



AVANTI MEADOWS
PRIMARY SCHOOL

Special Educational Needs Policy

**(To be read in conjunction with Avanti Schools
Trust the Special Educational Needs Policy)**

Agreed & Ratified: April 2021	Review date: April 2022
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Introduction

Special Educational Needs

Avanti Meadows Primary School's guiding principle is one of Inclusion and we aim to provide Quality First Teaching for all our pupils. This includes appropriate differentiation for individual pupils, high quality resources and effective use of additional adult support. We aim to identify and break down possible barriers to learning so that all our pupils experience success. This does not mean treating all pupils equally; it means treating all pupils as individuals and ensuring they have the required provision to achieve the best possible progress.

This SEN policy details how we ensure that the needs of all our pupils with special educational needs are met.

When carrying out our duties towards our pupils with SEN, we have regard to the Special Educational Needs Code of Practice 2014.

Principles

- We value all children in our school equally.
- All pupils are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum, which is differentiated to meet their individual needs and abilities.
- All children are entitled to experience success.
- All children are entitled to have their particular needs recognised and addressed.
- All children should be helped to reach their full potential – we have high expectations for everyone.
- Good special needs practice is good practice for all pupils. Additional intervention and support cannot compensate for Quality First Teaching.
- Pupils and their parents/carers know their child best and should be full partners in planning and reviewing support for their child.
- Pupils with SEN have a unique perspective on their own needs and should be central to all decision-making processes about their support.

Aims

- To ensure that we take the views of the child into account when planning and evaluating their SEN provision.
- To develop and maintain partnerships and high levels of engagement with parents.
- To raise the aspirations of and expectations for all pupils with SEN. To ensure that every child has his or her individual needs recognised and addressed through Quality First Teaching and effective additional support.

- To ensure that all pupils have equal access to a broad, balanced curriculum, which is differentiated to meet individual needs and abilities.
- To ensure that pupils with SEN engage in all the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEN.

Legislation and guidance

This policy is based on the statutory documents and guidance below: [Special Educational Needs and Disability \(SEND\) Code of Practice](#) and the following legislation:

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEN and disabilities
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN coordinators (SENDCOs) and the SEN information report
- This policy also complies with our funding agreement and articles of association.

This policy will contribute to achieving these aims by ensuring that provision for pupils with SEN is a matter for the whole school and is a part of the continuous cycle of assessment and review.

Definition of special educational needs (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:

- Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age, or
- Children are not regarded as having a learning difficulty solely because the language of their home is different from the language in which they will be taught. The needs of these pupils are explained in our Ethnic Minority Achievement/English as an Additional Language policy

Identification and assessment of pupils with special educational needs

The identification of SEN is built into our overall approach to monitoring the progress and development of all pupils. This allows us to identify pupils who are making less than expected progress at an early stage. Inadequate

progress might be that which:

- is significantly slower than that of their peers starting at the same baseline
- fails to close the attainment gap between the child and their peers widens the attainment gap

We are aware that a number of factors may impact on a child's progress and attainment, including having English as an additional language, attendance and punctuality and family circumstances. Therefore, we do not immediately assume that a child has special educational needs. The first response to inadequate progress is high quality teaching targeted at the child's areas of weakness.

Most pupils will have their needs met through Quality First Teaching. This may include appropriate differentiation of learning tasks, adaptations to the curriculum and learning environment, the provision of additional practical or visual resources, and time-limited interventions. We focus on early intervention to ensure 'gaps' are targeted, and intervention is put in place at the earliest opportunity.

Where progress continues to be less than expected, the teacher will work with the SENDCO to assess whether the child has SEN. The SENDCO will gather information from the pupil, parents and class teacher. Discussions will be held with the pupil and their parents/carers in order to develop a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty, the parents' concerns, the agreed outcomes sought for the child and the next steps.

An initial Cause for Concern form which includes evidence of strategies already tried will need to be completed and passed onto the SENDCO. A period of half term needs to be completed for any short-term intervention to be put in place. During this time the SENDCO will complete any observations or additional assessments. Special educational needs can be categorised under four broad areas:

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

We recognise that, in practice, individual children often have needs that cut across more than one of these areas and that their needs may change over time. Our purpose is not to 'label' a child, but to work out what action the school needs to take. We consider the needs of the whole child and ensure that support is focused on individual need and personal outcomes rather than classification/label.

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils in their class, including those who have or may have SEN and who access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff.

SEN Support

When a pupil is identified as having SEN, we act to remove barriers to learning and

put effective special educational needs provision in place – SEN Support. Quality First Teaching remains our first response in relation to the identification of SEN, but we also ensure that the child receives high quality additional support and interventions carefully matched to their needs.

We adopt the graduated approach and four-part cycle of 'assess-plan-do-review' as recommended in the SEN Code of Practice. In successive cycles the SEN Support received by the child is refined or revised depending on how effective it has been in achieving the agreed outcomes. Where a pupil continues to make less than expected progress despite the school's best efforts, and with the agreement of the child's parents/carers, we will involve appropriate specialists and outreach services.

An Individual Learning Plan (ILP) is drawn up for all those pupils who require short term targets. These are reviewed termly by all relevant parties i.e., CT, TA, parent and pupil. On occasion a professional may also be invited to contribute to a review.

Some pupils will make accelerated progress and cease to require SEN Support after a period of targeted intervention and these pupils will then be removed from the school's register of SEN pupils. However, we continue to monitor the progress of such pupils closely to ensure their progress is maintained.

Education, Health and Care Plans

A small number of children with the most complex needs may need the support of an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHC Plan) to enable them to achieve the best possible outcomes. If we believe that a child's needs require provision and resourcing over and above that which we make available to our SEN pupils from delegated funding.

We will request that the Local Authority conduct an assessment of the child's education, health and care needs. We will involve the child and their parents/carers at every stage of the assessment process.

Prior to September 2014, the children with the most complex needs were issued with a Statement of Special Educational Needs rather than an EHC Plan. These children will continue to have a Statement until the Local Authority completes its transition from Statements to EHC Plans.

How Avanti Meadows Primary School adapts the curriculum and learning environment for pupils with SEN

It is the responsibility of teachers to make the appropriate adaptations to the curriculum and learning environment to enable pupils with SEN access learning opportunities and experience success alongside their peers. Our teachers have a clear understanding of the needs of the SEN pupils in their class and know a range of strategies that can be utilised to support pupils. They are able to draw on the

expertise of the SENDCO, outreach teachers and professionals from other external agencies for advice as needed. E.g. Speech and Language Therapists, Specialist teachers, Herts 0-5 SEND team, Herts Physical and Neurological Impairment team, Herts communication and Autism team and Herts visual impairment team and Specific learning difficulties team.

Additional support for learning available to pupils with SEN

The SENDCO ensures that the school provides a range of intervention programmes to address the needs of groups of pupils and individual pupils within the school.

Some interventions are delivered by trained Teaching Assistants (TAs) under the direction of the teacher and/or the SENDCO. Other interventions are delivered by teachers.

Some pupils are supported in class for part of the school day by a TA, either individually or in a small group. These pupils continue to have the same opportunities as their peers for learning in a group with the class teacher and the teacher remains responsible for their progress. TAs understand the need to develop independence in the pupils with whom they work, and support is only assigned when it is needed.

Support for pupils with social, emotional and mental health difficulties

Some pupils' special educational needs relate to social, emotional or mental health difficulties. Whilst some pupils display their difficulties through challenging or disruptive behaviour, other pupils may become withdrawn or isolated. These difficulties may reflect underlying mental health difficulties such as anxiety or depression. Some pupils may have disorders such as attention deficit disorder (ADD), attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD) or attachment disorder. We address the needs of these pupils by individual or group interventions, liaising with relevant outreach services and health professionals as appropriate.

Specialist provision, equipment and facilities

The school building is on two levels, with lift access to the first floor available. There are disabled toilets and shower/changing facilities.

If a child needs specialist equipment due to physical or medical needs, the SENDCO will liaise with the relevant professionals to secure the equipment needed and any training for staff required in its use. E.g. physiotherapy and occupational therapy.

How Avanti Meadows evaluates the effectiveness of its provision for pupils with SEN

Intervention programmes are time-limited and the progress of children taking part is tracked. If there is no evidence that an intervention is effective, we will either adapt the intervention to more closely meet the child's needs or we will plan a different type of support.

The success of the education offered to children with SEN will be judged against the aims of this SEN policy. The SEN policy will be reviewed annually, and the Link SSC member will report on the implementation of the policy.

How Avanti Meadows assesses and reviews the progress of pupils with SEN

We have robust tracking systems for monitoring the progress of all our pupils, including those with SEN. Pupil progress conferences are held termly, attended by the class teacher, SENDCO and assessment coordinator, at which action is planned to address any lack of progress identified.

The progress of SEN pupils in relation to the objectives in their Statement of Special Educational Needs or the outcomes in their Education, Health and Care Plan are reviewed annually. A child's objectives or outcomes are broken down into smaller steps and recorded on the child's Individual Education Plan. These shorter-term targets are reviewed at least termly. We involve the child and family fully in the planning and review process.

Admissions

Pupils with SEN are admitted to the school on the same basis as any other child. The school uses the LA admissions criteria. Pupils who are statemented or have an EHC Plan- The law provides a separate process for the admission of children with a Statement of Special Educational Need or an Education Health Care Plan. The school and the SSC/Trust will work in full co-operation with the appropriate agencies to ensure such applications are processed in accordance with the Code of Practice for Children with Special Educational Needs.

Roles and responsibilities

Provision for pupils with special educational needs is a matter for the school as a whole. However, some key individuals and groups have areas of responsibility:

SSC and the Trust (School Stakeholder Committee)

- to be fully aware of their statutory duties and responsibilities regarding the co-ordination and provision of SEN/LDD
- to receive regular reviews and reports of the effectiveness of the School's work with students who have special educational needs, so that the necessary

- provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs
- to consult the local authority and the Trust/ SSC of other schools when it seems to be necessary or desirable in the interests of coordinated special educational provision in the area as a whole
- to ensure that parents are notified of a decision by the school that SEN provision is being made for their child
- to ensure that pupils' needs are made known to all who are likely to teach them
- to ensure that teachers in the school are aware of the importance of identifying, and providing for, those pupils who have special educational needs
- to ensure that a pupil with special educational needs joins in the activities of the school together with pupils who do not have special educational needs, so far as is reasonably practical and compatible with the child receiving the special educational provision their learning needs call for and the efficient education of the pupils with whom they are educated and the efficient use of resources
- to review the SEN policy annually and to report annually on the allocation of available resources and the success of the policy in meeting the needs of SEN pupils
- to appoint a member of the SSC to have special responsibility for SEN within the school who will meet on regularly with the SENDCO and conduct visits to the school on a planned programme.

The Head of School

- to keep the SSC/Trust fully informed of any updates or changes to work with the school SENDCO to manage all aspects of the school's work, including provision for pupils with SEN
- to seek out and share best practice within the LA and other schools

The Special Needs Co-coordinator is Mrs Cimone Brown. She is in school full time. Her key responsibilities include:

- to work in collaboration with the Head of School, school governors and staff to develop a clear strategic direction for SEN
- to oversee the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy
- to coordinate and develop high quality provision to meet the needs of pupils with SEN
- to work in partnership with parents/carers of pupils with SEN to develop and review effective support for their child
- to work with teachers to monitor the effectiveness of interventions and the progress made by pupils with SEN
- to liaise with the relevant Designated Teacher where a looked after pupil has SEN
- to advise on deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- to liaise with professionals from outside agencies, such as educational psychologists, outreach services, health and social care professionals, and

- independent and voluntary bodies, ensuring that appropriate
- to liaise with professionals from outside referrals are made and strategies are implemented
- to liaise with other schools to ensure that pupils make smooth transitions between school placements
- to work with the Head of School and school governors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regards to reasonable adjustment and access arrangements
- to promote the inclusion of pupils with SEN in the school community, ensuring they have access to the school's curriculum, facilities and extra-curricular activities
- to ensure that the records of pupils with SEN are maintained and kept up to date
- to support and advise teachers about differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils with special educational needs
- to coordinate the effective deployment learning support assistants, providing support and training as needed
- to contribute to the in-service professional development of staff in relation to SEN

Teachers

- to provide Quality First Teaching for all the pupils in their classes to provide for the individual needs of all their pupils, adapting their teaching and the learning environment as appropriate
- to be accountable for the progress of all their pupils, including those who receive additional support from learning support assistants and specialist teachers
- to work with the SENDCO to monitor the effectiveness of interventions and the progress made by pupils with SEN to differentiate work by devising strategies and identifying appropriate methods of access to the curriculum for all students
- to work with students and provide help on a daily basis
- to plan, deliver and monitor personalised programmes for students with SEN/LDD who are on the School's register of SEN/LDD or who have a CSP
- to maintain, in line with school policy, thorough records of intervention and records of poor student progress that occurs because of learning, behaviour, emotional or physical special educational need
- to read and implement classroom support plans for students with SEN/LDD
- to plan and integrate additional support in lessons from teachers and teaching assistants

Teaching Support Assistants

- to support pupils with their learning under the direction of the class teacher and/or the SENDCO, implementing strategies recommended by the teacher or professionals
- to develop the independence of the pupils with whom they work
- to provide feedback to the teacher and/or the SENDCO on the progress of the pupils with whom they work to inform planning and review
- TAs are line managed by the SENDCO
- the SENDCO is involved in reviewing provision together with the Year Group Leaders /Subject Leaders.
- to undertake duties as defined by their job description and the SENDCO in a flexible manner, according to the changing needs of the school and individual students.

Arrangements for training and staff development

The school makes an annual audit of training needs for all staff taking into account school priorities as well as personal professional development. The school is allocated funding from the Standards Fund (Section 251 Budget) each year that it may use to meet identified needs. Particular support is given to Newly Qualified Teachers and other new members of staff.

Cimone Brown is the Special Educational Need Lead in the school. She is allocated 14 hours a week to manage SEN provision.

The school will have a team of 4 teaching assistants, including 1 Higher Level Teaching Assistants (HLTAs) who will be trained to deliver SEN provision in the first year of opening.

The SENDCO works in partnership with the Inclusion team at our sister school Avanti Court Primary school and Herts County Council.

Arrangements for partnership with parents

We recognise the importance of working in partnership with parents. Parents hold key information and have knowledge and experience to contribute to the shared view of a child's needs and the best ways of supporting them. All parents of pupils with special educational needs will be treated as partners and supported to play an active and valued role in their child's education.

We will always tell parents when their child is receiving help for their special educational needs and will involve them fully in planning and reviewing any SEN provision. A child's class teacher will work closely with parents at all stages in his/her education and if parents have concerns, their first port of call should be the class teacher.

Parents of any pupil identified with SEN may contact the Herts SEND team directly for support and advice.

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/microsites/Local-Offer/Services-for-parents-carers-and-families/Services-for-parents-carers-and-families.aspx>

Pupil Participation

Pupils and young people with special educational needs often have a unique knowledge of their own needs and circumstances and their own views about what sort of help they would like to help them make the most of their education. They will be encouraged to participate in the decision-making processes, including the setting and evaluation of targets. We are committed to developing more person-centred ways of working to make it easier for our SEN pupils to express their views.

Storing and managing information

See Avanti Meadows School's Data Protection Policy.

Links with other mainstream schools and special schools

Advanced planning for pupils in Year 5/6 is essential to allow a smooth transition to secondary school. The SENDCO will liaise with the SENDCO of the Secondary School to ensure that effective arrangements are in place to support pupils at the time of transfer.

When pupils move to another school their records will be transferred to the next school within 15 days of the pupil ceasing to be registered, as required under the Education (Pupil Information) Regulations 2000.

External support services play an important part in helping the school identify, assess and make provision for pupils with special education needs. The school receives regular visits from the nominated Education Welfare Officer for the area. The SENDCO works closely with the Educational Psychologist assigned to the school and meets with him/her at the beginning of each term to plan her work in the school for the term.

Other agencies and outreach services that the school works with include:

- Speech and language therapy service
- Occupational therapy service
- Physiotherapy service
- Early Years Advisory and Support Service
- CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service)
- Social Care services

Complaints procedures

The school's complaint procedures are set out in the school policy found on the school website. Under the Children and Families Act 2014 parents may seek advice

on resolving disagreements with the LA and/or the Independent Mediation Service. The school will make further information about this process available on request.

Further information on Model School's arrangements for supporting pupils with SEN can be found in the school's Local Offer.

Our School Local Offer forms part of the local authority's Local Offer, which is also available on this site and provides information for parents/carers on SEN services available within Hertfordshire.

Legislation and guidance relevant to this policy

- Children and Families Act 2014,
- Part 3 Educational Needs and Disability Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years
- 2014 Equality Act 2010
- Education Act 2011 Related school policies Equality Policy Accessibility Plan
- Health and Safety Policy Medicines in School Policy

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the Special Educational Needs Policy published by the Trust)