



### Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

*Our vision is the creation of lifelong learners, whose confidence in independent learning has been developed through teaching which recognises the importance of creativity, critical thinking and the artistic exploration and expression of self and identity.*

At Holy Trinity all children are entitled to a broad, balanced, relevant and differentiated curriculum. As a Catholic school, we acknowledge the unique creation of every person and endeavour to meet the individual educational needs of all pupils. We are committed to providing the right support in order to meet the needs of every pupil so that they can reach their full potential. Every teacher is a teacher of every pupil including those with special educational needs and disability (SEND).

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years, January 2015 and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions, April 2014
- Keeping Children Safe in Education, March 2015
- Teachers Standards 2012
- Anti-bullying, Behaviour, Safeguarding, Complaints Procedures, Disability Equality Scheme and Policy, Freedom of Information, Looked After Children, Pupil Premium and Race Equality Policy.

We understand our responsibility to have 'due regard' to the considerations and implications set out in the Equality Act, 2010. In doing so, we strive to prevent discrimination, to promote equality of opportunity and to foster good relations.

We acknowledge our duty to make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services for disabled children, to prevent them being put at a substantial disadvantage to others of the same age.

#### **Holy Trinity's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator**

Miss E Yanez is the school's Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) Miss Yanez has the National Award for SEND Coordination and can be contacted via the school office on 0121 772 0184 or by email [EYanez@holyltrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:EYanez@holyltrc.bham.sch.uk). The Deputy SENCo is Miss S Ormsby who is also the

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school's Inclusion Manager and oversees EAL provision. Miss Ormsby can be contacted on the same number or by email [SOrmsby@holytrc.bham.sch.uk](mailto:SOrmsby@holytrc.bham.sch.uk).

## **Role of the SENCo**

The role of the SENCo involves:

- ensuring all practitioners within school understand their responsibilities to children with SEN and the school's approach to identifying and meeting SEN for all students.
- advising and supporting colleagues
- ensuring parents are closely involved throughout and that their insights and feedback inform any actions taken with school
- liaising with professionals or outside agencies beyond school

### **According to the SEN and Disability Code of Practice 0 to 25 years (2015)**

*"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 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, or 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."*

DfES: Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice: 0 to 25 years, January 2015 p15-16.

## **Aims**

- To provide an environment in which all pupils are able to reach their potential
- To raise the aspirations of and expectations for all pupils with special educational needs; improving their outcomes
- To ensure that the special educational needs of pupils are identified, assessed and provided for
- To identify the roles and responsibilities of staff in providing for a pupil's special educational needs
- To ensure pupils are partners with school and parents in the decision making about their education
- To ensure that parents are able to play their part in supporting their child's education

## **Objectives**

- To implement the SEN and Disability Code of Practice 0 to 25 years (January 2015)
- To use a four part cycle of 'Assess-Plan-Do-Review'
- To respond to the requirements of any Statement/ Education and Health Care Plan (EHC Plan) relating to a pupil in school
- To adhere to the Birmingham Local Authority (LA) guidelines for Inclusion
- To implement the Equality Act 2010
- To maintain a register of pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND Support and Statement/EHC Plan)
- To liaise with outside agencies to assist in making appropriate provision for children with special educational needs and disabilities
- To monitor, record and evaluate the progress of pupils on a continuous basis
- To establish a good communication system, both within the school and between school, external agencies, governors and parents/carers.
- To work closely with senior staff, pastoral staff and subject teachers, providing information on pupils and their needs
- To ensure that a wide variety of teaching strategies are used for pupils with special educational needs, including the use of information technology to support learning
- To ensure that pupils with special educational needs are fully included in all aspects of school life
- To work with pupils in order that they find suitable college/training/employment when they leave school
- To encourage parents to become partners with the school in their child's education
- To regularly review the policy and provision for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

### **What kinds of Special Educational Needs might the students at Holy Trinity Catholic School have?**

Special educational needs and provision can be considered as falling under four broad areas:

- Communication and interaction
- Cognition and learning
- Social, mental and emotional health
- Sensory and/or physical

#### **Communication and interaction**

Students with speech, language and communication needs (SLCN) have 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. The profile for every student with SLCN is different and their needs may change over time. They may have difficulty with one, some or all of the different aspects of speech, language or social communication at different times of their lives. Students with Autism, including Asperger's Syndrome, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication, social interaction and imagination, which can impact on how they relate to others.

#### **Cognition and learning**

Support for learning difficulties may be required when students learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where students are likely to need support in all areas of the curriculum and associated difficulties with mobility and communication, through to profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD), where students are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment. Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning. This encompasses a range of conditions such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

#### **Social, emotional and mental health difficulties**

Students may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. Other students may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder.

#### **Sensory and/or physical needs**

Some students require special educational provision because they have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time. Many students with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning. Students with MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties, which makes it even more difficult for them to access the curriculum or study programme than for those with

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a single sensory impairment. Some students with a physical disability (PD) require additional ongoing support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

### **Identifying Special Educational Needs**

At Holy Trinity Catholic school we use a variety of different ways to assess whether a student has special educational needs. Initially records for pupils with SEND from primary schools are used to identify those pupils already on the SEND Register. The SENCo and/or Deputy SENCo and the Transition Manager visit primary feeder school SENCOs to discuss the needs of the pupils and the provision that has been made for them in primary school. Where a pupil's needs are literacy or numeracy based, they are automatically entered on to our SEND Register. Students with an EHC Plan in place are automatically transferred and we liaise closely with the relevant primary feeder school. All pupils on entering Year 7 are given a group reading test and a spelling test, the results from these will determine if further assessment is required. All pupils on the SEND Register are tested again at the end of the academic year. Progress is measured and reviews of interventions take place.

#### **We also make use of the following:**

- School based assessments (including Cognitive Ability tests)
- Progress monitoring throughout the year
- Information from parents and carers
- Concerns raised by a parent or member of school staff
- Liaison with external agencies
- Formal diagnoses by healthcare professionals

Every endeavour will be made to make reasonable adjustments for pupils who may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010. Pupils who need specialist help at a level which school is unable to provide, are referred to an appropriate outside agency.

It is important to consider the following that may impact on progress and attainment but are not special educational needs:

- Disability ( the Code of Practice outlines the “reasonable adjustment “ duty for all settings and schools provided under current Disability Equality legislation – these alone do not constitute SEND)
- Attendance and Punctuality
- Health and Welfare
- English as an Additional Language
- Being in receipt of Pupil Premium Grant

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- Being a Looked After Child
- Being a child of a Serviceman/woman

### A Graduated Approach to SEND Support

Subject teachers are responsible for the progress and development of pupils in their class, including the support given by Teaching Assistants or external agencies. High quality teaching, differentiated for pupils' needs, is the main way we respond to pupils with SEND. Additional intervention and support cannot make up for a lack of good teaching. However, if pupils still experience a significantly greater difficulty in learning then further assessments will be carried out. Holy Trinity Catholic School practises the recommended **graduated approach of: Assess, Plan, Do and Review.**

- The SENCo organises the assessment of the pupil's needs.
- The SENCo, Deputy SENCo and subject teachers in consultation with parents and the pupil **plan** the adjustments, interventions and support that will be put into place.
- Curriculum Support Assistants or Teaching Assistants will be deployed to meet the specific needs of each child on the SEND Register. They will meet with children individually to write a 'One Page Profile' together. This will say what is important to and important for the child. It will also inform school staff how to best support that child. Listening to and working with the child is very important for everyone at Holy Trinity Catholic School.
- To **do** the plan, the subject teacher remains responsible for working with the pupil.
- The interventions are formally **reviewed** termly against expected impact on progress taking into account the views of the parent and pupil.

### Managing pupils' needs on the SEND Register

In order to fully comply with the SEN and Disability Code of Practice 0 to 25 years, 2015, the SENCo has a managerial role in coordinating effective educational provision for children with special educational needs. The responsibilities are:

- overseeing the day to day operation of this policy
- liaising with and advising colleagues and subject departments
- coordinating provision for children with special needs
- maintaining the school's SEND Register and overseeing the records on all pupils with SEND
- advising on the graduated approach to providing SEND support
- liaising with parents of children with SEND
- contributing to the in-service training of staff and governors

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- advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- liaising with and being a key point of contact to external agencies including the educational psychology service and other support services, medical and children's services and voluntary bodies
- liaising with the next providers of education to ensure a pupil and their parents are informed about options for a smooth transition
- working with the Head teacher and school governors to ensure school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements

All pupils on the SEND Register are in teaching groups equivalent to their academic ability. Therefore, SEND support is dispersed across many teaching groups and in consultation with subject teachers to the level of support that is required.

### SEND Support

Interventions are provided that are **additional to or different from** those provided as part of our school's usual differentiated teaching. Intervention is triggered by concerns raised by teachers and others and supported by evidence about a pupil who, despite receiving quality first teaching and differentiated learning opportunities:

- makes little or no progress even when teaching approaches are targeted particularly in a pupil's identified area of weakness
- shows signs of difficulty in developing literacy or mathematics skills that result in poor attainment in some curriculum areas
- has sensory or physical problems, and continues to make little or no progress despite the provision of specialist equipment
- has communication and/or interaction difficulties, and continues to make little or no progress despite the provision of quality first differentiated teaching.
- Concerns are also triggered by concerns raised by parents and / or pupils themselves. Listening to pupils and parents is an essential partnership at Holy Trinity Catholic School.

The SENCo facilitates further assessment of the pupil's specific needs. The SENCo plans future support and expected outcomes for the pupil in discussion with colleagues. The action taken is monitored and reviewed against the outcomes. Where the pupil needs individual tuition to meet their needs, it is planned and provided by the SEND Department in consultation with the English & Maths Departments. The pupil's teachers remain responsible for working with the pupil on a daily basis and for planning and delivering an individualised programme.

If progress is not made against expected outcomes, then the SENCo liaises with external support services and professionals to provide appropriate strategies to support a pupil. The specialist services, together with the SENCo and/or Deputy SENCo plan the provision together and provide support.

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If expected outcomes are met, the level and type of intervention will be reviewed and modified. We ensure that pupils with SEND receive equality of entitlement to the National Curriculum and are integrated into all the activities of the school as far as it is practicable.

### **How does Holy Trinity Catholic School get more specialist help for students if they need it?**

In our school if we feel a student requires more specialist help, we work with the following people to get this:

- Communication and Autism Team
- Pupil and School Support Service
- Educational Psychologist service
- Forward Thinking Birmingham (formerly CAMHS)
- School Nurse and other Healthcare Professionals
- Local Organisations and charities such as the Edward's Trust

If, however, expected outcomes have not been met and the pupil still has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than their peers, then a request for an Education and Health Care Plan (EHC Plan) will be considered.

### **Education and Health Care Plans**

The SENCO follows the process governed by the SEN and Disability Code of Practice 0 to 25 years (2015). See Appendix B: 'statutory timescales for EHC needs assessment and EHC plan development' from Code of Practice, 2015. (See appendix one for further information)

### **Parental involvement with the education of a child with SEND**

Our school has an open door policy to parents ensuring we are always approachable so parents and carers feel involved in the education of their child.

In addition our school aims to regularly involve parents in the education of their child through a variety of different ways including:

- Meetings with our SENCO, assistant SENCO, subject teachers and support staff
- Target setting so parents and carers can see what their child is working on next
- The weekly newsletter to inform all parents and carers of important information
- Parent Forums
- Information on the school website
- Parents' evenings
- Parent drop-ins/coffee mornings



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- Signposting to parent groups
- Parents' views on SEN/Annual Review documents
- Parent questionnaires

### **How are students with Special Educational Needs involved in their own education?**

We aim to involve all students in our school in the evaluation and implementation of their own education. For students with special educational needs we use a variety of strategies to support this including:

- Person Centred Reviews in liaison with Pupil & School Support
- Student involvement in setting their own targets
- Student target review meetings
- Self-assessment
- Having a range of equipment available for the student to choose to use
- Ensuring the student has a designated adult to go to if they need help
- Membership of the school council (by choice)
- One page Student Profiles
- Medical alert cards and medication passes
- Visual timetables
- Time out cards
- Student questionnaires and ongoing student voice through form time

### **Dealing with complaints**

If you have a complaint about the school please contact the SENCo in the first instance and we will do everything we can to respond to the complaint. If this does not resolve the issue, the complaint should be directed to our Head teacher or a member of the SLT. Our school and governing body take complaints seriously and will act upon these on an individual basis.

### **Monitoring and reporting arrangements**

The Head teacher is responsible for day to day management of all aspects of the school's work including special educational needs and keeps the governing body fully informed.

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The SENCo provides an annual written report to the Governing Body, detailing current issues, developments and future plans. The SENCo, Deputy SENCo and SEND Governor meet termly when they discuss current practice. The SENCo and Deputy SENCo expect to be challenged by the SEND Governor in order to continually improve practice and delivery for all pupils with SEND at Holy Trinity Catholic School.

### **Reviewing the policy**

This policy is monitored by the Head teacher and the SENCo. They also receive support from the named Governor for SEND Holy Trinity Catholic School. Parents and carers with children who have SEND and pupils on the SEND Register are also involved in the annual review of the policy.

In accordance with statutory responsibilities, Holy Trinity Catholic School also has a **SEND Information Report and Accessibility Plan**, both of which are updated annually and displayed on the school's website.

### **Support services that can help parents and carers with students who have Special Educational Needs**

The SEN Parent Partnership service exists to provide advice and information to parents and students in Birmingham. They can explain the special educational needs procedures, help parents understand the law and procedures and provide information on other issues that may be useful. The SEN Parent Partnership is based at The Pod, 28 Oliver Street, Nechells, B7 4NX. They can be contacted on 0121 303 5004 or at [senparentpartnership@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:senparentpartnership@birmingham.gov.uk).

Parents and carers can also refer to The Birmingham Local Authority's Local Offer which can be found at: [www.mycareinbirmingham.com](http://www.mycareinbirmingham.com)

Appendix

**Deciding whether to issue an EHC plan**

9.51 Where, in light of an EHC assessment, it is necessary for special educational provision to be made in accordance with an EHC plan, the local authority **must** prepare a plan. Where a local authority decides it is necessary to issue an EHC plan, it **must** notify the child's parent or the young person and give the reasons for its decision. The local authority should ensure it allows enough time to prepare the draft plan and complete the remaining steps in the process within the 20-week overall time limit within which it **must** issue the finalised EHC plan.

9.52 In deciding whether to make special educational provision in accordance with an EHC plan, the local authority should consider all the information gathered during the EHC needs assessment and set it alongside that available to the local authority prior to the assessment. Local authorities should consider both the child or young person's SEN and the special educational provision made for the child or young person and whether:

- The information from the EHC needs assessment confirms the information available on the nature and extent of the child or young person's SEN prior to the EHC needs assessment, and whether
- The special educational provision made prior to the EHC needs assessment was well matched to the SEN of the child or young person

9.53 Where, despite appropriate assessment and provision, the child or young person is not progressing sufficiently well, the local authority should take into account:

- Whether the special educational provision required to meet the child or young person's needs can reasonably be provided from within the resources normally available to mainstream early years providers, schools and post-16 institutions, or
- Whether it may be necessary for the local authority to make special educational provision in accordance with an EHC plan

9.54 Where a local authority carried out an EHC needs assessment for a child or young person and

- Their circumstances have changed significantly, or
- The child or young person has recently been placed in a new setting or
- Their special educational needs were identified shortly before the EHC needs assessment,

If no comparable special educational provision was being made for the child or young person prior to the EHC needs assessment, then the local authority should consider what new special educational provision is needed, taking into account the points in 9.53 above.

