

# Seascape Primary School



# Whole School Policy for SEND

February 2022

## Our Ethos/ Vision

At Seascope Primary School, we are committed to giving all our children every opportunity to achieve their best. In line with our whole school ethos to 'Be More...' we, as a school, are committed to be more inclusive. The achievement, attitude and well-being of every child matters and inclusion is the responsibility of everyone within our school. Every teacher is a teacher of every pupil, including those with special educational needs and disabilities. We respect the unique contribution that every individual can make to our school community.

## Definition of SEN and Disability (SEND)

At our school, we use the definition for SEN and for disability from the SEND Code of Practice (2015):

**SEN:** A child or young person has special educational needs if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability, which calls for special educational provision to be made for him or her. A learning difficulty or disability is a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age. Special educational provision means educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for others of the same age in a mainstream setting in England.

**Disability:** Many children and young people who have SEN may have a disability under the Equality Act 2010 – that is '...a physical or mental impairment which has a long-term and substantial adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.'

## Key Roles and Responsibilities

**SENCO:** The SENCO has day-to-day responsibility for the operation of SEND policy and coordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEND, including those who have EHC plans (or Statements until 2018) The SENCO is a member of the leadership team and is also the designated teacher for Looked After Children (LAC). The SENCO is Leanne Lindsay with assistance from Emma Rowntree.

**SEN Governor:** The SEN governor is Kelly Walton. She has responsibility for monitoring policy implementation and liaising between the SENCO and the Governing Body.

**Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL):** Emma Rowntree and Tara Duncombe are joint DSL and would be the first point of contact for safeguarding concerns.

## Aims and Objectives

### **Aims:**

At Seascope Primary School all pupils, regardless of their particular needs, are provided with inclusive teaching which will enable them to make the best possible progress and feel that they are a valued member of the wider school community. We expect that all pupils with SEND will meet or exceed the high expectations we set for them against national data and based on their age and starting points. We will use our best endeavours to give pupils with SEND the support they need, whilst having access to a broad and balanced curriculum. Working in partnership with families, it is our aim that pupils will become confident individuals able to make a successful transition on to the next phase of their education.

### **Objectives:**

To ensure a clear process for identifying, assessing, planning, providing and reviewing for SEND pupils with the pupils and their parents/carers at the centre. To develop effective whole school provision management of support for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. To deliver training and support for all staff working with pupils with SEND in order to develop our practice within the guidance set out in the Code of Practice (2015).

### Identification of Needs

The identification of SEN is embedded in the whole school process of monitoring the progress and development of all pupils. We recognise the benefits of early identification and making effective provision in improving the long-term outcomes for children with SEN. The purpose of identification is to work out what action the school needs to take, not to fit the pupil into a category. It is also important to identify the full range of needs, not simply the primary need of an individual pupil.

The Code of Practice refers to four broad areas of need:

**Communication and Interaction** - these children have a 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. For example, children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders (ASD), including Asperger syndrome, are likely to have particular difficulties with social interaction. They may also experience difficulties with language, communication and imagination, which can affect how they relate to others.

**Cognition and learning** - children with learning difficulties learn at a slower pace than their peers, even with appropriate differentiation. Learning difficulties cover a wide range of needs from moderate learning difficulties (MLD) to children with profound and multiple learning difficulties (PMLD). Specific learning difficulties (SpLD), affect one or more specific aspects of learning, such as dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia.

**Social, emotional and mental health difficulties** - children 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, eating disorders or physical symptoms that are medically unexplained. Other children may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) or attachment disorder.

**Sensory and/or physical needs** - some children require special educational provision because they have a disability, which prevents or hinders them from making use of the educational facilities generally provided. Many children with vision impairment (VI), hearing impairment (HI) or a multi-sensory impairment (MSI) will require specialist support and /or equipment to access their learning.

### A Graduated Approach to SEN Support

Seascope Primary School decides whether to make special educational provision based on a process of on-going teacher assessments and termly pupil progress meetings with the leadership team to identify those pupils making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances. The school's first response is high quality targeted teaching by the class teacher. Where progress continues to be less than expected, the class teacher will discuss their concerns with the SENCO. In deciding whether to make special educational provision, the teacher and SENCO will consider all of the information gathered from within the school about the pupil's progress, alongside the views of parents/carers and pupil. During this stage, extra teaching or interventions may be put

in place as a pupil's response to such support can help to identify their particular needs. Particular care is taken when identifying and assessing SEN for children whose first language is not English. Where pupils have higher levels of need, and with parental permission, the school may seek advice from external agencies.

These agencies include:

- Educational Psychology Service (EPS)
- Speech and Language Therapy Service (SALT)
- Autism Team (ASC)
- Learning and cognition team (LDDIS)
- Educational Welfare Team
- School services through the TAF process
- School Nurse/Paediatric health team
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS)

If the support needed can be provided by adapting the school's core offer then a child might not be considered SEN or placed on the SEN register. If, however, the support required is different from or additional to what is ordinarily offered by the school, the child will be placed on the SEN register at SEN Support. The school will then seek to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This begins a cycle of assess, plan, do, review with the child/young person at the centre of the process. A "SEND Support Plan" will be started. This is a working document, which will be updated as more is understood about the child's SEN. Where a child and family would benefit from co-ordinated support from more than one agency a Team Around the Family (TAF) may be used to identify help required and to prevent needs escalating.

The four part cycle:

**Assess:** We will ensure that we regularly assess all pupils' needs so that each child's progress and development is carefully tracked compared to their peers and national expectations. We will listen to the views and experience of parents/carers and the pupil. In some cases we will draw on assessments and guidance from other education professionals e.g. Educational Psychologists (EP) and from health and social services.

**Plan:** Where SEN Support is required the teacher and SENCO and class teacher will put together a plan outlining the adjustments, interventions and support which will be put in place for the pupil as well as the expected impact on progress and outcomes, including a date when this will be reviewed. Targets for the pupil will be shared with her/him using child friendly language and with parents/carers. All staff who work with the pupil will be made aware of the plan.

**Do:** The class teacher is responsible for working with the pupil on a daily basis. She/he will also liaise closely with TAs or specialists who provide support set out in the plan and monitor the progress being made. The SENCO will provide support, guidance and advice for the teacher.

**Review:** The plan, including the impact of the support and interventions, will be reviewed each term by the teacher, SENCO, parent/carer and the pupil. This will inform the planning of next steps for a further period or where successful the removal of the pupil from SEN Support. This four part cycle, through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and what supports the pupil in making good progress, is known

as the graduated approach. It draws on more detailed approaches and more specialist expertise in successive cycles (For further information see Durham families information service website [www.countydurhamfamilies.info](http://www.countydurhamfamilies.info))

### SEN Provision

SEN support can take many forms. This could include:

- evidence based interventions
- extra help from a teacher or a learning support assistant
- making or changing materials, resources or equipment
- working with a child in a small group
- maintaining specialist equipment
- observing a child in class or at break and keeping records
- helping a child to take part in the class activities
- making sure that a child has understood things by encouraging them to ask questions and to try something they find difficult
- helping other children to work with a child, or play with them at break time
- supporting a child with physical or personal care difficulties, such as eating, getting around school safely, toileting or dressing

At Seascope Primary School, a SEND intervention model is in place. Within this model, SLT and the SENCO timetable tailored and evidence-based interventions for support staff to deliver to SEND pupils within their designated class. Within these interventions, bespoke targets are created by link professionals e.g. SALT or through emerging school trends relating to SEND. All targets within the intervention model feed into the child's support plan and Teaching Assistants' performance management is directly linked to this process. All interventions are rigorously reviewed by the TA through detailed impact statements; through baseline and exit data and by the class teacher during the review of each child's support plan.

### Managing the needs of Pupils on the SEN Register

Each pupil with SEND is an individual and their plan is tailored to meet their particular needs. Plans are reviewed termly with parents and pupils. Decisions regarding the level of support provided are needs led, working within the constraints of the school budget.

#### **The class teacher is responsible for:**

- the progress and development of all pupils including those with SEND
- ensuring the plan is implemented in the classroom
- regular liaison with parents and the SENCO
- effective deployment of additional adults including the delivery of evidence based interventions
- Identifying within class planning the provision they are making for pupils with SEND
- Supporting the SENCO in the writing and reviewing of targets for pupils with SEND

#### **Special Needs Assistants/ Learning Support Assistants are responsible for:**

- ensuring that day to day provision is in place for the pupils they support

- implementing agreed strategies and programmes, and advice from specialists including evidence based interventions
- record keeping
- resources
- maintaining specialist equipment
- regular communication with class teacher and SENCO

**The SENCO is responsible for:**

- the SEND policy and its implementation
- co-ordinating support for children with SEND
- updating the SEN register and maintaining individual pupil records
- monitoring the quality of provision and impact of interventions
- attending network meetings and updating staff
- referrals to and liaison with outside agencies
- line managing TAs with responsibility for SEND
- liaising with and advising staff
- maintaining regular liaison with parents/carers
- co-ordinating annual reviews
- supporting staff in identifying pupils with SEN.
- mapping provision throughout the school
- maintaining links and information sharing with receiving schools

Criteria for removing pupils from the SEN Register

When a child has made sufficient and sustained progress towards achieving their personal targets and it is felt that they are able to maintain this with quality first teaching, they may be removed from the SEN register. The school will continue to monitor pupils recently removed from the register to ensure good progress is maintained.

Requesting an Educational, Health and Care (EHC) needs assessment

A small number of pupils, whose needs are complex and long term, may require a greater level of support than that provided at SEN Support from the school's own resources. For these pupils a request will be made to the local authority to conduct an assessment of education, health and care needs. This may result in an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) plan being provided. This brings together the child's health and social care needs as well as their special educational needs. The Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) replaces what were formerly called statements of special educational needs. Children who currently have a statement will continue to maintain this until the transition is made to an EHC plan.

Supporting parents/carers and children

We provide support in the following ways:

- the head teacher and SENCO operate an open door policy for parents/carers seeking support and advice.
- our school pastoral support manager Tara Duncombe
- our SEN Governor is available as a contact point
- individual arrangements can be made for phased entry into Reception class

- additional time and special arrangements for SATs
- support for transition between classes
- transition work for vulnerable Y6 pupils transferring to secondary school
- inviting the SENCO of the receiving secondary school to the final Annual Review in Year 6

#### Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions

The school recognises that pupils with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Where it is the case that a medical condition meets the criteria of disability the school will comply with its duties under the Equality Act 2010. Reasonable adjustments will always be made to promote access to all areas of the school curriculum for pupils with a disability, e.g. an extra adult to accompany a child on a school trips/residentials. Specific staff have training to support particular needs, e.g. technical knowledge to maintain auxiliary aids and equipment. The Head Teacher is responsible for the administration of medicines and health care plans/protocols.

#### Monitoring and evaluation of SEN

The head teacher and the SLT regularly monitor and evaluate the quality of provision for all pupils. The school aims to use interventions in school that have proven outcomes and are evidence based. The impact of SEN provision on the progress and outcomes for children on the SEN register is measured through:

- analysis of pupil tracking data and test results at pupil progress meetings
- progress against national data and based on their age and starting points.
- interventions baseline and exit data
- progress against individual targets
- pupils' work and interviews

The SENCO maps provision for SEN pupils and produces a termly provision map for all pupils and individual costed provision maps for pupils who require Top Up Funding or an EHCP. Decisions are made as to whether specific interventions are proving to be effective in terms of impact, time spent on them and the finance used in providing them. Each year we review the needs of the children and if necessary make changes to our provision.

The SEN Governor is responsible for:

- monitoring the effective implementation of the SEND policy
- liaising termly with the SENCO
- reporting to the governing body on SEND
- ensuring that pupils with SEND participate fully in school activities

#### Training and development

Training needs are identified in response to the needs of pupils currently on the SEN register. School staff have specific training and expertise in speech and language, literacy and numeracy interventions and supporting children with hearing impairment, Down syndrome and dyslexia. The SENCO attends network meetings within Durham Local Authority and through the Peterlee Partnership and keeps up to date with SEND developments.

### Storing and Managing Information

Pupil records and SEN information may be shared with staff working closely with SEN pupils to enable them to better meet the individual child's needs. We are grateful to parents for their information sharing and openness and respect their confidentiality. Pupil SEN files are kept in a locked filing cabinet. Individual SEN files are transferred to receiving schools when pupils leave Seascope Primary School.

### Safeguarding Children with SEND

The keeping children safe in education document recognises that children with SEND can face additional safeguarding challenges. These challenges are reflected within the school's child protection policy, training provided to staff and the pastoral support which children access on a daily basis. Some of the challenges faced by children with additional needs are:

- Indicators of abuse such as behaviour, mood or injury may relate to the child's disability so may not be explored further.
- Being more prone to peer group isolation
- The potential for children with SEN and disabilities being disproportionately impacted by behaviours such as bullying, without outwardly showing any signs.
- Difficulties with communicating

At Seascope Primary School we overcome these difficulties by:

- Having a good knowledge of the children and being able to pick up on small or large changes to behaviour or mood.
- Stringently recording any concerns which are then closely monitored by the safe guarding lead and, where appropriate, the pastoral team and SENCO.
- Close monitoring of children in the classroom and at playtimes to ensure incidents of bullying are dealt with swiftly and fairly.
- A robust RSHE curriculum
- Using a range of strategies to allow children to communicate through speech, writing, drawing and play

### Reviewing the SEND Policy

The SEND policy is reviewed annually by the governing body.

Date written: February 2022

Date of next review: February 2023

### Complaints

We urge parents/carers with any concerns regarding the SEN policy or the provision made for their child at Seascope Primary School to speak to us as soon as possible. In the first instance, please speak to the class teacher or the SENCO. If parents/carers feel their child's needs are still not being met they should make an appointment to see the head teacher. If concerns are still unresolved parents may wish to use the Durham Information, Advice and Support Service for Special



Educational Needs and Disability (SENDIASS) (formerly Parent Partnership) or engage with the School complaints procedures.

#### How the policy was put together

This policy was created in consultation with stakeholders, including the SEN Governor, staff, representative parents and pupils with SEND. The policy reflects the statutory guidance set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability code of practice 0-25 years (2015).

#### Compliance

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0–25 (2015) and has been written with reference to the following related guidance and documents:

Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013 School SEN Information Report (2018) The National Curriculum in England Key Stage 1/2 framework document Sep 2013 Safeguarding Policy Accessibility Plan Teachers Standards 2012

#### Key Documentation

The following documents have informed this guidance which parents may find helpful:

- Special educational needs and disability code of practice: 0-25 years  
[SEND Code of Practice January 2015.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- Special educational needs and disability: a guide for parents and carers  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/send-guide-for-parents-and-carers>
- Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions  
[Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)
- Keeping children safe in education 2021  
[Keeping children safe in education 2021 \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

#### Related School Policies/Documents

Safeguarding Policy, Accessibility Plan, Admissions Policy, Anti-Bullying Policy, Good Behaviour Policy, Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy, Complaints Procedure, Inclusion Policy, Equality Policy, School Curriculum policy