

Welwyn St Mary's Primary School

Believe and Achieve



Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy

Context

This policy was developed in consultation with parents / carers, staff, governors and pupils of the school community and pays due regard to;

The SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years (July 2014) and Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations

Governor responsible for SEN: Mr Stuart Jenkin

Headteacher: Mr Whiteland

SENCo: Mrs Sam Branch. SENCo Qualifications: NASENCO (2011)

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This policy will be reviewed annually/or in the light of new government legislation.

Approved by Governors: 25th September 2025

Special Educational Needs and Disability Policy (SEND) Policy

Our Vision – Believe and Achieve: ‘With God, all things are possible’ (Matthew 19:26)

At Welwyn St Mary’s our school vision is ‘Believe and Achieve’ taken from St Matthew’s gospel (Chapter 19, verse 26 – “With God, all things are possible”). By this, we aspire that all members of our community will flourish and be inspired to **be the best that we can be** by believing in ourselves, each other and in the teachings of Jesus. Believing in ourselves will give us the confidence to succeed. Believing in each other will empower others to do their best and by following the teaching of Jesus shows that His teaching drives all aspects of school life.

Our curriculum vision enables all pupils of all abilities to feel successes in all aspects of their learning journey.

This policy is in line with our Teaching and Learning Policy and Equality of Opportunity Policy and aims to support inclusion for all our pupils. The responsibility for the management of this policy falls to the Headteacher; the day-to-day operation of the policy is the responsibility of the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). The Governing Body, Headteacher and SENCo will work together closely to ensure that this policy is working effectively.

Pupils with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), access our curriculum through reasonable adjustments and adaptations as part of the first quality teaching offered in each classroom. The whole school approach to our curriculum is inclusive; life skills and emotional intelligence are taught alongside it.

First quality teaching is adapted to meet the needs of most pupils. Some pupils will need something additional to, and different from, what is provided for most pupils; this is special educational provision.

Welwyn St. Mary’s Primary School will do its best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs or disabilities. We will endeavour to meet the needs of pupils ensuring that class and subject leaders and the SENCo are at the heart of this approach. The school will, within the context of services available, seek the relevant support and advice from the Local Authority and outside agencies, to facilitate pupils’ inclusion, where necessary.

The staff and governors of Welwyn St. Mary’s Primary School will also work to ensure that all pupils with SEND reach their full potential, are fully included within the school community and are able to make successful transfers between classes and different school establishments. This policy aims to support all members of staff in providing positive whole school approaches towards the learning, progress, and achievement of pupils with SEND. With this as an underlying principle, we believe that **all teachers are teachers of Special Educational Needs.**

All teachers hold responsibility and accountability for the progress and development of every pupil in their class, including those receiving support from teaching assistants or specialist staff.

Teaching and supporting pupils with SEND is, therefore, a whole school responsibility requiring a whole school response. Meeting the needs of pupils with SEND requires partnership working between all those involved – Local Authority (LA), school, parents/carers, pupils, and all other agencies.

School Admissions

No pupil will be denied admission to our school on the basis of their special educational needs. In accordance with the Equality Act 2010, we are committed to ensuring that disabled pupils are not discriminated against in any aspect of the admissions process due to their disability. We will make every reasonable effort to provide high-quality, effective educational provision that meets individual needs.

Aims and Objectives

Aims

To provide the structure for a pupil-centred process that engages pupil, family, school, and other professionals in planning for and implementing high quality, needs led provision that is consistent across the school. This is to ensure that all our pupils can access the same opportunities for learning and social development achieving maximum progress, fulfilling their potential and promoting their wellbeing.

Objectives

The SEND policy of Welwyn St. Mary's Primary School reflects the principles of the 0-25 SEND Code of Practice (2014). The objectives of this SEND policy are to:

- Ensure the Equality Act 2010 duties for pupils with disabilities are met,
- To enable pupils with SEND to have their needs met,
- To consider the views of pupils with SEND,
- To encourage effective communication and genuine partnerships with parents / carers of pupils with SEND,
- To facilitate full access to a broad, balanced, and relevant education, including an appropriate curriculum for the foundation stage and the National Curriculum, for pupils with SEND,
- In conjunction with our Medical Policy, we plan to support pupils with medical conditions and to have regard to statutory guidance supporting pupils at school with medical conditions,
- In conjunction with our Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy, we plan to support pupils and adults with mental health conditions and to have regard to statutory guidance supporting pupils at school with mental health conditions,
- To implement a graduated response to meeting the needs of pupils using the Assess, Plan, Do, Review process,
- Develop a culture of inclusion valuing high quality teaching for all learners, with teachers using a range of effective methods for adapting learning,
- Employ a collaborative approach with learners with a SEN or disability, their families, staff within school, other external agencies including those from Health and Social Care,
- Set appropriate individual learning outcomes based on prior attainment, high aspirations and the views of the child and family,
- Share expertise and good practice across the school and locality,
- Make efficient and effective use of school resources,
- Have regard to the Code of Practice (2014) for the identification, assessment, support, and review of SEND,
- Have regard to guidance detailed by Hertfordshire County Council (HCC), Herts for Learning (HfL), Child and Mental Health Services (CAMHS), Delivering Specialist Provision Locally (DSPL) and any other relevant agencies.

Identifying and Supporting Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

The term Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) has a legal definition which is set out in the Education Act 1996 and the Children and Families Act 2014. It applies to pupils who have learning difficulties or disabilities that make it significantly harder for them to learn or access education than most other pupils of their age. Provision for supporting these pupils would be additional to or different from that normally available as part of an adapted curriculum.

Pupils 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 are taught. Similarly, pupils of serving personnel, those who are looked after, those in receipt of a Pupil Premium Grant and those with attendance issues may also not have SEND, although their situation may impact on progress and attainment.

Welwyn St. Mary's Primary School will have regard to the SEND Code of Practice 2014 when carrying out its duties towards all pupils with SEND and ensure that parents/carers are informed by the school that SEND provision is being made for their child.

Areas of Special Educational Need

Under the SEND Code of Practice 2014, pupils identified as having a special educational need or disability will be considered within one or more of the following categories of need:

Cognition and Learning

Pupils with learning needs may learn at a slower pace than other pupils and may have difficulty developing literacy or numeracy skills or understanding new concepts. Learning needs may be in addition to or because of other special educational needs.

Pupils with a specific learning difficulty (SpLD) will have difficulties related to one or more of dyslexia (reading and spelling), dyscalculia (maths), dyspraxia (co-ordination) and dysgraphia (writing).

Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs, including moderate learning difficulties (MLD), severe learning difficulties (SLD), where pupils 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 (PML), where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment.

Social, Emotional and Mental Health Difficulties

Pupils may experience a wide range of social and emotional difficulties which manifest themselves in many ways. These may include becoming withdrawn or isolated, as well as displaying challenging, disruptive, or disturbing behaviour. These behaviours may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression, self-harming, substance misuse, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained.

Other pupils may have conditions such as Attention Deficit Disorder (ADD), Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) or Attachment Disorders.

Communication and Interaction Needs

Pupils 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 has been said to them or because they do not understand or use social rules of communication.

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

Sensory and/or Physical Needs

Some pupils require special educational provision because they have a disability, and this prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities provided. These difficulties can be age related and may fluctuate over time.

Many pupils with visual impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and/or equipment to access their learning. Pupils with an MSI have a combination of vision and hearing difficulties. Some pupils with a physical disability (PD) require additional on-going support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.

A Graduated Response to SEND

Early concerns

The progress made by all pupils is regularly monitored and reviewed. Initially, concerns registered by teachers, parents/carers or other agencies are addressed by appropriate differentiation within the classroom and a provision map is created to highlight strategies used. This can then be used in later discussions should concerns persist.

How we identify and support pupils with SEND

All pupils' attainment and achievements are monitored by their teacher, who is required to provide first quality teaching and learning opportunities adapted for individual pupils.

Where a pupil is making inadequate progress for their potential or falls behind their peers, additional support will be provided under the guidance of the class teacher. Adequate progress could:

- Be similar to that of their peers,
- Be in line with the potential of the child,
- Match or better the pupil's previous rate of progress,
- Close the attainment gap between the pupil and their peers,
- Prevent the attainment gap growing wider.

Where pupils continue to make inadequate progress despite support and first quality teaching, the class teacher will work with the SENCo to assess if a pupil has a significant difficulty and agree appropriate support.

In some cases, it may be necessary to seek assessment by or advice from an external professional such as a specialist teacher. This will always involve discussion and agreement with the pupil's parents/carers.

When considering whether a pupil has a special educational need any of the following may be evident:

- Makes little or no progress even when teaching approaches are targeted particularly in a pupil's identified area of weakness;
- Demonstrates progress that falls significantly short of expectations relative to their assessed potential;
- Shows signs of difficulty in developing English or mathematics skills which result in poor attainment in some curriculum areas;
- Persistent emotional or behavioural difficulties which are not improved by appropriate behaviour management strategies;

- Has emotional or behavioural difficulties which substantially and regularly interfere with the pupil's own learning or that of the class or other individuals, despite having an individualised behaviour plan;
- 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 an appropriate adapted curriculum;
- Has SEND or physical needs that require additional specialist equipment or regular advice or visits by a specialist service;
- Has a communication and / or interaction difficulty that impedes the development of social relationships and causes a substantial barrier to learning.

Once identified, pupils with SEND will be added to our SEND register. This is held with the school's information management system and is updated termly or as need arises. All needs are identified within this register, and it is a graduated approach using a cycle of assessing, planning, delivering, and reviewing need. It is a document outlining whole school needs and is held by the SENCo.

Assess, Plan, Do and Review

Where a pupil is identified as having SEND, we will take action to support learning by removing barriers and putting effective special educational provision in place. This SEND support will take the form of a four-part cycle through which earlier decisions and action are revisited, refined, and revised with a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making satisfactory progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as the graduated response – Assess, Plan, Do, Review (APDR).

For pupils with low level special educational needs the cycle of Assess, Plan, Do and Review will fit into the regular termly assessment and planning cycle for all pupils and support will be captured on provision maps as part of the termly Pupil Progress Meetings. For those pupils with more complex needs or for whom a more frequent cycle needs to be employed additional meeting dates will be set, where appropriate, and will include the termly Pupil Progress Meetings.

Assess

- In identifying a pupil as needing SEN support the class teacher, with support and advice from the SENCo – if needed, should carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. This should draw on the teacher's assessment and experience of the pupil, their previous progress and attainment, as well as from other areas of the school.
- The pupil's development in comparison to their peers and national data should also be considered along with the parents' views and experience, the pupil's views and, if relevant, advice from external support services. These will be recorded on a document called an individual provision map. The child will be listed as having 'SEN Support.' School and parents/carers will meet, where appropriate, with other agencies including those from Health and Social Care, where applicable, to create and update the provision maps.
- This assessment will be reviewed termly to ensure support and intervention are appropriately matched to need, barriers to learning are identified and overcome so that a clear picture of the interventions put into place and their impact is developed and captured.

Plan

- Parents/carers, with their child, will meet with the class teacher and SENCo, where appropriate, to discuss the interventions and support to be put in place as well as the expected impact on progress and development. This will be recorded on the provision maps with a date to review the plan. The date for review will depend on the level of need present.

- The provision map will clearly identify the areas of need, the desired outcomes, the support, and resources provided and when the map will be reviewed – usually termly. An individual provision map will include any teaching strategies or approaches that are required with the planning of when they will be delivered.
- The support and intervention provided will be selected to meet the outcomes identified for the pupil, based on reliable evidence of effectiveness, and will be provided by staff with appropriate skills and knowledge.
- The provision map will usually involve a contribution by parents/carers to reinforce learning at home.
- Where appropriate the provision map will detail the support from other agencies and how this will support the pupil in achieving the desired outcomes.
- Parents/carers will then be contacted by the class teacher to review the provision map and discuss new targets, where appropriate.

Do

- The class teacher remains responsible for working with the pupil daily and will work closely with any teaching assistants involved to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked with classroom teaching.
- The SENCo will support the class teacher in supporting further assessments of the pupil's needs, in problem solving and advising on the effective implementation of support, where necessary.

Review

- There will be a review of the provision map on the date previously agreed. The provision map will be reviewed at least termly by the class teacher. These reviews will evaluate the impact and quality of support and interventions and will include the views of the pupil (where appropriate) and parents/carers.
- Parents/carers will be given information about the impact of the support and interventions provided enabling them to be involved with planning the next steps. Where appropriate, other agencies will be asked to contribute to this review.
- Where a child has complex needs involving more than one agency, it will depend on the pupil's needs and the frequency of the review as to whether external agencies attend each educational review.
- This review will feed back into the analysis of the pupil's needs, then the class teacher, working with the SENCo – if needed, will revise the support considering the pupil's progress and development, with decisions on any changes made in consultation with the parents and the pupil.
- Where there is a sustained period of insufficient or no progress the school may decide to gain involvement and advice from a specialist or external agency. The school will consult with parents/carers before a specialist or external agency is involved – this will not be taken forward if the parent/carer refuses to give permission.

Exit Criteria

When a pupil has made sufficient progress in their area of need, meaning that they no longer require any provision in addition to what is normally available as part of first quality and differentiated teaching, they will no longer be seen as requiring school support. At this point, through discussion and agreement with parents / carers the pupil will be removed from the SEN register.

Statutory Assessment of Needs (EHCP)

Where, despite the school having taken relevant and purposeful action to identify, assess and meet the special educational needs and/or disabilities of the pupil, the child has not made expected progress over an extended period, the school or parents/carers might consider requesting an Education, Health, and Care

Plan (EHCP) assessment. Evidence gathered at regular reviews of the individual provision maps, and close discussion with any outside agencies that are supporting and parents, will determine whether a statutory assessment of needs is required.

Where a pupil has an EHCP, the school must review the plan every twelve months as a minimum (for pupils aged below 5 years at the time that the plan is issued, this must take place within six months). The EHCP can be in place to support the child into adulthood (25years), if appropriate.

Monitoring and Evaluation of SEND

Regular monitoring of the quality of provision for all pupils including those with SEND follows the school's assessment and monitoring programme. In addition, the cycle of Assess, Plan, Do and Review ensures that pupils with SEND have their individual provision reviewed regularly, and at least termly. Additional training, advice and support will be provided to teaching staff where necessary to facilitate pupil progress and to meet pupils' needs.

Supporting Pupils and Families

We value and appreciate the positive role and contribution that parents/carers make. We make every effort to work in full co-operation with parents/carers, recognising and respecting their roles and responsibilities. Parents/carers are encouraged to work with the school and other professionals to ensure that their child's needs are identified properly and met as early as possible.

In order that they play an active part in their child's development, the school endeavours to provide parents/carers with the relevant information so that they can reinforce learning in the home.

At Welwyn St. Mary's Primary School we endeavour to support parents/carers so that they can:

- Feel fully supported and taken seriously should they raise a concern about their child,
- Recognise and fulfil their responsibilities and play an active and valued role in their child's education,
- Understand procedures and documentation,
- Make their views known about how their child is educated,
- Have access to information, advice and support during assessment and any related decision-making process about special educational provision.

Parents/carers of a pupil with SEN support will have the opportunity to meet with the SENCo at their request or the request of the class teacher. The SENCo is happy to meet with parents/carers wherever possible.

Parents/carers are encouraged to seek help and advice from Hertfordshire Parent Partnership whose details are: parent.partnership@herts.gov.uk

Pupil Voice

We hold the views of pupils highly and recognise the importance of gaining genuine pupil views in promoting the best pupil outcomes. Pupils are able to share their views in a number of different ways which are appropriate to age and ability.

These views are welcome at any time but are specifically sought as part of an annual review, during reviews of provision maps and at the end of a targeted intervention. We also ask pupils to contribute to the setting of their own personal targets, where applicable.

Partnership with External Agencies

The school is supported by a wide range of agencies such as the Delivering Specialist Provision Locally (DSPL) service, Occupational Therapy Service, Physiotherapy Service, Speech and Language Service, Specialist Advisory Teacher Service, Family Support Workers, Counselling Service and other Outreach services.

Transition

A change of school, staff and class can be an exciting yet anxious time for all pupils. We recognise that this can be very challenging for some pupils with SEND. We endeavour to make sure these periods of change are carefully managed in a sensitive way to provide continuity of first quality provision and reassurance to pupils and families.

Allocation of resources

- Resources are allocated to support pupils with identified needs.
- Each year we map our provision to show how we allocate human resources to each class; this is reviewed regularly and can change during the academic year, responding to the changing needs within our school.
- This may take the form of adapted tasks in class, support from a teaching assistant (TA) in focused intervention groups or for individuals.
- Specialist equipment, books or other resources that may help the pupil are purchased as required.
- Continuing Professional Development (CPD) for Special Educational Needs
- The SENCo and teaching staff attend regular meetings in school and within the locality to update their knowledge, where appropriate.
- External trainers are brought in periodically to address more specialist training needs such as training staff in the use of specific interventions and to develop further understanding of needs.
- Peer support and guidance is available daily for all staff in school and some of the best training development occurs through professional dialogue with colleagues looking at meeting the specific needs of a pupil.

Funding

Funding for SEN in mainstream schools is mainly delegated to the school's budget. It is the expectation that schools provide support to their pupils with SEN from their SEN budget and Pupil Premium budget, where applicable.

Pupils with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) may be allocated additional funding to support the delivery of the provision specified in their plan. In Hertfordshire, this funding is determined through a banding system that reflects the level and complexity of need. Each band corresponds to a notional funding amount, which is used to guide the resources and support required to meet the child's outcomes.

This funding is provided by the Local Authority and is deployed by the school to ensure that the child's needs are met effectively and inclusively. It may be used to secure specialist staffing, targeted interventions, equipment, or other tailored support. The school is committed to using this funding transparently and in alignment with the EHCP, ensuring that provision is specific, measurable, and impactful.

Personal Budgets

Personal budgets are only available to pupils with EHCPs and those who receive payments from Social Services for respite. Parents are encouraged to be involved with the allocation of this funding.

Roles and Responsibilities

Provision for pupils with SEN is a matter for the school as a whole. In addition to the Governing Body, Headteacher and SENCo, all members of staff have important responsibilities.

Governing Body

The Governing Body endeavours to follow the guidelines as laid down in the SEND Code of Practice (2014) to:

- Use their best endeavours to make sure that a child with SEN gets the support they need – this means doing everything they can to meet pupils and young people's special educational needs,
- Ensure that pupils with SEND engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEND,
- Designate a teacher to be responsible for co-ordinating SEND provision,
- Inform parents/carers when they are making special educational provision for a child,
- Prepare a SEND information report and their arrangements for the admission of disabled pupils, outlining the steps being taken to prevent disabled pupils from being treated less favourably than others, detailing the facilities provided to enable access to the school for disabled pupils and their accessibility plan showing how they plan to improve access progressively over time, where needed.

Headteacher

The Headteacher has responsibility for the day-to-day management of all aspects of the school's work, including provision for pupils with special educational needs. The Headteacher will keep the Governing Body fully informed on special educational needs issues. The Headteacher will work closely with the SENCo and the SEN Governor.

SENCo

In collaboration with the Headteacher and Governing Body, the SENCo determines the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision with the ultimate aim of raising the achievement of pupils with SEND.

The SENCo takes day-to-day responsibility for the operation of the SEND policy and co-ordinates the provision for individual pupils, working closely with staff, parents/carers, and external agencies. The SENCo provides relevant professional guidance to colleagues with the aim of securing high quality teaching for pupils with SEND.

Through analysis and assessment of pupils' needs and by monitoring the quality of teaching and standards of pupils' achievements and setting targets, the SENCo develops effective ways of overcoming barriers to learning and sustaining effective teaching.

The SENCo liaises and collaborates with class teachers so that learning for all pupils is given equal priority.

The principle responsibilities for the SENCo include:

- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the SEND policy and Mental Health and Wellbeing Policy,
- Co-ordinating provision for Pupils with SEND and reporting on progress,
- Advising on the graduated approach to providing SEND support – Assess, Plan, Do, Review,
- Advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively,
- Monitoring relevant SEND CPD for all staff,
- Overseeing the records of all pupils with SEND and ensuring that they are up-to-date,
- Liaising with parents/carers of pupils with SEND, where appropriate,
- Being a point of contact with external agencies,
- Overseeing transition of SEND to the next setting or class,
- Monitoring the impact of interventions provided for pupils with SEND alongside class teachers,
- To lead on the development of high quality SEND provision as an integral part of the school improvement plan,
- Working with the Headteacher and Governing Body to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- All Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff are aware of changes in legislation and policy,
- All staff are aware of the school's SEND policy and the procedures for identifying, assessing and making provision for pupils with SEND,
- Class teachers are fully involved in providing high quality teaching, adapted for individual pupils. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving their understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils,
- Class teachers are responsible for setting suitable learning challenges and facilitating effective SEND provision in response to pupils' diverse needs in order to remove potential barriers to learning. The process should include working with the SENCo to carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs, drawing on the teacher's assessments and experience of the child as well as previous progress and attainment,
- TAs will liaise with the class teacher and SENCo on planning, on pupil response and on progress in order to contribute effectively to the graduated response.

Meeting Medical Needs

The Children and Families Act 2014 places a duty on schools to make arrangements to support pupils with medical conditions. Individual healthcare plans will normally specify the type and level of support required to meet the medical needs of such pupils.

Where pupils also have SEND, their provision should be planned and delivered in a co-ordinated way. For those pupils with an EHCP this will be used as it brings together health and social care needs as well as their SEND provision.

The school recognises that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some pupils with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010. Please see the school Medical Policy for further details.

Monitoring and Accountability

Accessibility

The school is compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and Accessibility legislation. It is predominantly accessible for wheelchair users as much of the school is on a ground floor level and has disabled toilet facilities. Welwyn St. Mary's Primary School works hard to develop their accessibility and the schools' accessibility plan detailing how this is being developed can be accessed from the school website.

Storing and Managing Information

Pupil SEND records will be kept in accordance with the DfE guidance contained in 'Statutory Policies for Schools' (February 2014).

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/284301/statutory_schools_policies.pdf

Responding to Complaints

Parental complaints about the provision or organisation of SEND are dealt with through the procedures outlined in the school's Complaint Procedure.

Further information can be found on the website regarding the School's Local Offer and SEN information for parents.