

**Simms Cross Primary School**  
**Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy**

**Introduction**

Simms Cross Primary school is an inclusive school. We take safeguarding very seriously and all of our policies are developed with a high priority on children's safety. All of our policies are interlinked and should be read and informed by all other policies. In particular the SEND policy is linked to behaviour, anti bullying, medical and curriculum policies.

This SEND policy is written to comply with the 2014 Children and Families Act and its SEN Code of Practice together with the Equality Act 2010.

**SEND at Simms Cross Primary School**

At Simms Cross Primary School there is a named SENCo, Mrs Amanda Cowell, who has an SEN MEd qualification. The named Governor responsible for SEND is Mrs Ann Forsyth. They ensure that the Simms Cross Special Educational Needs and Disability policy works within the guidelines and inclusion policies of the Code of Practice (2014).

Here it is the belief that all children have an equal right to a full and rounded education which enables them to achieve their full potential. We use our best endeavours to secure special educational provision for pupils for whom this is required, that is 'additional to and different from', that provided within the differentiated curriculum to better respond to the four areas of need identified in the new Code of Practice (2014).

- **Communication and interaction**
- **Cognition and learning**
- **Social, mental and emotional health**
- **Sensory and physical.**

Behaviour is no longer included as a SEND and has now been replaced by social, mental and emotional health. We have children in all of these categories of SEND.

**What are special educational needs?**

A child or young person has a special educational need 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 at 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.... Health care provision or social care provision

which educates or trains a child or young person is to be treated as special educational needs provision. *Code of Practice 2014*.

Simms Cross Primary School recognises that the needs of high achieving children should also be catered for and recognised. Please refer to the Gifted and Talented Policy.

The SEND policy details how at Simms Cross Primary, we do our best to ensure that the necessary provision is made for any pupil who has special educational needs and that those needs are known to all who are likely to work with them. We will ensure that teachers are able to identify and provide for those pupils with special educational needs, allowing them to join all school activities.

Inquiries about an individual child's progress should be addressed at first to the class teacher since he or she is the person who knows the child best. Other enquiries can be addressed to Mrs Amanda Cowell (SENCo).

#### Headlines from the 2014 Code of Practice

- Statements will no longer be offered from the education authority. Statements have been replaced by Education and Health Care plans (EHC plans) which can be used to support a child from birth to 25 years.
- School Action and School Action Plus have been replaced by one school based category of need known as '*Special Educational Needs Support (SENS)*'. All children are closely monitored, and their progress tracked each half term. Those at SENS are additionally tracked by the SENCo.
- We are working more closely with parents and children to ensure that we take into account the child's own views and aspirations and the parents' views and wishes for their child.
- All children benefit from 'Quality First teaching': this means that teachers expect to assess, plan, and teach all children at the level which allows them to make progress with their learning. In addition, we implement some focused interventions to target particular skills.
- We have high expectations of all of our children. Children identified as having a SEND make progress which compares well with the progress made by other children in school.

#### Our Objectives

- To identify at the earliest possible opportunity, barriers to learning and participation for pupils with SEND.
- To ensure that every child experiences success in their learning and achieves to the highest possible standard.
- To enable all pupils to participate in lessons fully and effectively.
- To value and encourage the contribution of all children to the life of the school.
- To work in partnership with parents.

- To work with the Governing Body to enable them to fulfil their statutory monitoring role with regard to the Policy Statement for SEND.
- To work closely with external support agencies, where appropriate, to support the need of individual pupils.
- To ensure that all staff have access to training and advice to support quality teaching and learning for all pupils.

Approximately 20% of our children are either at SENS (SEN Support) or SENs Top up (previously known as enhanced provision). This is above the national average and means that all teachers expect to have children with SEND in their classes.

Types of SEND which we currently have in school during 2014-2015, include those with a diagnosis as well as those with learning profiles consistent with the diagnosis:

- ***Communication and interaction.***  
Autistic spectrum, Aspergers, speech and language difficulties.

- ***Cognition and learning***  
Specific learning and moderate learning difficulties.

- ***Social, emotional and mental health***  
ADHD and emotional difficulties

- ***Physical and sensory***  
Visually and hearing impaired

- ***Medical needs***  
Continence and diabetes

### **Identifying Children at SENS (SEN Support)**

Children with SEN are identified by one of three assessment routes all of which are part of the overall approach to monitoring progress of all pupils:

- The progress of every child is monitored at half termly pupil progress meetings. Where children are identified as not making progress in spite of Quality First Teaching they are discussed with the Head and SENCo and a plan of action is agreed.
- Class teachers are continually aware of children's learning. If they observe that a child, as recommended by the 2014 Code of Practice, is making less than expected progress, given their age and individual circumstances, they will seek to identify a cause. This can be characterised by progress which:
  - 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 gap between the child and their peers.

Parents sometimes ask us to look more closely at their child's learning. We take all parental requests seriously and investigate them all. Frequently, a concern

can be addressed by Quality First Teaching, some catch up or booster interventions and parental support. Otherwise, the child is placed at SEN.

The child's class teacher and SENCo will decide on the action needed to help the child to progress in the light of the earlier assessments. This may include:

- Different learning materials or specialist equipment.
- Some group or individual support, which may involve small groups of children being withdrawn to work with the teacher or TA.
- Extra adult time to devise/administer the nature of the planned intervention and also to monitor its effectiveness.
- Staff development and training to introduce more effective strategies.

After discussions with the SENCo the class teacher will then be responsible for supporting the child on a daily basis. Parents will continue to be consulted and kept informed.

Although the school can identify special educational needs and make provision to meet those needs, we do not offer diagnoses. Parents are advised to agree to a referral to an outside agency with the support from the SENCo or to contact their GP.

### **Working with Parents**

We aim to have good and informative relationships with all of our parents. All parents of children with a SEND will be treated as partners and given support to play an active and valued role in their child's education.

If a child is experiencing difficulties, parents will be informed either at parental consultations (Autumn and Summer) or during informal meetings to discuss a child's progress. It shouldn't come as a surprise to a parent to learn that their child is being identified as having a SEN.

Once a child has been identified as having a SEN, the class teacher and or SENCo will invite the parents to a meeting to:

- Formally let them know that their child is being placed at SENS
- Discuss any assessments that may have been completed
- Agree a plan and provision for the next term, a SEN Support plan. This may include a plan to refer to outside agencies for further assessments and support.

This is part of the graduated approach cycle of Assess, Plan, Do, Review required by the Code of Practice (2014).

Depending on their age, and their interest, the child may be invited to attend all or part of the SEN support meetings.

Records are kept of these meetings and copies are available to parents.

Thereafter, parents- and children are invited to a meeting at least each term to review progress made, set targets and agree provision for the next term. In the summer there is an annual review of the child's progress.

Parents always have access to the SENCo. Please phone or call in to agree a mutually convenient time to meet.

### **Paperwork for children at SENS (SEN Support)**

Once a child has been identified as needing SENS the following paperwork is completed:

- Annually, a one page plan is used to record the child's strengths and interests, what they enjoy about school, what they find hard and what helps them to achieve. This is completed and shared with the parent and child and acts a guide for the class teacher. The information may be updated during the year.
- Termly, at a progress meeting or parental consultation a SEN support plan maybe reviewed and new targets set.
- Tracking records may be kept by the class teacher and or TA commenting on progress made towards targets.

### **Moving to an EHCP (Education, Health and Care Plan)**

If children fail to make progress, in spite of high quality, targeted support at SENS, we may apply for the child to be assessed for an EHC Plan. Generally, we apply for an EHC Plan if:

- The child is looked after and therefore additionally vulnerable.
- The child has a disability which is lifelong and which means that they will always need support to learn effectively.
- The child's achievements are so far below their peers that we think it likely that the child may at some point benefit from special school provision.

Children, who we think will manage in mainstream schools, albeit with support, are less often assessed for EHC Plans. Having a diagnosis (e.g. of ASD, Aspergers, ADHD or a specific learning difficulty) does not mean that a child needs an EHC Plan.

If the application for an EHC Plan is successful, a member of the Local Authority will call a meeting for the parents, the child, and the school together with any health or social care professionals who are involved with the family. The meeting will record the child's strengths, their dreams and aspirations as well as the barriers they face. Following the meeting the LA will produce the EHC Plan which will record the decisions made at the meeting.

### **Working with Outside Agencies**

These services may become involved if a child continues to make little or no progress despite considerable input and adaptations. They will use the child's records in order to establish which strategies have already been employed and which targets have previously been set.

The external agency may act in an advisory capacity, or provide additional specialist assessments or be involved in teaching the child directly. The child's individual targets will be set out as will strategies to be implemented these will be recorded in the child's SENs support plan (previously IEP).

**Outside agencies may become involved if the child:**

- Continues to make little or no progress in specific areas over a long time.
- Continues working at National Curriculum Levels substantially below that expected of a child at a similar age.
- Continues to have difficulty in developing literacy and mathematical skills.
- Has emotional or behavioural difficulties regularly and these substantially interfere with the child's own learning or that of the class group.
- Has sensory or physical needs and requires additional specialist equipment or regular advice or visits by a specialist service.
- Has ongoing communication or interaction difficulties that impede the development of social relationships and cause substantial barriers to learning.
- Despite having received intervention, the child continues to fall behind the level of his or her peers.

**Teaching and Learning**

We believe that all children learn best with the rest of their class. Our aim is for all children to be working independently, in class, achieving their potential. Children with SEN and disabilities are entitled to be taught by their teacher, not always by a TA. Teachers aim to spend time each day working with all children including those with SEN, individually or as part of a group.

When allocating additional TA support to children the focus is on outcomes, not hours; we aim to put in sufficient support to enable the child to reach their challenging targets, but without developing a learned dependence on an adult.

The school has a range of interventions available which are listed and costed on a provision map. When considering an intervention, we look first at the child's profile of learning in order that we can select the intervention which is best matched for the child.

Targets for children at SENS are deliberately challenging in the attempt to close the attainment gap between the children and their peers. Interventions

are often crucial in closing these gaps, so are monitored closely by both the class teacher and the SENCo.

- Interventions are planned in half termly blocks
- At the end of each half term the child's progress towards their targets are assessed
- A decision is then made as to whether to continue the intervention or to swop to a new intervention, or to allow a period of consolidation in class.

The SENCo monitors interventions to identify 'what works'.

### **Adaptations to the curriculum teaching and learning environment**

At Simms Cross we endeavour to be disability friendly. Due to the age and design of the building wheelchair access and access for those with other disabilities may require some adaptation that would be addressed on an individual needs basis.

Other adaptations to the physical environment will be made, as appropriate, to accommodate children with any other disabilities including sensory.

We aim for all of our classrooms to be inclusion friendly. We aim to teach in a way that will support children with tendencies towards ASD, ADHD or other specific learning needs. This is good practice to support all children but is vital to those who particularly need it. All of our children access the full National Curriculum, and we recognise achievements and expertise in all curricular areas. As part of normal class differentiation, curriculum content and ideas can be simplified and made more accessible by using visual, tactile and concrete resources.

### **Access to extra-curricular activities**

All of our pupils have equal access to lunchtime and after school clubs which develop engagement with the wider curriculum. Class trips are part of our curriculum and we aim for all children to benefit from them. No child is excluded from a trip because of SEN, disability or medical need.

### **Staff Expertise**

All of our teachers and teaching assistants are trained to work with children with SEN. Some are very experienced and others less so, but all have access to advice, information, resources and training to enable them to teach all children effectively. All teachers and TA's work with children with SEN and disabilities.

Mrs Amanda Cowell, SENCo, has a Med in Behaviour Management and an accreditation from Canterbury Church University in ASD. Several other staff have further qualifications relating to ASD including the Head Teacher. All teachers and TA's have had additional training in ASD. Several staff have post graduate qualifications relating to specific learning difficulties.

If we identify information we can't access without the aid of additional, more specialist help, the school is able to access additional expertise from the local authority. This includes access to Educational Psychologists and Advisory Teachers.

### **Children with social, emotional and mental health needs**

Behaviour is not classified as an SEN. If a child shows consistent unwanted behaviours, the class teacher will assess the child's needs, taking into account family circumstances and the child's known history of experiences (e.g. bereavement, parental separation) we may seek advice from outside agencies and a CAF may be completed with the family to support the child through the process.

If parents and school are concerned that the child may have mental health needs, we encourage parents to support a referral to CAMHS and to visit their GP.

If the child is felt to have long-term social, emotional and mental health needs- for example with anger management the school may offer social skills interventions. These are generally delivered by trained TA's who develop good, trusting relationships with the children.

All children's behaviour is responded to consistently in line with our behaviour policy, although reasonable adjustments are made to accommodate individual needs.

The school has a zero-tolerance approach to bullying, especially towards children with SEN and disabilities. We will actively investigate all allegations.

### **Transition Arrangements**

#### **Transition into and within school**

We understand how difficult it is for children and parents as they move into a new class or new school and we will do all that we can, according to the individual needs of the child to make transitions between classes as smooth as possible.

They may include-

- Additional meetings for the parent and the new teacher
- Additional visit to the new classroom environment, to identify where the toilets are, where the pegs are etc.
- Opportunities to take photographs of key people and places to make a social story for example
- Additional opportunities for the child to spend time with their new teacher

#### **Transition to secondary school**

Transition reviews for pupils in year 6, where possible are held during the summer term of year 5 or in the Autumn term of year 6. The secondary school SENCo is invited to the annual reviews and any other review meetings. Additional transition arrangements may be made at these reviews for example extra visits etc.

### **Governors**

It is the statutory duty of the governors to ensure that the school follows its responsibilities to meet the needs of children with SEND following the requirements of the Code of Practice 2014. The Governor with particular responsibility for SEND is Mrs Ann Forsyth. She meets with the SENCo to discuss actions taken by the school.

### **Complaints**

The school works, wherever possible, in partnership with parents to ensure a collaborative approach to meeting pupils' needs.

All complaints are taken seriously and are heard through the school's complaints policy and procedure.

### **Halton's Local Offer**

The purpose of the local offer is to enable parents and young people to see more clearly what services are available in their area and how to access them. It includes provision from birth to 25, across education, health and social care. Halton's Local Offer is available from the website- <http://localoffer.haltonchildrenstrust.co.uk/>

### **Equal Opportunities**

The school is committed to providing equal opportunities for all, regardless of race, faith, gender or capability in all aspects of school life. We promote self and mutual respect along with a caring and non judgemental attitude throughout the school.

### **Review Framework**

The policy will be reviewed annually (or sooner in the event of revised legislation or guidance).

