

## Special Educational Needs Policy

2023/2024

### SEN Policy for Pear Tree Community Junior School

#### Legislative Compliance

This policy complies with the guidance given in **Statutory Instrument: Special Educational Needs (Information) Regulations (Clause 65)**. It has been written as guidance for staff, parents or carers and children with reference to the following guidance and documents.

SEN Code of Practice (which takes account of the SEN provisions of the SEN and Disability Act 2001) January 2015

Ofsted Section 5 Inspection Framework April 2014

Ofsted SEN Review 2010 "A Statement is not enough"

Equality Act 2010

Children and Families Act 2014

#### Policy Links

This Policy links to other school policies:

*For example:*

*Disability and Access Policy*

*Behaviour Policy*

*Safeguarding Policy*

*Complaints*

*Admissions Policy*

Derby City SEND Local Offer –

[Derby's SEND Local Offer - Derby City Council](#)

## Inclusion Statement

At Pear Tree Community Junior School:

- We endeavour to achieve maximum inclusion of all children (including vulnerable learners) whilst meeting their individual needs.
- Teachers provide differentiated learning opportunities for all the children within the school and provide materials appropriate to children's interests and abilities. This ensures that all children have a full access to the school curriculum.
- Special Educational Need might be an explanation for delayed or slower progress but is not an excuse and we make every effort to narrow the gap in attainment between vulnerable groups of learners and others.
- English as an Additional Language (EAL) alone is not considered a Special Education Need. Differentiated work and individual learning opportunities are provided for children who are learning EAL as part of our provision for vulnerable learners.
- We focus on individual progress as the main indicator of success.

We strive to make a clear distinction between "underachievement" – often caused by a poor early experience of learning - and special educational needs.

- Some pupils in our school may be underachieving but will not necessarily have a special educational need. It is our responsibility to identify this as early as possible and ensure that appropriate interventions are implemented to help these pupils catch up.
- Other pupils will genuinely have special educational needs and this **may** lead to lower-attainment (though not necessarily to under-achievement). It is our responsibility to ensure that pupils with special educational needs have the maximum opportunity to attain and make progress in line with their peers. Accurate assessment of need and carefully planned programmes, which address the root causes of any learning difficulty, are essential ingredients of success for these pupils. These will be provided, initially, through additional support funded from the devolved schools budget.

## Aims and Objectives of this Policy

The aims of our inclusion policy and practice in this school are:

- To provide curriculum access for all
- To secure high levels of achievement for all.
- To meet individual needs through a wide range of provision.
- To attain high levels of satisfaction and participation from pupils, parents and carers.
- To carefully map provision for all vulnerable learners to ensure that staffing deployment, resource allocation and choice of intervention is leading to good learning outcomes.
- To ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need through well-targeted continuing professional development.
- To work in cooperative and productive partnership with the Local Authority and other outside agencies to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners.

- To “promote children’s self-esteem and emotional well-being and help them to form and maintain worthwhile relationships based on respect for themselves and others”. (National Curriculum, 2014).

The Head Teacher and the governing body have delegated the responsibility for the ongoing implementation of this SEND Policy to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO).

The SENCO is responsible for reporting regularly to the Head Teacher and the governor with responsibility for SEND on the ongoing effectiveness of this inclusion policy.

**All staff in school have a responsibility for maximising achievement and opportunity of vulnerable learners** – specifically, all teachers are teachers of pupils with special educational needs and EAL. Staff are aware of their responsibilities towards all vulnerable learners and a positive and sensitive attitude is shown towards all pupils at all times.

**The name and contact details of the SEND co-ordinator.**

*Mrs Gurpreet Dosanjh*

<i>Contact via the School Office: 01332 760610</i>
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### **Definition of SEN**

A child or young person has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A child of compulsory school age, or a young person, has a learning difficulty or disability if he or she:

- a) has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- b) has a disability which prevents or hinders him or her from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions.

### **Special Educational Needs Provision in our school:**

As an inclusive school, we do not seek to closely define the special educational needs for which we will make provision. Historically, we have had success in providing for a wide range of different needs when budget, resources and availability of expertise has allowed. This has included pupils with:

- Social, Emotional and Mental Health Issues
- Communication and Interaction needs
- Moderate Learning Difficulties
- Health and medical needs

In admitting pupils with special educational needs, we would expect to have informative discussions with both the pupil’s family and the local authority to ascertain the suitability of our provision. We understand that it is initially our responsibility to make provision for a pupil with special educational needs through the

school's devolved SEN budget. Thereafter, we are aware of the process of applying for High Needs Funding if the pupil's and the school's needs make that a necessity.

As a mainstream school, it would clearly be difficult for us to make provision for pupils whose needs and/or demands are significant, severe or profound – to the extent that it could be argued that they would be most appropriately placed in a special school. However, we do not rule this out and would make a careful assessment of the needs of each pupil in constructive conversation with other agencies.

## **Provision for SEN**

### **Universal Provision:**

Well-differentiated quality first teaching, including, where appropriate, the use of small group interventions. All vulnerable learners to be included on a whole-school provision map.

- All learners will have access to quality first teaching.
- Some vulnerable learners will have access to carefully differentiated activities or approaches directly related to the school curriculum, which are part of our good practice in making teaching and learning accessible to pupils learning at different rates. These will probably be pupils who are underachieving and have been identified by the school as needing to make accelerated progress but will not necessarily be pupils with special educational needs. This is considered a differentiation of the usual school curriculum – not a special intervention for pupils with SEN.
- All vulnerable learners will be included on a whole-school context map, which outlines and monitors all the primary area of need and any other relevant vulnerability factors.
- Year/Class/Individual provision plans include interventions accessed across the school. The provision plans enable the school to:
  - Plan strategically to meet pupils' identified needs and track their provision.
  - Audit how well provision matches need.
  - Recognise gaps in provision.
  - Highlight repetitive or ineffective use of resources.
  - Demonstrate to all staff how support is deployed.
  - Inform parents, LA, external agencies and Ofsted about resource deployment.
  - Focus attention on whole-school issues of learning and teaching as well as individual needs, providing an important tool for self-evaluation.

## **Identification and assessment of pupils with SEN**

Children's needs should be identified and met as early as possible through:

- Classroom-based assessment and monitoring arrangements (Cycle of Assess, plan, do and review.)
- Following up parental concerns.
- Tracking individual children's progress over time.
- Information from previous schools.

- Information from other services.
- Maintaining a provision map for all vulnerable learners which clearly identifies pupils receiving additional SEN Support from the school's devolved budget or in receipt Element 3 funding. This provision map is updated termly through meetings between the teachers and SENCO.
- Undertaking, when necessary, a more in-depth individual assessment - this may include a range of commercially available assessments, carefully chosen to deliver appropriate, useful information on a pupil's needs. It may include a bilingual assessment where English is not the first language.
- Involving an external agency where it is suspected that a special educational need is significant.

### **Curriculum Access and Provision for vulnerable learners**

Where children are underachieving and/or identified as having special educational needs, the school provides for these additional needs in a variety of ways and might use a combination of these approaches to address targets identified for individual pupils:

- Teachers differentiate work as part of quality first teaching
- Class support
- Pre/ post teaching
- Targeted interventions based on the need
- Strategies/ interventions from external agencies targeting an area of need

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

The monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of our provision for vulnerable learners is carried out in the following ways:

- classroom observation by the SENCO, and senior leaders.
- ongoing assessment of progress made by intervention groups
- scrutiny of planning and books
- informal feedback from all staff
- pupil interviews when setting new targets or reviewing existing targets
- pupil progress tracking using assessment data (whole-school processes)
- monitoring targets, evaluating pupils' progress
- attendance records
- regular meetings about pupils' progress between the SENCO and the head teacher

### **Additional SEN Provision:**

- Pupils will be offered additional SEN support when it is clear that their needs require intervention which is "additional to" or "different from" the well-differentiated curriculum offer for all pupils in the school i.e. they have a special educational need as defined by the SEN Code of Practice 2015.
- Under-achieving pupils and pupils with EAL who do not have SEN will **not** be placed on the list of pupils being offered additional SEN support (but will be on the school's 'monitoring list').

- Where a pupil has a significant, severe and sustained need that remains undiagnosed, it may be necessary to submit an application to the Single Point of Access (SPoA). Once a diagnosis has been received, an application for further targeted support through an Education Health and Care Plan may be necessary.

### **Education Health and Care Plan:**

- Pupils with an Education Health and Care Plan will have access to all arrangements for pupils on the SEN list (above) and, in addition to this, will have an Annual Review of their plan.
- Our review procedures fully comply with those recommended in Section 6.15 of the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice and with local LCC policy and guidance - particularly with regard to the timescales set out within the process.
- Once an Education Health and Care Plan has been received, the school setting may wish to apply for Element 3 funding, which is additional to the notional budget.

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Class teacher**

- liaising with the SENCO to agree:
  - which pupils in the class are vulnerable learners
  - which pupils are underachieving and need to have their additional interventions monitored on the Class Provision Plan – but do not have special educational needs
  - which pupils require additional support because of a special educational need and need to go on the school's SEN list. Some of these pupils may require advice/support from an outside professional and, therefore, an Individual Provision Plan to address a special educational need
  - to completing and reviewing an EHC Provision Plan for those children with an EHCP.
- securing good provision and good outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners by:
  - providing differentiated teaching and learning opportunities.
  - ensuring there is adequate opportunity for pupils with special educational needs to working on agreed targets which are genuinely “additional to” or “different from” those normally provided as part of the differentiated curriculum offer and strategies”. (SEN Code of Practice 2015)
  - ensuring effective deployment of resources – including teaching assistant support - to maximise outcomes for all groups of vulnerable learners.

#### **Special Educational Needs Coordinator**

In line with the recommendations in the SEN Code of Practice 2015, the SENCO will oversee the day- to-day operation of this policy in the following ways:

- Overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy; Coordinating provision for children with SEN.

- Liaising with the relevant designated teacher where a child who is looked after has SEN.
- Advising on a graduated approach to providing SEN Support.
- Advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively.
- Liaising with parents of children with SEN.
- Liaising with external agencies such as: educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies.
- Being a key point of contact with external agencies.
- Liaising with potential next providers of education to ensure a young person and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned.
- Working with the head teacher and school governors that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements.
- Ensuring that the school keeps the records of all children with SEN up to date.

## **Head Teacher**

- The Head Teacher is responsible for monitoring and evaluating the progress of all pupils and for making strategic decisions which will maximise their opportunity to learn.
- The Head Teacher and the governing body will delegate the day to day implementation of this policy to the Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO).
- The Head Teacher will be informed of the progress of all vulnerable learners and any issues with regard to the school's provision in this regard through:
  - analysis of the whole-school pupil progress tracking system
  - maintenance and analysis of a whole-school provision map for vulnerable learners
  - regular meetings with the SENCO
  - discussions and consultations with pupils and parents as appropriate.

## **Assessing and Reviewing pupils' progress**

Depending upon the stage of support as outlined above, the progress of our pupils will be assessed and reviewed through:

- The school's generic processes for tracking the progress of all pupils.
- Termly evaluation of the effectiveness of interventions on the Learners Intervention Plan.
- Termly review of the Individual, Class and Year group Provision Plans.
- Annual review of Statements/Education Health and Care Plans are prescribed in the SEND Code of Practice (September 2015).

As an inclusive school, we do everything we can to ensure that pupils of all abilities and needs are fully included in the life of the school. For example:

- Sensory experiences – such as proprioception– to develop sensory awareness and concentration.
- Adult support for children who *require* a key person.
- Where appropriate and legitimate, we endeavour to provide different ways for all learners to access the same learning experience, rather than withdrawing pupils and providing an entirely different activity.
- Our deployment of additional staffing and resources funded from our devolved additional needs budget through the Local Offer ensure that all curriculum experiences are available to all pupils in

the school (e.g. educational visits and extra-curricular activities), particularly where a voluntary financial contribution from parents is required for the activity to run. This complies with the Equality Act 2010.

- All lesson planning seeks to address the learning needs of all pupils in the class. Teachers receive regular training and support to ensure they are skilled in differentiating the curriculum for vulnerable learners.
- Pupils are encouraged to analyse how they themselves learn and there is an ongoing dialogue about this in our classroom. Pupils are given the opportunity and support to develop self-help strategies to ensure their full access to the curriculum.

The school has a robust approach to supporting children who require social and emotional provision. *For example:*

- Learning mentors/ coaches to support target pupils with unstructured time.
- Nurture groups (run by our learning mentors).
- Providing a 'safe place' for targeted children to use in order to self – regulate.

### **Effectiveness of Provision**

- In accordance with Section 6 of the SEN Code of Practice 2015, if appointed after September 2008, our Special Educational Needs Coordinator will be a qualified teacher working at our school and will have statutory accreditation. If a new SENCO is appointed, he/she will gain statutory accreditation within three years of appointment.
- The SENCO will regularly attend local network meetings.
- All staff will be trained in how to best support all vulnerable learners in order to maximise their achievement as part of the school development plan and annual schedule of continuous professional development. Specific training needs will be identified and met through the appraisal/performance management process.
- Specialist advice and expertise in relation to assessment and support of individual pupils will be commissioned by the school from the open market, accessing, as far as possible, services available as part of the Local Offer.
- All staffing appointments to support vulnerable learners will be carried out in accordance with equal opportunities legislation, employment law, safer recruiting policy and best practice. All vacancies will be competitively advertised to ensure our school employs staff of the highest calibre.

### **Partnership with Parents/Carers**

The school aims to work in partnership with parents and carers. We do so by:

- working effectively with all other agencies supporting children and their parents
- giving parents and carers opportunities to play an active and valued role in their child's education

- making parents and carers feel welcome
- encouraging parents and carers to inform school of any difficulties they perceive their child may be having or other needs the child may have which need addressing
- instilling confidence that the school will listen and act appropriately
- focusing on the child's strengths as well as areas of additional need
- allowing parents and carers opportunities to discuss ways in which they and the school can help their child
- agreeing targets for all pupils, in particular, those not making expected progress and, for some pupils identified as having special educational needs, involving parents in the drawing-up and monitoring progress against these targets
- keeping parents and carers informed and giving support during assessment and any related decision making process
- making parents and carers aware of the Derby City SEND Information and Advice Support Service available as part of the Local Offer.

### Involvement of Pupils

We recognise that all pupils have the right to be involved in making decisions and exercising choice. In most lessons, all pupils are involved in monitoring and reviewing their progress through the use of layered targets. We endeavour to fully involve all pupils by encouraging them to:

- state their views about their education and learning
- identify their own needs and learn about learning
- share in individual target setting across the curriculum **so that they know what their targets are and why they have them**
- self-review their progress and set new targets
- (for some pupils with special educational needs) monitor their success at achieving the targets on their Individual Provision Plan.

### Partnership with Outside Agencies

- Our school will identify sources of support as they develop and evolve as the Local Offer is defined through Education, Health and Social Care.
- We seek to respond quickly to emerging need and work closely with other agencies including:
  - Behaviour Support Team
  - Educational Psychology Service
  - Specialist Teaching and Psychology Services (STEPS)
  - Derby City SEND Information Advice Service
  - Speech and Language Therapy
  - Visual Impairment Team
  - Hearing Impairment Team
  - Local NHS services
- In accordance with the SEND Code of practice (2015), we invite all relevant agencies to annual review meetings, transition meetings and specific provision planning meetings involving pupils with special

educational needs in our school. For pupils with Education, Health and Care Plans, we comply fully with requests from independent facilitators to provide information and cooperate fully with other agencies.

- Often, at the request of families, we liaise with voluntary bodies in order to be as familiar as possible with best practice when the special educational needs of a pupil are very specific (e.g. autism, visual impairment etc).
- We have a clear point of contact within the school who will coordinate the support from outside agencies for each pupil. Most often, this will be the SENCo but in some cases, it can be another member of staff who we have identified as a key worker.

### **Arrangements for Transition**

- We will ensure smooth transition into our school from the previous phase of education and from our school into the next phase of education.
- We will ensure early and timely planning for transfer to a pupil's next phase of education and, in the year before the year in which they leave, will offer transition meetings to all pupils in receipt of Additional SEN support and all those with statements of Special Educational Needs. Pupils with Education Health and Care Plans will have next phase destinations and transition arrangements discussed at plan review meetings convened by the plan coordinator.
- A transition timeline will be produced with specific responsibilities identified.
- Support for the pupil in coming to terms with moving on will be carefully planned and will include familiarisation visits and counselling. Pupils will be included in all "class transition days" to the next phase but may also be offered additional transition visits.
- Pupils and parents will be encouraged to consider all options for the next phase of education and the school will involve outside agencies, as appropriate, to ensure information is comprehensive but easily accessible and understandable. Accompanied visits to other providers may be arranged as appropriate.
- Parents will be given a reliable named contact at the next phase provider with whom the SENCo will Liaise.

### **The name and contact details of the SEN Governor.**

***Natalie Aldridge***

**Contact via: 0115 9152967**

## **Admission Arrangements**

No child will be refused admission to school on the basis of his or her special educational need, ethnicity or language need. In line with the Equalities Act 2010, we will not discriminate against disabled children and we will take all reasonable steps to provide effective educational provision (*see Admission policy for the school, as agreed with the Local Authority*).

## **Complaints**

If there are any complaints relating to the provision for children with SEN, these will be dealt with in the first instance by the class teacher and SENCO, then, if unresolved, by the Head Teacher. The governor with specific responsibility for SEN/inclusion may be involved if necessary. In the case of an unresolved complaint the issue should be taken through the general Governors complaints procedure (see separate Complaints Policy).