

# **SEND Policy**

## **West Rise Community Infant School West Rise Nursery**



**WEST RISE**

**November 2020**

# **Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy**

## **Rationale**

We believe that all children should be equally valued and respected for who they are as unique human beings. In all aspects of our work we will strive to eliminate prejudice and discrimination, and develop an environment where all children can flourish, feel safe and achieve their best.

West Rise Community Infant School is committed to inclusion which from our perspective means valuing difference as a unique gift.

Part of the schools strategic planning for improvement is to develop cultures, policies and practices that include all learners. We aim to engender a sense of community and belonging, and to offer new opportunities to learners who may have experienced previous difficulties.

West Rise Community Infant School is committed to providing an appropriate and high quality education for all our children. We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs and/or disability have a common entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is not just accessible to them but is tailored as necessary so that the child can reach their potential, and is fully included in all aspects of school life.

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Co Chair of Governors: Duncan Lawson and Nicole Hartley

SEND Governor: Scott McCallum

Designated Teacher for looked after children. Louise Muller

Designated Child Protection teacher. Louise Muller

## **Introduction**

This policy sets out our approach to supporting children special educational needs (SEND). For more information about how we support children with SEND please also see the ESCC

<http://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/childrenandfamilies/specialneeds/localoffer>

The Local Offer for SEND is the County offer and the School's SEND information report can be found on our website [www.westriseinf.co.uk](http://www.westriseinf.co.uk)

The SEND policy can be read alongside other school policies as listed below as they include information that may be important for pupils with SEND :

*Managing myself policy*

*Equalities Framework*

*Accessibility plan*

*Anti-bullying policy and of course Safeguarding policy*

The West Rise SEND policy is divided into sections:

1. Leadership and Management of SEND
2. The kinds of special educational needs supported currently in our school
3. Identification and Assessment of SEND
4. Working in partnership with parents
5. Involving children
6. Assessing and reviewing outcomes
7. Transition
8. The approach to teaching children with SEND
9. Curriculum and learning environment
10. Training and continuing professional development (CPD) for staff
11. Evaluating the effectiveness and impact of SEND provision
12. Inclusion
13. Emotional and social development and well-being
14. Involving specialists
15. Funding for SEND
16. Data Protection

### **1. Leadership and Management of SEND**

At West Rise we have created a whole SEND team so as to fully provide the range of needs and abilities in our school to ensure best practice and so as to act upon our aims and vision

#### **The Inclusion Leader and SENDCo**

The Inclusion leader leads a team of dedicated professionals – the SENDCo Support in School and the Nursery SENDCo, the Specialist Higher Level Teaching Assistant coordinating speech and language, support for developmental delay. As well as Inclusion Teaching Assistants. The SENDCo Support also offers personalised pastoral support for families and children.

The SENDCO has responsibility for the operation of SEND policy and coordination of specific provision to support individual pupils with SEND, including those who have Additional Need Plans or Education Health Care plans. The SENDCO provides professional guidance to colleagues and works closely with staff, parents and other agencies. She is aware of the provision in the Local Offer and works with professionals providing a support role to families to ensure that pupils with SEND receive specific support as to their needs, high quality teaching and differentiation and as appropriate personalised transition into Nursery and School to build on success.

Crucial to our policy is that we work to support individual need by building on success and less about setting children up in a way which means they struggle to manage in School.

(6.88, 6.89)

## **The Governors**

The Governing Board fulfils its statutory duty towards children with SEND in accordance with the guidance set out in the SEND Code of Practice. In particular, the governing body ensures:

- arrangements are in place in school to support pupils with medical conditions (3.66)
- a SEND information report is published annually (6.79)
- there is a qualified teacher designated as a SENDCO for the school. (6.84)

In addition, our governing board works with the SENDCO and Headteacher in determining the strategic development of SEND policy and provision, including establishing a clear picture of the resources available in the school. The governing body also ensures that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 with regard to admissions, reasonable adjustments and access arrangements and publishes information about this that includes specific and measurable objectives.

(6.87, 6.97, 6.90, 3.8, 1.27, 1.28, xix,xxi )

## **2. The kinds of special educational needs provided for in our school currently:**

The areas of need as described in the SEND Code of Practice are:

- **Communication and interaction** – this includes children with Speech, language and communication needs (SLCN), Downs Syndrome and those with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) including Asperger's Syndrome.
- **Cognition and learning** – this includes children with moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD) and profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). This also includes children with specific learning difficulties (SpLD) such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.
- **Social, emotional and mental health difficulties** – social, emotional and mental health difficulties may manifest themselves in many ways including becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well displaying challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour. Other children may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.
- **Sensory and/or physical needs** - this includes children with visual impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI), multi-sensory impairment (MSI) and physical disability (PD).(6.28-6.35)

Children with any of these needs can be included in our school community.

### **3. Identification and Assessment of SEND**

A pupil is deemed to have additional needs when their learning difficulty or disability calls for special educational provision, namely provision different from or additional to that normally available to pupils of the same age.

We will assess each pupil's current skills and level of attainment on entry to the school and begin the implementation of support as soon as needs are known.

We make regular assessments of progress for all pupils across school which helps us to identify pupils making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances.

This is 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

The first response to less than expected progress will always be high quality teaching targeted at the pupil's area of challenge or weakness.

In identifying a child as needing SEND support, the class teacher, working with the SEND team and year group leader, will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs including the individual's development in comparison to their peers and national data.

Slow progress and low attainment do not necessarily mean that a child has SEND. Equally, attainment in line with chronological age does not necessarily mean that there is no learning difficulty or disability. (6.15, 6.17, 6.23, 6.45)

Difficulties related solely to limitations in English as an additional language are not necessarily SEND.

Persistently disruptive or withdrawn behaviours do not necessarily mean that a child has SEND. (6.21, 6.24)

At West Rise we are alerted early on to emerging difficulties and response at the early stages is important for us. For some children, SEND can be identified at an early age. However, for other children difficulties become evident only as they develop. (6.20)

We recognise that parents know their children best and we always listen and understand when parents express concerns about their child's development. We also listen and address any concerns raised by children themselves. (6.20)

Where it is decided to provide a pupil with additional support the decision will be recorded in SEND records and we notify parents. We are required to record data on the levels and types of SEND within the school so as to be available to the Local Authority. This data, collected through the School Census, is also required to produce the national SEND information report. (6.43, 6.48, 6.73, 6.83)

SEND support will be adapted or replaced depending on how effective it has been in achieving the agreed outcomes.

In East Sussex a school based SEND Additional Needs plan is used when, despite the appropriate targeted differentiation and support, a child continues to make little or no progress, or continues to work at levels considerably below those of their peers. Many of these children are likely to be receiving support from other agencies.

Where, despite taking relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the SEND of the child, the child has not made progress, consideration will be given to requesting an Education, Health and Care assessment. This request can be made by the school or by parents. (6.63)

In considering whether an EHC needs assessment is necessary the Local Authority will consider the evidence of the action already being taken by the school to meet the Child's SEND. An EHC needs assessment will not always lead to an EHC plan. (6.63)

The purpose of an EHC plan is to make special educational provision to meet the special educational needs of the child, to secure improved outcomes for them across education, health and social care and, as they get older, prepare them for adulthood. The EHC plan also specifies the arrangements for setting shorter term targets at school level. (9.2)

#### **4. Working in partnership with parents**

We are committed to working in partnership with parents and carers and are committed to the following principles :

- Having regard to the views, wishes and feelings of parents.
- Providing parents with the information and support necessary to enable full participation in decision making.
- Supporting parents in order to facilitate the development of their child to help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood.
- Meeting with the parents of children at least three times each year.
- Providing an annual report for parents on their child's progress.

If there are any disagreements with parents about SEND support for their child we will work with them to try to resolve these. If parents have a complaint they can use the school's complaints procedure. Details about this are available from the school office.

(1.1, 6.64, 6.65, 11.71)

## **5. Involving children**

We are committed to involving children with SEND in decisions about their learning. At an age/stage appropriate level we will:

- Have regard to the views, wishes and feelings of children
- Provide children with the information and support necessary to enable full participation in decision making.
- Support children to support their development and help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood.(1.1)

## **6. Assessing and reviewing outcomes**

We record evidence of pupil progress, with a focus on outcomes and a rigorous approach to the monitoring and evaluation of any SEND support provided. We record details of additional or different provision made under SEND support. This forms part of regular discussions with parents about the child's progress, expected outcomes from the support and planned next steps. (6.72, 6.73)

SEND support takes the form of a four part cycle: assess, plan, do and review.

Decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as the graduated approach. (6.44)

Clear dates for reviewing progress are agreed and the parent, pupil and teaching staff will be clear about how they will help the pupil reach the expected outcomes. The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date. (6.43, 6.53)

### **Reviewing an EHC plan**

EHC plans are used to actively monitor children's progress towards their outcomes and longer term aspirations. They must be reviewed as a minimum every 12 months. Reviews will be undertaken in partnership with the child and their parents, and will take account of their views, wishes and feelings. The review will focus on the child's progress towards achieving the outcomes specified in the EHC plan. The review will also consider whether these outcomes and supporting targets remain appropriate.

Parents, a school representative, a Local Authority SEND officer, a health service representative and a Local Authority social care representative will be invited to the review meeting.

Before the meeting we will:

- give notice to all parties at least two weeks before the meeting and seek advice and information about the child
- send out any advice or information gathered to all those invited at least two weeks before the meeting.

We will prepare and send out a report of the meeting to everyone invited within two weeks of the meeting. (9.166, 9.168, 9.176, 6.56)

Where a child is looked after by the Local Authority, we will endeavour to synchronise EHC plan reviews with social care reviews. (10.20)

## **7. Transition**

The great majority of children with SEND or disabilities, with the right support, can, be supported to live independently, and participate in their community and ultimately find work. We encourage these ambitions right from the start. Our SEND support includes planning and preparation for the transitions between year groups into key stage two and as a preparation for adult life. We will agree with parents and pupils the information to be shared as part of this process. We support children so that they are included in social groups and develop friendships. This is particularly important when children are transferring from one phase of education to another. (6.57, 8.7, 8.8)

If a child has an EHC plan, this will be reviewed and amended in sufficient time prior to moving between key phases of education. The review and any amendments must be completed in accordance with ESCC time frames in the calendar year of the transfer. (9.179)

## **8. The approach to teaching children with SEND**

We set high expectations for all pupils whatever their prior attainment. We use assessment to set targets which are deliberately ambitious. We deliver high quality teaching that is differentiated and personalised and meets the individual needs of the majority of children. Some children need educational provision that is additional to or different from this and we use our best endeavours to ensure that such provision is made for those who need it. (1.24, 6.12)

## **9. Curriculum and learning environment**

All pupils have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. In the details of the curriculum provided in each year, we include details of how the curriculum is adapted or made accessible for pupils with SEND. Lessons are planned to address potential areas of difficulty and to remove barriers to pupil achievement.

We do what is necessary to enable children to develop, learn, participate and achieve the best possible outcomes irrespective of whether that is through reasonable adjustments for a disabled child or special educational provision for a child with SEND. (6.12, 6.82, 1.34)

#### **10. Training and continuing professional development (CPD) for staff**

We regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes, identifying particular patterns of need in the school, reviewing, and where necessary improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEND most frequently encountered. (6.37, 6.77)

Where interventions are required, we ensure staff have sufficient skills and knowledge to deliver the intervention effectively. (6.50)

The quality of teaching for pupils with SEND, and the progress made by pupils, is a core part of the school's performance management arrangements and its approach to professional development for all teaching and support staff. (6.4)

#### **11. Evaluating the effectiveness and impact of SEND provision**

We maintain an overview of the programmes and interventions used with different groups of pupils to provide a basis for monitoring their effectiveness and impact. We use information systems to monitor the progress and development of all pupils. This helps us to develop the use of interventions that are effective and to remove those that are less so. (6.74, 6.76, 6.77)

We will publish an annual SEND report on the school website. (6.79)

#### **12. Inclusion**

We are committed to eliminating discrimination, promoting equality of opportunity and fostering good relationships. Pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school together with those who do not have SEND, and are encouraged to participate fully in the life of the school and in any wider community activity. (xix, 8.8)

#### **13. Emotional and social development and well-being**

We support the emotional, mental and social development of children with SEND and disabilities through our commitment to 'wellbeing first' as well as by providing extra pastoral support arrangements for listening to their views and implementing measures to prevent bullying. (4.32)

#### **14. Involving specialists**

We will always involve a specialist in a situation where we feel that additional expertise is required and in particular if a child makes little or no progress over a sustained period or where they continue to work at levels substantially below those of pupils at a similar age despite evidence-based SEND support delivered by appropriately trained staff.

Parents are always involved in any decision to involve specialists. We may involve specialists at any point to advise on early identification of SEND and effective support and interventions. (6.59)

We work with parents and agencies to consider a range of evidence-based and effective teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions to support the child's progress. Together, we agree the needs of the child, responsibilities and the outcomes to be achieved through the support, including a date by which it is reviewed. Records of involvement of specialists are kept and shared with parents and teaching staff. (6.59, 6.62, 3.7, 3.25)

Where a child is looked after by Local Authority, we will work closely with other relevant professionals involved in the child's life as a consequence of being looked after. (10.7)

We work closely with the Local Authority and other providers to agree the range of local services and clear arrangements for making appropriate requests. Some services may be commissioned directly. (6.61, 3.13)

#### **15. Funding for SEND**

We have an amount identified within our overall school budget, called the notional SEND budget. This is not a ring-fenced amount. We provide high quality appropriate support from the whole of our school budget including any resources targeted at particular groups such as the pupil premium. (6.96, 6.97)

The Local Authority provides additional top-up funding where the cost of the special educational provision required to meet the needs of an individual pupil exceeds the nationally prescribed threshold. (6.99)

In some circumstances, parents may request a Personal Budget. A Personal Budget is an amount of money identified by the Local Authority to deliver provision set out in an EHC plan where the parent or young person is involved in securing that provision. (9.95,9.98)

## 16. General Data Protection Regulation

Education Health Care plans (EHC plans) and all personal information/data about a child will be kept securely in the care of the SENDCo so that unauthorised persons do not have access to it. EHC plans will not be disclosed without the consent of the child's parents except for specified purposes or in the interests of the child (9.211)

See our Data Protection policy for more information.

**If you have any questions about this policy please contact the SENDCO or Headteacher as detailed above.**

This policy sets out our approach to supporting children with special educational needs (SEND). For more information about how we support children with SEND please also see the SEND information report.

### **Appendix: Legislation and policies**

Statutory policies for schools

Schools are required to have the following policies in place:

(DfE advice published February 2014)

Accessibility Plan

Admission Arrangements

Behaviour Principles written statement

Child Protection policy and procedures

Complaints procedures

Early Years Foundation Stage

Equality Information and Objectives statement

Data Protection

Health and Safety

Home-school agreement document

Published School Information

School Behaviour

Sex Education

Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Relevant but non-statutory policies include:

Anti-bullying

Pupil Premium

Teaching and Learning

Listed below are the regulations and legislation that are relevant to this policy.

Legislation

The following sections of the Children and Families Act 2014:

- Co-operating generally: governing body functions: Section 29
- *Children/young people* with special educational needs but no EHC plan: Section 29
- Children with SEND in maintained nurseries and mainstream schools: Section 35
- Using best endeavours to secure special educational provision: Section 63

- SEND co-ordinators: Section 64
- Informing parents and young people: Section 65
- SEND information report: Section 65
- Duty to support pupils with medical conditions: Section 100

Equality Act 2010

09/09/2014 12

Education Act 1996

Data Protection Act 1998

Regulations

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014

Government guidance about SEND :

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/special-educational-needs-and-disabilities-send-reform-letters>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/sen-and-disability-support-changes-information-for-young-people>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-managing-changes-to-legislation-from-september-2014>

**Other government guidance**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preventing-and-tackling-bullying>

<http://www.justice.gov.uk/tribunals/send/appeals>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-award-for-sen-co-ordination-learning-outcomes>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/participation-of-young-people-education-employment-and-training>

<http://www.sendpathfinder.co.uk/infopacks/>

<http://www.preparingforadulthood.org.uk/what-we-do/supported-internships/access-to-work-fund>

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/20130903171627/http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/pupilsupport>

<http://www.inclusionandlearnersupport.onetoonetuition/a00199972/provision-mapping>

<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/private-and-public-sector-guidance/education-providers/schoolsguidance/>

[key-concepts/reasonable-adjustments](http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/private-and-public-sector-guidance/education-providers/schoolsguidance/key-concepts/reasonable-adjustments)

<http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Local>

[AuthorityCirculars/DH\\_101114](http://webarchive.nationalarchives.gov.uk/+/dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Local/AuthorityCirculars/DH_101114)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-pupils-at-school-with-medical-conditions--3>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/working-together-to-safeguard-children>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools--2>