

Halstead Community Primary School

SEN&D Policy and Information Report



Reviewed and approved by the Strategy team
Signed :

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1. Introduction

This policy is written in line with the requirements of:-

- Children and Families Act 2014
- SEN Code of Practice 2014
 - SI 2014 1530 Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014
 - Part 3 Duties on Schools – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators
 - Schedule 1 regulation 51– Information to be included in the SEN information report
 - Schedule 2 regulation 53 – Information to be published by a local authority in its local offer
- Equality Act 2010
- Schools Admissions Code, DfE 1 Feb 2012
- SI 2012 1124 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2012
- SI 2013 758 The School Information (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013

This policy should be read in conjunction with the other school policies (available on the website), particularly the Behaviour, Safeguarding, Single Equality Scheme and Complaints policies.

This policy was developed with representatives from the governing body, staff and parents of children with special educational needs and will be reviewed annually.

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 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. *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p 4)*

Definition of disability

Many children and young people who have SEN may also 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'. This definition provides a relatively low threshold and includes more children than many realise: 'long-term' is defined as 'a year or more' and 'substantial' is defined as 'more than minor or trivial' *SEN Code of Practice (2014, p5)*

2. The kinds of special educational need for which provision is made at the school

At Halstead Community Primary School we can make provision for every kind of frequently occurring special educational need without an Education, Health and Care Plan, for instance dyslexia, dyspraxia, speech and language needs, autism, asperger's syndrome, learning difficulties and behaviour difficulties. There are

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other kinds of special educational need which do not occur as frequently and with which the school is less familiar, but we can access training and advice so that these kinds of needs can be met wherever reasonably possible.

The school currently meets the needs of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan with the following kinds of special educational need: Autism with Speech, Language and Communication Needs. Decisions on the admission of pupils with an Education, Health and Care plan are made by the Local Authority.

The admission arrangements for pupils without an Education, Health and Care Plan do not discriminate against or disadvantage disabled children or those with special educational needs.

3. Information about the policy for identification and assessment of pupils with SEN

At Halstead Community Primary School we monitor the progress of all pupils six times a year to review their academic progress. We also use a range of assessments with all the pupils at various points. In their first year at school children are routinely assessed for acquisition of language, early literacy and maths skills. The school uses Speech Link and Language Link computerised assessments to screen for any possible language difficulties as well as spelling and reading assessments. Every child will undergo the year 1 phonics screening assessment. Observations are used to form secure judgements about children's progress in all areas including academic, social, emotional and physical development.

Where progress is not sufficient, even if special educational need has not been identified, we put in place extra support to enable the pupil to catch up. Examples of extra support are:

Reading and writing

- Better Reading Partnerships (any age)
- "Fresh Start" reading and comprehension (from year 2)
- Additional fine motor and handwriting skills
- Phonics booster (from Reception)
- Accelerated Accelerwrite on the iPad

Maths

- Maths Matters group (year 1 and 2)
- Closing the Gap with Numicon (Key Stage 2)
- Dyscalculia Solutions (Key Stage 2)
- Plus One/ Power of Two Individual support (Key Stage 2)

Physical

- BEAM (Balance Education and Movement) and BEAM Plus
- Sensory Circuits

Speech & Language and Social Communication

- "Talk Boost" Speech & Language group (Reception & Key Stage 1)

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- Speech Link
- Language Link
- Time to Talk “Ginger Bear” group (Key Stage 1 only)
- Black Sheep
- Language for Thinking
- Box Full of Feelings
- Sound Linkage
- Sound Around
- Recognising Emotions
- Comic Strip Conversations

Emotional

- Draw for Talk
- Lego Therapy
- CBT

Some pupils may continue to make inadequate progress, despite high-quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness. For these pupils, and in consultation with parents, we will use a range of assessment tools to determine the cause of the learning difficulty. At Halstead, we are experienced in using the following assessment tools:

Reading Assessments – YARC, PhAB2

Maths – Sandwell Early Numeracy Test

Speech, Language and Communication - Infant Speech and Language Link, Talk Boost, “Language for Learning” and Dyslexia Assessments.

Physical – BEAM assessments

In addition to this we have access to external advisors who are able to use a range of assessments in order to identify the needs of individual children more precisely. Referral is on an individual needs basis. Examples of such specialists are Educational Psychologists or Specialist Teachers. Additional specialists are available through the Health Services, such as Speech & Language Therapists or Occupational Therapists. Health service referrals can be done either directly via the child’s own doctor or via the school Inclusion Manager/ Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator where appropriate.

The purpose of more detailed assessments are to understand what additional resources and different approaches are required to enable the pupil to make better progress. These will be shared with parents, put into a SEN support plan and reviewed regularly, and refined / revised if necessary. At this point, we will have identified that the pupil has a special educational need because the school is making special educational provision for the pupil which is additional and different to what is normally available.

If the pupil is able to make good progress using this additional and different resource (but would not be able to maintain this good progress without it) we will continue to identify the pupil as having a special educational need. If the pupil is able to maintain good progress without the additional and different

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resources he or she will not be identified with special educational needs. When any identification of SEN is changed, parents will be notified.

We will ensure that all teachers and support staff who work with the pupil are aware of the support to be provided and the teaching approaches to be used.

4. Information about the school's policies for making provision for pupils with special educational needs whether or not they have EHC Plans, including

4.1 How the school evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for such pupils

Each review of the SEN support plan will be informed by the views of the pupil, parents and class teachers. The assessment information from teachers, plus any additional assessments undertaken, will show whether adequate progress is being made.

The *SEN Code of Practice (2014, 6.17)* describes inadequate progress thus:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better the child's previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between rate of progress
- Widens the attainment gap

For pupils with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan there will be an annual review of the provision made for the child, which will enable an evaluation of the effectiveness of the special provision. The collation of all annual review evaluations of effectiveness will be reported to the governing body (see also section 7).

4.2 The school's arrangements for assessing and reviewing the progress of pupils with special educational needs

Every pupil in the school has their progress tracked six times per year. In addition to this, pupils with special educational needs may have more frequent assessments of reading age, spelling age etc. The assessments we use at Halstead Community Primary School have been detailed in section 2. Using these it will be possible to see if pupils are increasing their level of skills in key areas.

If these assessments do not show adequate progress is being made, the SEN support plan will be reviewed and adjusted.

4.3 The school's approach to teaching pupils with special educational needs

"High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEN. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of good quality teaching. Schools should regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement. This includes reviewing and, where necessary, improving, teachers' understanding of strategies to identify and support vulnerable pupils and their knowledge of the SEN most frequently encountered." *SEN Code of Practice (2015, 6.37)*

In Halstead Community Primary School the quality of teaching was judged to 'Good' in our last Ofsted inspection, March 2016.

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We follow the Mainstream Core Standards advice developed by Kent County Council to ensure that our teaching conforms to best practice.

<https://www.kelsi.org.uk/special-education-needs/special-educational-needs/the-mainstream-core-standards>

In meeting the Mainstream Core Standards, the school employs some additional teaching approaches, as indicated by internal and external assessments. These could be in the form of targeted support in class using precision teaching, small group teaching or the use of ICT software learning packages. In addition, one to one tutoring or interventions such as those detailed in section 2 may be used. These would be delivered by various staff employed through the funding provided to the school as 'notional SEN funding'.

4.4 How the school adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with special educational needs

At Halstead Community Primary School we follow the advice in the Mainstream Core Standards on how to adapt the curriculum and the learning environment for pupils with special educational needs. We also incorporate the advice provided as a result of assessments, both internal and external, and the strategies described in Education, Health and Care Plans.

As part of our requirement to keep the appropriateness of our curriculum and learning environment under review, staff training is held regularly to meet the identified needs of pupils. A record of staff training is maintained. The curriculum is also adapted to the needs of individual pupils when required. The Governors, in consultation with the Head teacher, plan and regularly review a programme of improvements to the school premises that are viable within budgetary constraints. Further aspects for improvement have been identified, such as improved disabled access to different areas of the school including the disabled toilet.

4.5 Additional support for learning that is available to pupils with special educational needs

As part of our budget we receive 'notional SEN funding'. This funding is used to ensure that the quality of teaching is good or better in the school and that there are sufficient resources to deploy additional and different teaching for pupils requiring SEN support. The amount of support required for each pupil to make good progress will be different in each case and the interventions we offer that pupil are detailed on class provision maps. In very few cases a very high level of resource is required. The funding arrangements require schools to provide up to £6000 per year of resource for pupils with high needs, and above that amount the Local Authority should provide top up to the school. The top up is accessed through an online "High Needs Funding" application made by the school, but the amount provided is at the discretion of the Local Authority.

4.6 How the school enables pupils with special educational needs to engage in activities of the school (including physical activities) together with children who do not have special educational needs

All clubs, trips and activities offered to pupils at Halstead Community Primary School are available to pupils with special educational needs either with or without an Education, Health and Care Plan. Where it is necessary, the school will use the resources available to it to provide additional adult support to enable the safe participation of the pupil in the activity.

4.7 Support that is available for improving the emotional and social development of pupils with special educational needs

At Halstead Community Primary School, we actively support pupils to develop emotional resilience and social skills, both through direct teaching, for instance during PSHE and circle time, and indirectly with every interaction adults have with pupils throughout the day.

For some pupils, with the most need for help in this area, we also can provide the following:

- consistent positive behaviour strategies detailed in our behaviour policy
- a time-out space for children to use when upset or agitated
- personalised behaviour strategies according to need
- Draw for Talk
- CBT
- Lego therapy
- training in the development of social skills through programmes such as “Talk Boost”
- referral to external support agencies such as the Bromley mentoring and befriending service, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAHMs) or other services accessed via the Common Assessment Framework (CAF)/ Kent Family Support Framework.

Pupils in the early stages of emotional and social development because of their special educational needs will be supported to enable them to develop and mature appropriately. This will usually require additional and different resources, beyond that required by pupils who do not need this support.

5. The name and contact details of the SEN Co-ordinator

The SENCO/ Inclusion Manager at Halstead Community Primary School is Mrs Saheed, who is a qualified teacher and has been accredited by the National Award for SEN Co-ordination and also holds a PGCE. Mrs Saheed works 5 days a week and is contactable via the school office or can be emailed at senco@halstead.kent.sch.uk

The Headteacher, Mr Hawkins, can also be contacted if Mrs Saheed is not available.

6. Information about the expertise and training of staff in relation to children and young people with special educational needs and how specialist expertise will be secured

Details of additional training staff have undertaken to meet the needs of pupils are available from the Inclusion Manager and Head teacher, as detailed in section 3d.

Where a training need is identified beyond this we will find a provider who is able to deliver it. Training providers we can approach are:

- Specialist Schools and schools with specialist units in Kent <http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/school-information-for-special-educational-needs-sen/Schools-for-children-with-special-educational-needs>
- The Educational Psychology Service (Edukent)
- Kent Integrated Care & Therapy Co-ordination Services for Children (ITACC) which include Speech and Language, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy.
- School Nursing Service

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- Dyslexia specialists

The cost of training is covered by the notional SEN funding.

7. Information about how equipment and facilities to support children and young people with special educational needs will be secured

Where external advisors recommend the use of equipment or facilities which the school does not have, we will purchase it using the notional SEN funding, or seek it by loan. For highly specialist communication equipment the school will seek the advice of the KCC Communication and Assistive Technology team.

8. The arrangements for consulting parents of children with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

All parents of pupils at Halstead Community Primary School are invited to discuss the progress of their children twice a year and receive a written report once per year. In addition we are happy to arrange meetings outside these times. As part of our normal teaching arrangements, all pupils will access some additional teaching to help them catch-up if the progress monitoring indicates that this is necessary; this will not imply that the pupil has a special educational need. All such provision will be recorded, tracked and evaluated on a Provision Map. Any additional provision will be discussed with parents at the start of a seasonal term.

Following this normal provision, if improvements in progress are not seen, we will contact parents to discuss the needs of their child further. The use of internal or external assessments may be required, which will help us to identify and address the child's needs better. In agreement with parents, from this point onwards the pupil will be identified as having special educational needs, because special educational provision is being made. The school records this as "SEN with Support" on the school's register of Special Educational Needs. The parent(s) will be invited to all planning and reviews of this provision. Parents will be actively supported in contributing to assessment, planning and review at least three times per year.

Some children, with the very highest levels of need, may require an Education Health and Care Plan (formerly known as a Statement of Special Educational Needs). Any application for an Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) will only be made with the full consent and involvement of parents. The issuing of a plan is entirely at the discretion of the Local Education Authority and the school cannot guarantee the success of an application.

If the child is granted an EHCP, parents will be invited to contribute to and attend an annual review. Wherever possible this will include other agencies involved with the pupil. Information will be made accessible for parents.

9. The arrangements for consulting young people with special educational needs about, and involving them in, their education

When a pupil has been identified as having special educational need, because special educational provision is being made for him or her, the pupil will be consulted about and involved in the arrangements made for them as part of person-centred planning. Parents are likely to play a more significant role in the childhood years with the young person taking more responsibility and acting with greater independence in later years.

10. The arrangements made by the governing body relating to the treatment of complaints from parents of pupils with special educational needs concerning the provision made at the school

The normal arrangements for the treatment of complaints at Halstead Community Primary School are used for complaints about provision made for special educational needs. We encourage parents to discuss their concerns with class teacher, Deputy Head/ Inclusion Manager or Headteacher to resolve the issue before making the complaint formal to the Chair of the governing body.

If the complaint is not resolved after it has been considered by the governing body, then a disagreement resolution service or mediation service can be contacted. If it remains unresolved after this, the complainant can appeal to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability), if the case refers to disability discrimination, or to the Secretary of State for all other cases.

There are some circumstances, usually for children who have an Education Health and Care Plan where there is a statutory right for parents to appeal against a decision of the Local Authority. Complaints which fall within this category cannot be investigated by the school.

11. How the governing body involves other bodies, including health and social services bodies, local authority support services and voluntary organisations, in meeting the needs of pupils with special educational needs and in supporting the families of such pupils

The governing body have engaged with the following bodies:-

- Free membership of LIFT for access to specialist teaching and learning service
- A Service Level Agreement with Educational Psychology service
- Link to Disabled Children's Service for support to families for some pupils with high needs
- Access to local authority's service level agreement with Speech and Language Therapy Services / Occupational Therapy Services / Physiotherapy Services for pupil with requirement for direct therapy or advice
- Ability to make ad hoc requests for advice from Communication and Assistive Technology Team, etc
- Membership of professional networks for SENCO eg. SENCO forum

12. The contact details of support services for the parents of pupils with special educational needs

Information, Advice and Support Kent (IASK) provides free, impartial, confidential, advice, support and options around educational issues for parents who have children with special educational needs or disabilities (0-19). They empower parents to play an active and informed role in their child's education. They can be contacted on

HELPLINE: 3000 41 3000. Monday to Friday, 9am - 5pm.

Office: 03000 412 412

E-mail: iask@kent.gov.uk

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs/who-to-contact/Information-Advice-and-Support-Kent#>

13. The school's arrangements for supporting pupils with special educational needs in transferring between phases of education or in preparing for adulthood and independent living

At Halstead Community Primary School we work closely with the educational settings used by the pupils before they transfer to us in order to seek the information that will make the transfer as seamless as possible.

The Reception Class teacher contacts and normally visits the pre-school settings of children starting at Halstead. Where special educational needs have been identified or there are concerns about a child, the Reception Class teacher will inform the Inclusion Manager. Transition meetings will be arranged between school, parents and pre-school settings (their Senco) to discuss any special preparations necessary for meeting the needs of the child on starting Halstead Community Primary School.

Whilst attending Halstead Community Primary School, whenever children transfer between classes at the school, special transition meetings will be organised to enable smooth transition from one class to another. Likewise, in preparation for transition to secondary school a similar process will occur. The Halstead Inclusion Manager will contact the Senco at the chosen Secondary School to make any necessary individual arrangements to allow the child to make a happy move to their next school.

We also contribute information to a pupils' onward destination by providing information to the next setting. All records from Halstead Community Primary School will be securely transferred to the next school to enable that school to have all necessary information available.

14. Information on where the local authority's local offer is published.

The local authority's local offer is published online (see link below) and parents without internet access should make an appointment with the SENCO for support to gain the information they require.

<http://www.kent.gov.uk/education-and-children/special-educational-needs>