**Holy Cross Catholic Primary School**



**Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Policy**

**2023-2024**



September 2023

**We care, we share, we value.**

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**Holy Cross Catholic Primary School**

**Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy**

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**1. Definitions of special educational needs (SEND) set in the legislative context**

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 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.

Children must not be regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language or form of language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught.

*At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School we are proud to provide a safe, stimulating and inclusive learning environment where every member of our community is valued and respected.*

**2. Mission Statement**:

At the heart of all we do are our children. Our school is a safe environment where everyone is valued equally and encouraged to achieve their full potential as part of a community.

*‘WE CARE, WE SHARE, WE VALUE’*

Our broad, balanced, creative curriculum and enrichment activities provide opportunities for everyone to achieve and succeed. Together we take pride in making a positive contribution to our school and the wider community.

This policy will be used alongside and in conjunction with the Local Offer offered by St. Helen’s Local Authority and various other school policies. It is embedded in the teaching and learning framework of the school. Provision for children with special educational needs is a matter for the school as a whole. In addition to the Governing Body, the Headteacher and the SENCO this policy applies to all other members of staff in their day to day responsibilities.

**This policy will underpin all other policies in the school and is set within the context of:**

The Children and Families Act (2014)

The SEND Code of Practice (January 2015)

The Equality Act (2010)

**3.** **Aims and Objectives:**

At Holy Cross Catholic Primary School we endeavour to provide:

* High quality teaching which is differentiated, personalised and available to all pupils.
* A continuous cycle of planning, teaching and assessing which will take into account the wide range of abilities, aptitudes and interests of children in all classes.
* Staff members who seek to identify the needs of pupils with SEND as early as possible.
* Robust systems which involve parents/carers at every stage in plans to meet their child’s additional needs.
* Support which enables a clear understanding of SEND procedures and practices for parents/carers, children and all staff in school.
* an outcomes focussed approach to providing the best possible support for our children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.
* Effective and continuous monitoring of the progress of all pupils, including those with SENDD, in order to ensure that the children are able to reach their full potential.
* Appropriate provision to overcome all barriers to learning and ensure pupils with SEND have full access to the National Curriculum.
* Systems which involve the children themselves in planning and in any decision making that may affect them.
* A school environment where pupils can contribute to their own learning and an ethos which supports supportive relationships with adults in school where pupils feel safe to voice their opinions of their own needs.
* Support of outside agencies if a pupil’s needs cannot be met by the school alone.
* Provision which enables children to move on from us well equipped in the basic skills of literacy, numeracy and social independence to meet the demands of secondary school life and learning.

**4. Responsibility for the coordination of SEND provision**

The person responsible for overseeing the provision for children with SEND is Mrs C. Gillespie (Headteacher).

The person co-ordinating the day to day provision of education for pupils with SEND is Miss K. Chauveau (SENCO).

Our Pastoral Manager (Miss Davies) works closely with the Headteacher and the SENCO to deliver personalised support for children across the school.

All of our teachers are teachers of every child or young person, including those with SEND.

The school governing body have a responsibility to oversee the effectiveness of the school’s arrangements and provision for meeting special educational needs. Mr Mark Knapper is the school’s SEND link governor.

Other visiting professionals include:

* Inclusion Team
* Educational Psychologists
* Behaviour Intervention Team
* Specialist Literacy Teachers
* Specialist Advisory Teachers for ASC (Autism Spectrum Condition)
* Speech and Language Therapy Service
* Occupational Therapy Service
* Continence Team
* Mental Health Support Team
* Various medical professionals

**5. Arrangements for coordinating SEND provision**

The SENCO will hold details of all SEND records for individual pupils.

All staff can access:

* Holy Cross Catholic Primary School SEND Policy;
* A copy of the full SEND List.
* Guidance on identification of SEND in the Code of Practice
* Information on individual pupils’ special educational needs, including professional advice, targets set and copies of their provision map.
* Information available through St. Helen’s SEND Local Offer

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.

This policy is made accessible to all staff and parents in order to aid the effective coordination of the school’s SEND provision.

**6. 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 statements or Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP), and those without.

Children identified, prior to joining our school, as having additional needs will be considered carefully when being placed with staff and classes in order to ensure a balance of provision and opportunity. Parents/carers of children with a Statement of SEND, EHCP or EHCP pending will be invited to discuss the provision that can be made to meet their identified needs. Holy Cross Catholic Primary School will accept all pupils where the school is named in an Education Health and Care Plan.

Transition programmes for children with SEND will be personalised and extensive to ensure smooth movement between Key Stages and classes.

Admissions from other schools to Holy Cross Catholic Primary School will be considered on an individual basis and will follow the same admission arrangements as for our other children.

**7. The process for identifying and managing children with SEND**

**A Graduated Approach:**

1) Quality First Teaching

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 by Class Teachers.

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 SENCO 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.

**Special Educational Needs Policy (2014) 6**

f) If a pupil has recently been removed from the SEND register they may also fall into this category as continued monitoring will be necessary.

g) 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.

h) The child is recorded by the school as being under observation due to concern by parent or teacher but this does not automatically place the child on the school’s SEND register. Any concerns will be discussed with parents informally or during parent/carer evenings.

i) Parent/Carer evenings are used to monitor and assess the progress being made by children.

2) SEN Support

*For more information regarding the school provision for pupils with SEND refer to the school SEND Information Report on the school website.*

Where it is determined that a pupil does have SEND, parents will be formally advised of this and the decision will then be made to add the child to the SEND register. 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 and promote emotional wellbeing. 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, SENCO 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 teacher. They will work closely with teaching assistants 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 SENCO.

* Review

Reviews of a child’s progress will be made termly (or sooner if appropriate). 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 where necessary their parents. The class teacher, in conjunction with the SENCO 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.

3) 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 an Education, Health and Care Plan will be taken at a progress review.

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

* Parents
* Teachers
* SENCO
* 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 from St. Helen’s Council*

[**https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/send/**](https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/send/)

4) Education, Health and Care Plans [EHCP]

a. Following Statutory Assessment, an EHC Plan will be provided by St. Helen’s City 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.

b. 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.

c. 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.

**8. Inclusion of vulnerable pupils, those with SEND**

The Headteacher and SENCO oversee the school’s policy for inclusion and are responsible for ensuring that it is implemented effectively throughout the school. The school curriculum is regularly reviewed to ensure that it promotes the inclusion of all pupils. This includes learning outside the classroom.

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School makes all trips inclusive by planning in advance and using accessible places. We offer to take all children on residential trips in Years 4 and 6 and provide additional adult support for individual children as required.

All children are welcome at our after school activities and support is appropriately organised.

The school will ensure that all children have access to a balanced and broad curriculum, and that the National Curriculum objectives for each year group are taught with enough flexibility to ensure that the needs of each child are met. No child will be excluded from any learning activity due to their SEND, unless it is clearly of benefit to that individual and leads towards inclusion. The school works hard to ensure that extra-curricular activities are barrier free and do not exclude any pupils.

The school will seek advice, as appropriate, around individual pupils, from external support services through the termly SENCO meetings, Multi-Agency meetings, and other Local Authority Advisors.

**9. In service staff 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 SENCO attends regular cluster meetings to update and revise developments in SEND and Inclusion. The SENCO attends relevant SEND courses, Local Authority SEND meetings and facilitates/signposts relevant SEND-focused external training opportunities for all staff. Staff meeting time is also dedicated to SEND where necessary in order to ensure a whole-school approach to meeting the needs of children with SEND.

We recognise the need to train all our staff on SEND issues and we have funding available to support this professional development. The SENCO, with the Senior Leadership Team, ensures that training opportunities are matched to school development priorities and those identified through the use of provision management. All staff have access to Continued Professional Development opportunities and are able to apply for additional needs or inclusion training where a need is identified either at an individual pupil or whole class level. Similarly, support staff are encouraged to extend their own professional development and the School Management Team ensure tailor-made or whole-school training where this is appropriate.

**10. Access to the curriculum, information and associated services**

We are committed to whole school inclusion. In our school we support children with a range of special educational needs. We will seek specialist SEND provision and training from SEND services where necessary. Every effort will be made to educate pupils with SEND alongside their peers in a mainstream classroom setting. Where this is not possible, the SENCO will consult with the child’s parents for other flexible arrangements to be made. Regular training and learning opportunities for staff on the subject of SEND and SEND teaching are provided both in school and across the family of schools. Staff members are kept up to date with teaching methods which will aid the progress of all pupils including those with SEND. Pupils with SEND will be given access to the curriculum through the specialist SEND provision provided by the school as is necessary, as far as possible, taking into account the wishes of their parents and the needs of the individual.

In class provision and support are deployed effectively to ensure the curriculum is differentiated where necessary. We make sure that individual or group tuition is available where it is felt pupils would benefit from this provision. We set appropriate individual targets that motivate pupils to do their best, and celebrating achievements at all levels.

Learning opportunities at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School are appropriately rewarding and effectively differentiated, using diverse teaching styles. All staff will work to ensure that children are supported effectively in accessing the curriculum. Whole school curriculum maps are in place and plans are differentiated in order to ensure appropriate learning outcomes for all pupils. Differentiation takes a variety of forms within teacher’s planning and this is closely monitored by the SENCO through termly work scrutiny and Learning Walks/observations of classroom practice. Learning intentions are always made explicit and activities are adapted or planned separately as appropriate in order to ensure access to learning for all children.

Alternative methods of responding or recording are planned for where appropriate and children with SEND may access the curriculum through specialist resources such as ICT where this is appropriate. Staff use a range of assessment procedures within lessons (such as recording, role-play/drama, drawing, photography etc.) to ensure children with additional needs are able to demonstrate their achievement appropriately. All children requiring information in formats other than print will have this provided. We adapt printed materials so that children with literacy difficulties can access them, or ensure access through extra adult/peer support/scribing etc.

**11. 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 equates to £6,000. Some pupils with SEND may access additional funding. For those with the most complex needs, additional funding is retained by the local authority and may be applied for. The SENCO 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. It would then be the responsibility of the SENCO, Senior Leadership Team and governors to agree how the allocation of resources is used.

Specialised Provision includes:

* Trained Teaching Assistants deliver a range of interventions across the school.
* Support from the Learning Support Service to facilitate provision for children with Specific Learning Difficulties in Literacy.
* Educational Psychologist visits the school as appropriate, following discussion at termly Inclusion meetings and referrals made by the SENCO regarding the purpose of each visit.
* Specialist Advisory Teachers for ASC (Autism Spectrum Condition) provide advice and guidance to school and to parents in relation to children with ASC.
* Speech and Language Therapists work directly with children in school.
* Occupational Therapists and Physiotherapists work directly with children in school.
* Individual or group support from the Pastoral Manager.

The SENCO and Pastoral Manager liaise frequently with a number of further outside agencies, for example: Social Services, Education Welfare Service, School Nurse, Community Paediatricians, Education Social Workers.

*Parents/carers are informed if any outside agency is involved.*

**12.** **Facilities for vulnerable pupils, those with SEND**

The school complies with all relevant accessibility requirements, please see the school accessibility plan for more details.

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School is a single site, one form entry primary school which is built on two levels. The infants are on the lower floor and the Juniors on the upper floor. Entrance to the building is through the main reception area, which is suitable for wheelchair access. Ground floor classrooms are accessed by corridors from which there is also wheelchair access.

Toilets are accessible in both male and female sets of bathrooms. There is also a disabled toilet.

Children requiring equipment specifically to meet their personal needs will be assessed in order to gain the support that they require. Funding from the SEND budget will facilitate this where needed.

The school has an access policy and a policy for Supporting Pupils with Medical Conditions.

**13. Working in partnership with parents**

We at Holy Cross Catholic Primary School believe that a close working relationship with parents is vital in order to ensure:

a) early and accurate identification and assessment of SEND leading to appropriate intervention and provision

b) continuing social and academic progress of children with SEND

c) personal and academic targets are set and met effectively.

In cases where more frequent regular contact with parents is necessary, this will be arranged based on the individual pupil’s needs. The SENCO may also signpost parents of pupils with SEND to the local authority Parent Partnership service -St. Helen’s Information Advice and Support (IASS) where specific advice, guidance and support may be provided.

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. The school’s SEN governors may be contacted at any time in relation to SEN matters.

**14. Links to support services, other agencies and voluntary organisations**

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School invites and seeks advice and support from external agencies in the identification and assessment of, and provision for, SEND. The SENCO is the designated person responsible for liaising with support services and outside agencies.

There are many voluntary organisations supporting SEND. The SENCO and Pastoral Manager maintain an up-to-date list. Parents/carers will be given details of these groups upon request or may be signposted to resources as appropriate by the SENCO or Pastoral Manager . Details of these can also be found within the Local Offer.

The school regularly consults various health service professionals. Concerns are initially brought to the attention of the school nurse and referrals will be made as appropriate. Social Services and the Education Welfare Service will be accessed by the School Safeguarding Team - Mrs Gillespie (Headteacher), Miss Chauveau (Deputy Headteacher), Miss Davies (Pastoral Manager). All staff alert the School Safeguarding Team if they have any concerns.

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 SEN 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 SENCO who will then inform the child’s parents.

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 St. Helen’s 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.

**15. Links with other schools**

Creating and maintaining links with other schools has enabled us to build a bank of joint resources. We are able to share good practice, advice, training and development activities by working in collaboration with local and partner schools.

**16. 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 Headteacher or SENCO, who will be able to provide advice on formal procedures for complaint. Our complaints procedure, available from our school website, sets out the steps for making a complaint in more detail.

If you wish to complain about a decision made by the Local Authority, you should contact them directly. Details can be found here:

<https://www.sthelens.gov.uk/council/complaints/children-young-people-complaints/>

**17. Evaluating the success of provision for pupils with SEND**

The School Governing Body evaluates the success of the education that is provided by the school for all pupils. Primarily, this is achieved through a termly report to Governors which includes information relating to the number of pupils receiving special educational provision and the forms of provision which they receive. The Headteacher will report on any whole school developments in relation to inclusion, at the same time, and will ensure that governors are kept up to date with any legislative or local policy changes.

In order to make consistent continuous progress in relation to SEND provision the school encourages feedback from staff, parents and pupils throughout the year. This is done in the form of a parent and pupil questionnaires, discussion and through progress meetings with parents.

Pupil progress will be monitored in line with the SEND Code of Practice. We analyse pupil attainment and progress data on a half-termly basis, with particular focus on vulnerable groups. We also analyse data relating to behaviour (incidents are recorded using the CPOMS system) and attendance, using this analysis to plan our provision map.

Through the school development plan we set targets for the year ahead. We report progress against these targets to the Governing Body.

Whole-school monitoring and evaluation procedures include scrutiny of work and planning, and observations of classroom practice. The SENCO and Senior Leadership Team both facilitate these processes.

Outcomes pertinent to SEN and Inclusion provision and planning will be taken forward by the whole staff and used to build upon successful practice.

SEND provision and interventions are recorded on a provision map, this is updated as and when interventions change. These are updated by the class teacher and are monitored by the SENCO. These reflect information passed on by the SENCO at the beginning of an academic year and are adapted following assessments. These interventions are monitored and evaluated termly by the SENCO and information is fed back to the staff, parents and governors. This helps to identify whether provision is effective.

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School encourages the inclusion of children’s voices in the School Council. Each class has two representatives who gather views from their class and feed back to classes following meetings. We also use PSHE lessons, the PASS survey (Pupil Attitudes to Self and School) and targeted questioning throughout the curriculum to regularly collect pupil views.

We aim to include children in their target setting and encourage and support them to take an active part in their annual reviews and IEP reviews, through disussion and making the information and meeting itself accessible and child-friendly.

**18. Review and amendments to policy**

This policy will be reviewed and amended annually, or sooner if there is a change to any government legislation relating to SEND.