of frequently occurring special educational need without a statement of special educational needs / Education, Health and Care Plan, for instance dyslexia, dyscalculia, dyspraxia, speech and language needs, ASD, learning difficulties, ADHD, anxiety and behaviour difficulties. There are other kinds of special educational need, which do not occur as frequently and with which the school is less familiar, but we can access training and advice so that these kinds of needs can be met.

The school also has, and currently, meets the needs of pupils with Education, Health and Care plans with the following kinds of special educational need: Specific Learning Difficulties (SLD), Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ASD, ADHD, ADD, anxiety and social emotional difficulties. Decisions on the admission of pupils with a statement of special / Education, Health and Care plan are made by the Local Authority.

The admission arrangements for pupils without a statement of special educational needs / Education, Health and Care Plan do not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs.

## **Information about the policy for identification and assessment of pupils with SEN**

At Penshurst CE Primary School, we monitor the progress of all pupils six times a year to review their academic progress. We also use a range of assessments with all the pupils at various points e.g. KS1 phonics screening and tracking, speech link, language link, spelling and reading as well as NFER assessment tools.

Where progress is not sufficient, even if special educational need has not been identified, we put in place extra support to enable the pupil to catch up. Examples of extra support are spelling groups, toe by toe, word wasp, booster phonics, extra or small group maths and reading provision.

Some pupils may continue to make inadequate progress, despite high-quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness. For these pupils, and in consultation with parents, we will use a range of assessment tools including CAT test, The YARK Reading Assessment, The Dyslexia Portfolio, The Dyscalculia Assessment Tool, Working Memory Scale and the British Vocabulary Scale to determine the cause of the learning difficulty. At Penshurst CE Primary School, we also have access to external advisors, specialist teachers, assessment tools and specialist assessments.

The purpose of this more detailed assessment is to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make better progress. These will be shared with parents, put into a SEN support plan where necessary and reviewed regularly, and refined / revised if appropriate. At this point, we will have identified that the pupil has a special educational need because the school is making special educational provision for the pupil which is additional and different to what is normally available.

If the pupil is able to make good progress using this additional and different resource (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it) we will continue to identify the pupil as having a special educational need. If the pupil is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different resources, he or she will not be identified with special educational needs. When any change in identification of SEN is reported, parents will be notified and we will work in partnership to get the most appropriate support for the child in order for them to have every opportunity in meeting their full potential, whatever that may be.

We will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support to be provided and the teaching approaches to be used.

**Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with special educational needs whether or not they have EHC Plans, including how the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils**

Each review of the SEN support plan will be informed by the views of the pupil, parents and class teachers and the assessment and tracking information from teachers which will show whether adequate progress is being made.

The *SEN Code of Practice (2015, 6.17)* describes inadequate progress thus:

- 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 rate of progress
- Widens the attainment gap

For pupils with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan there will be an annual review of the provision made for the child, which will enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of the special provision. The collation of all annual review evaluations of effectiveness will be reported to the governing body.

**The school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs**

Every pupil in the school has their progress tracked six times per year. In addition to this, pupils with special educational needs may have more frequent assessments of reading age (PM reading), spelling age etc. Using these assessments it will be possible to see if pupils are increasing their level of skills in key areas.

If these assessments do not show adequate progress is being made, a SEN support plan will be created, if not already in place, or the SEN support plan will be reviewed and adjusted.

## **The school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs**

High quality first teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Schools should regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered *SEN Code of Practice (2015, 6.37)*

In Penshurst CE Primary School, the quality of teaching is judged to be 'Good' in our last Ofsted inspection (Ofsted May 2013).

We follow the Mainstream Core Standards advice developed by Kent County Council to ensure that our teaching conforms to best practice.

[www.kelsi.org.uk/pupil\\_support\\_and\\_wellbeing/targeted\\_support/inclusion/inclusion\\_and\\_achievement/publications\\_and\\_documents.aspx](http://www.kelsi.org.uk/pupil_support_and_wellbeing/targeted_support/inclusion/inclusion_and_achievement/publications_and_documents.aspx)

In meeting the Mainstream Core Standards the school employs some additional teaching approaches, as advised by internal and external assessments e.g. one to one tutoring / precision teaching / mentoring, small group teaching, use of ICT software learning packages and apps. These are delivered by additional staff employed through the funding provided to the school as 'notional SEN funding'

## **How the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs**

At Penshurst CE Primary School, we follow the advice in the Mainstream Core Standards on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with special educational needs. We also incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments, both internal and external, and the strategies prescribed in Education, Health and Care Plans.

As part of our requirement to keep the appropriateness of our curriculum and learning environment under review the Governors have made the following improvements as part of the school's accessibility planning: a disabled toilet, disabled access to all newly built areas of the school, braille notices in and around the school and the installation of a reflection garden.

Areas identified for targeting in 2021-22 are the following:

- Barriers to learning, for pupils with Special Educational Needs, must be identified, reduced and progress monitored regularly in co-operation with the governing body.
- Effective monitoring and tracking of all children, including those with SEN, ensure that underachievement is identified early.
- The emotional wellbeing of all our children will be a school priority.

## **Additional support for learning that is available to pupils with special educational needs**

As part of our budget we receive 'notional SEN funding'. This funding is used to ensure that the quality of teaching is good in the school and that there are sufficient resources to deploy additional and different teaching for pupils requiring SEN support. The amount of support required for each pupil to make good progress will be different in each case and a full list of the interventions we can offer is on our SEN information report. In very few cases a very high level of resource is required. The funding arrangements require schools to provide up to £6000 per year of resource for pupils with high needs, and above that amount the Local Authority should provide top up to the school. This 'top up' or High Needs Funding (HNF) can be accessed on application by the SENCO, providing there is sufficient evidence of need. Children with EHCPs do not automatically receive funding. Any additional funding must be applied for by the SENCO from HNF.

## **How the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs**

All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils at Penshurst CE Primary School are available to pupils with special educational needs either with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan. Where it is necessary, the school will use the resources available to it to provide additional adult support to enable the safe participation of the pupil in the activity.

## **Support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with special educational needs**

At Penshurst CE Primary School, we understand that an important feature of the school is to enable all pupils to develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching for instance Personal Social Health Education and indirectly with every conversation adults have with pupils throughout the day.

For some pupils with the most need for help in this area we also can provide the following:; mentor time with member of staff, external referral to CAHMs, Play therapy, FEGANS counselling, time-out space for pupil to use when upset or agitated, Lego therapy, Mindfulness and nurture based teaching approaches.

Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social development because of their special educational needs will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and different resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support.

## **The name and contact details of the SEN Co-ordinator**

The SENCO at Penshurst CE Primary School is Miss Glover, who is a qualified teacher and also holds the following qualifications: BA Hons in Education Studies, Post Graduate Certificate in Primary Education (with French). Postgraduate certificate in SEN co-

ordination and the national award for SEN co-ordination. She has worked as SENCO at the school since September 2021.

Miss Glover is available on lglover@penshurst.kent.sch.uk

### **Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and how specialist expertise will be secured**

The SENCO ensures that all staff receive regular updates and yearly training on SEN processes and procedures and attends all pupil progress meetings throughout the year to further support staff. The SENCO attends a variety of training and information sessions each year and cascades the information to staff.

All teaching assistants have recently undertaken various on line courses. All have had Dyslexia Awareness Training and Premature Baby Training. The majority of teaching assistants have had ASD Awareness Training and some staff have had Positive Handling Training. In addition, individual staff have attended Read Write inc Training and training on Reading Inference.

A yearly staff audit of need is undertaken. Where a training need is identified beyond this, we will find a provider who is able to deliver it. Training providers we can approach are, Valence school, Educational Psychologist, Speech and language therapist, occupational therapists, physiotherapist, dyslexia specialists and members of the specialist teaching and language services. The cost of training is covered by the notional SEN funding.

### **Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured**

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities which the school does not have, we will purchase it using the notional SEN funding, or seek it by loan. For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of the KCC Communication and Assistive Technology team.

### **The arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education**

All parents of pupils at Penshurst CE Primary School are invited to discuss the progress of their children on two occasions a year, there is also a 'SEN Surgery' once a term which provides parents of children who are on our SEN register to discuss or be updated on any progress or concerns. All parents also receive a written report once per year. In addition we are happy to arrange meetings outside these times. As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will access some additional teaching to help them catch-up if the progress monitoring indicates that this is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a special educational need. All such provision will be recorded, tracked and evaluated on a Provision Map which will be shared with parents three times per year.

If, following this normal provision, improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the use of internal or external assessments which will help us to address these needs better. From this point onwards the pupil will be identified as having special educational needs because special educational provision is being made and the parent will be invited to all planning and reviews of this provision. Parents will be actively supported to contribute to assessment, planning and review.

In addition to this, parents of pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review, which, wherever possible will also include other agencies involved with the pupil. Information will be made accessible for parents.

### **The arrangements for consulting young people with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education**

When a pupil has been identified to have special educational needs because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of person-centred planning. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in the childhood years with the young person taking more responsibility and acting with greater independence in later years.

### **The arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school**

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints at Penshurst CE Primary School are used for complaints about provision made for special educational needs. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns with the class teacher in the first instance. If this is not satisfactory the SENCO or Headteacher can try to resolve the issue before making the complaint formal to the Chair of the governing body.

If the complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the governing body, then a disagreement resolution service or mediation service can be contracted. If it remains unresolved after this, the complainant can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), if the case refers to disability discrimination, or to the Secretary of State for all other cases.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have a Statement of SEN where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.

### **How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils**

The governing body have engaged with the following bodies:-

- Free membership of LIFT for access to specialist teaching and learning service



- Access to local authority's service level agreement with Speech and Language Therapy Services / Occupational Therapy Services / Physiotherapy Services for pupil with requirement for direct therapy or advice
- Ability to make ad hoc requests for advice from Communication and Assistive Technology Team etc
- Membership of local SENCO forum

**The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities and children and young people with SEND up to age 25 (Code of Practice 2015, 6.39)**

Information Advice and Support Kent (IASK) provides a free and confidential, information, advice and support service, for parents of a disabled child or child with special educational needs and to children and young people up to age 25 who have a special educational need or disability.

Trained staff can provide impartial legally based information and support on educational matters relating to special educational needs and disabilities, including health and social care. The aim is to empower parents, children and young people to fully participate in discussions and make informed choices and decisions. Also to feel confident to express their views and wishes about education and future aspirations.

They can be contacted on

HELPLINE: 03000 41 3000

Office: 03000 412412

E-mail: [iask@kent.gov.uk](mailto:iask@kent.gov.uk)

[www.kent.gov.uk/iask](http://www.kent.gov.uk/iask)

**The school's arrangements for supporting pupils with special educational needs in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for adulthood and independent living**

At Penshurst CE Primary School, we work closely with the preschool settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us in order to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible.

We also contribute information to a pupils' onward destination by providing information to the next setting such as provision maps and pupil passports.

It is important for children and families of children on our SEN Support register to have support and a smooth transition to secondary school, in year 6. In previous years, we have supported children by arranging additional taster sessions with secondary schools. We have also provided a transition meeting between secondary school liaison staff and our Year 6 teacher. It is our intention to continue with this support tailoring it where necessary to meet the needs of our most vulnerable children.

**Information on where the local authority's local offer is published.**

The local authority's local offer is published on <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs#> and parents without internet access should make an appointment with the SENCO for support to gain the information they require.