



Reeth Community Primary School and Gunnerside Methodist (VC) Primary School Federation

Policy for special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Reviewed by FGB January 2017

Sue Pellatt – Chair of FGB

Next review date January 2018

Abbreviations used

ASCOS	Autism Outreach Support Service
CoP	Code of Practice
EP	Educational Psychologist
EMS	Enhanced Mainstream School
ESWS	Educational Social Work Service
SEND	Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities
SENCo	Special Educational Needs Coordinator
TA	Teaching Assistant

There have been many changes to the SEN system over recent years and much of this has been encapsulated in the Children & Families Act (C&FA), 2014, which should be addressed alongside the Equality Act, 2010.

This policy is to be read in conjunction with the following:

- Code of Practice, DfE, 2015
- Teaching and Learning policy
- Local Offer document
- Whole School Provision Maps

A significant development has been the reform of the funding system, which is continuing, along with implementation of the new Code of Practice (CoP), 2015. In addition to *special educational needs*, this now also covers *disabilities*; these combined being referred to as SEND.

Code of Practice, DfE, 2015

A child of compulsory school age or a young person has a learning difficulty or disability if they:

- a) have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of others of the same age; or
- b) have a disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of educational facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools or mainstream post-16 institutions

A child under compulsory school age has special educational needs if they fall within the definition at (a) or (b) above or would so do if special educational provision was not made for them.

Equality Act, 2010

A disability under the Equality Act is defined as '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'. For schools and services this means;

- They must not discriminate and they must make reasonable adjustments for disabled children and young people.
- Public bodies are also under wider duties to promote equality of opportunity.
- The definition of disability in the Equality Act includes children with long term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and cancer.
- Children and young people with such conditions do not necessarily have SEN, but there is a significant overlap between disabled children and young people and those with SEN.

Duties towards children and young people may be covered by both SEN and disability legislation (SEND), however, not all children and young people with disabilities will necessarily have special educational needs.

School's aims and values statement

All children and young people are entitled to an education that enables them to make progress so that they achieve their best, become confident individuals living fulfilling lives, and make a successful transition into adulthood, whether into employment, further or higher education or training (6.1 final draft CoP)

Objectives of the policy

- To promote an atmosphere of encouragement, acceptance and respect for achievements in which all pupils can thrive.
- To develop sensitivity to individual needs and a climate of warmth in which self-confidence and self-esteem can grow.
- To develop skills identifying children with learning problems and construct suitable programmes of work.
- To adopt positive and consistent strategies to help children with behavioural difficulties and/or emotional problems.
- To effect a programme of support and referral that will enable children to receive the help they need, quickly and effectively.
- To inform parents of the needs and progress of their child and to work in partnership with them.
- To foster links with transfer schools to ensure a smooth transition for pupils with SEND.

Philosophy

The school community believes that:

- All pupils are equally valued and the school has high aspirations for all
- All pupils are the shared responsibility of all staff
- All pupils are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum which is personalised and focused on outcomes.
- Teaching and learning will be adapted to suit the needs of learners and recognise different routes to achievement
- Early and accurate identification is essential
- There will be a flexible continuum of provision for pupils with SEND
- SEND and high needs funding will be used efficiently to ensure good progress of pupils with additional needs
- Staff will be given appropriate training to allow them to meet a wide range of needs
- Parents will be fully involved as partners in their child's education

- Pupils will be encouraged to give their views on what learning is like for them
- Governors should have access to information which will allow them to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of the SEND policy

Principles

A child is defined as having Special Educational Needs (SEN) if they have a learning difficulty which calls for special educational provision to be made or if he or she finds it much harder to learn than children of the same age.

A learning difficulty means that the child either:

- a) has significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of children of the same age
- b) has a disability, which either prevents or hinders the child from making use of the educational facilities which are provided for children of the same age in a mainstream school

Special educational provision means educational provision, which is additional to, or different from, the provision made generally for children of the same age in a mainstream school.

(xiii, xiv CoP 2014)

Procedures and Responsibilities

The Headteacher has the overall responsibility for the provision and progress of learners with SEND. Responsibility for coordination of Inclusion and SEN provision is as follows:

The SEND Co-ordinator for the school is Mrs C Bastow.
The SEND Governor is Mrs S. Pellatt.

The schools have appointed a SEND Coordinator who is responsible for monitoring and coordination of special needs provision within the schools. She will provide support and advice to staff, liaise with external agencies and develop special needs provision.

Class teachers,

supported by the senior leadership team, should make regular assessments of progress for all pupils. These should seek to identify pupils making less than expected progress given their age and individual circumstances. 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 attainment gap between the child and their peers

- widens the attainment gap

It can include progress in areas other than attainment – for instance where a pupil needs to make additional progress with wider development or social needs in order to make a successful transition to adult life.

The first response to such progress should be high quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness. Where progress continues to be less than expected **the class teacher, working with the SENCO**, should assess whether the child has SEN. While informally gathering evidence (including the views of the pupil and their parents) schools should not delay in putting in place extra teaching or other rigorous interventions designed to secure better progress, where required. The pupil's response to such support can help identify their particular needs.

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of the pupils in their class, including where pupils access support from teaching assistants or specialist staff.

In deciding whether to make special educational provision, **the teacher and SENCO** should consider all of the information gathered from within the school about the pupil's progress, alongside national data and expectations of progress. This should include high quality and accurate formative assessment, using effective tools and early assessment materials. For higher levels of need, schools should have arrangements in place to draw on more specialised assessments from external agencies and professionals.

This information gathering should include an early discussion with the pupil and their parents. These early discussions with parents should be structured in such a way that they 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.

In identifying a child as needing SEN support the **class teacher, working with the SENCO**, should carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. This should draw on the teacher's assessment and experience of the pupil, their previous progress and attainment, as well as information from the school's core approach to pupil progress, attainment, and behaviour.

In some cases, outside professionals from health or social services may already be involved with the child. These professionals should liaise with the school to help inform the assessments. Where professionals are not already working with school staff the **SENCO** should contact them if the parents agree.

The class teacher should remain responsible for working with the child on a daily basis.

Where the interventions involve group or one-to-one teaching away from the main class teacher, they should **still retain responsibility for the pupil**. They should work closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff involved, to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions and how they can be linked to classroom teaching.

The SENCO should support the class or subject teacher in the further assessment of the child's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on the effective implementation of support.

The impact and quality of the support and interventions should be evaluated, along with the views of the pupil and their parents. This should feed back into the analysis of the pupil's needs. **The class teacher, working with the SENCO**, should revise the support in light of the pupil's progress and development, deciding on any changes to the support and outcomes in consultation with the parent and pupil.

Where a pupil is receiving SEN support, schools should talk to parents regularly to set clear outcomes and review progress towards them, discuss the activities and support that will help achieve them, and identify the responsibilities of the parent, the pupil and the school. Schools should meet parents at least three times each year.

These discussions should be led by a teacher with good knowledge and understanding of the pupil who is aware of their needs and attainment. This will usually be the class teacher, supported by the SENCO. It should provide an opportunity for the parent to share their concerns and, together with the teacher, agree their aspirations for the pupil.

Following a review of the effectiveness of interventions and additional support, if staff and parents feel that more support is required, an EHCP (Educational Health Care Plan) can be applied for- (old statement)

Governing bodies of maintained mainstream schools and the proprietors of mainstream academy schools (including free schools) must ensure that there is a qualified teacher designated as SENCO for the school.

The SENCO:

- must be a qualified teacher working at the school. A newly appointed SENCO must be a qualified teacher and, where they have not previously been the SENCO at that or any other relevant school for a total period of more than twelve months, they must achieve a National Award in Special Educational Needs Co-ordination within three years of appointment.
- has an important role to play with the headteacher and governing body, in determining the strategic development of SEN policy and provision in the school. They will be most effective in that role if they are part of the school leadership team.
- has day-to-day responsibility for the operation of SEN policy and co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans.
- provides professional guidance to colleagues and will work closely with staff, parents and other agencies. The SENCO should be aware of the provision in the Local Offer and be able to work with professionals providing a support role to families to ensure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high quality teaching.

The key responsibilities of the SENCO may include:

- overseeing the day-to-day operation of the school's SEN policy
- co-ordinating provision for children with SEN
- liaising with the relevant Designated Teacher where a looked after pupil has SEN
- advising on the graduated approach to providing SEN support
- advising on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- liaising with parents of pupils with SEN
- liaising with early years providers, other schools, educational psychologists, health and social care professionals, and independent or voluntary bodies

- being a key point of contact with external agencies, especially the local authority and its support services
- liaising with potential next providers of education to ensure a pupil and their parents are informed about options and a smooth transition is planned
- working with the headteacher and school governors to ensure that the school meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act (2010) with regard to reasonable adjustments and access arrangements
- ensuring that the school keeps the records of all pupils with SEN up to date

Whole school approaches:

- All staff contribute to the completion of whole school provision maps and ensure that strategies are implemented to ensure quality first teaching for all
- Regular communication takes place between class/ subject teachers, TAs, SENCo, parents and pupils to ensure good progress
- All staff have appropriate access to up to date information about pupils with additional needs
- The SENCo advice on differentiation to all staff
- Pupils are supported alongside their peers whenever possible
- All pupils are encouraged to join in extra-curricular activities
- All students have individualised targets
- Provision maps are available so that staff, pupils and parents know what reasonable adjustments are available
- The training budget for staff is transparent
- Provision for pupils with SEND is reflected throughout school self-evaluation
- The complaints procedure is transparent and easily available to parents
- Good access arrangements are made so that all pupils can demonstrate their full potential in tests and exams
- Both buildings on both sites are on one level. Some outdoor areas on both sites have steps. There is a hygiene room at Gunnerside School.
- Pupils with SEND are admitted into school on the same basis as all other pupils and are equally entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum.
- School uses the local authority's local to inform the school offer. This is published on the school website as part of the governors' SEN information report*.

Individualised approaches:

- Additional interventions will be implemented as necessary and these interventions will be monitored and evaluated

- Additional help will be sought appropriately from EPs, EMS, ESWS, ASCOSS etc.
- Some pupils will have individualised provision maps, behaviour plans, risk assessments or health care plans, some pupils may be allocated a key worker
- Person-centred reviews will be held regularly with families, considering acceptable meeting times. The parents and pupil will be respectfully listened to and their views will inform personalised learning pathways.
- TAs will be trained so that they can encourage and support pupils, regardless of communication needs, to make their views known.
- Transition arrangements will be personalised to support additional need
- The SENCo will be appropriately qualified and have the skills required to meet statutory duties.
- Designated finances will be used appropriately to meet needs without reducing independence.
- Staff training will reflect the needs of the current school community
- Parents will be given clear routes to access support, and be encouraged to bring a supporter to meetings if desired
- The school will follow the latest statutory guidance, currently the CoP 2014

Monitoring and evaluating performance

Monitoring and evaluating the progress of pupils with SEN is an integral part of our whole school system to monitor and evaluate achievement, teaching, behaviour and leadership and management. However, to ensure good life outcomes for this vulnerable group, additional, focused monitoring takes place. This includes:

- Monitoring and evaluating of interventions, including their value for money
- Forensic analysis of data examining the progress of different vulnerable groups
- Learning walks and pupil interviews to evaluate the effectiveness of the strategies listed on provision maps
- Annual financial returns
- Completion of statutory functions by the SENCo related to referral for statement/ education health care plans, termly meetings and annual reviews.
- Use of the NYCC Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM)
- Work scrutiny with selected pupil groups
- Focused monitoring by the SENCo, LA adviser, SEN governor
- Detailed discussions with families and pupils

- Progress through a variety of transitions
- Attendance and exclusions analysis
- Feedback from support agencies and Ofsted
- Local authority analysis of information and data about the school

The governing body evaluate the work of the school by:

- Appointing an SEN governor who is a champion for pupils with SEND
- Monitoring data with respect to vulnerable groups
- Challenging the leadership through informed questioning
- Undertaking learning walks in school with a focus on SEND
- Meeting with parents and pupils
- Ensuring there is appropriate continuing professional development taking place for all staff with regard to SEND
- Holding the school to account for its use of SEN funding

Formulated by C Bastow, SEND co-ordinator

Reviewed by governors on 30th January 2017

Review date January 2018

***The SEN information report**

6.79 The governing bodies of maintained schools and maintained nursery schools and the proprietors of academy schools **must** publish information on their websites about the implementation of the governing body's or the proprietor's policy for pupils with SEN. The information published should be updated annually and any changes to the information occurring during the year should be updated as soon as possible. The information required is set out in the Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 and **must** include information about: the kinds of SEN that are provided for, policies for identifying children and young people with SEN and assessing their needs, including the name and contact details of the SENCO (mainstream schools), arrangements for consulting parents of children with SEN and involving them in their child's education, arrangements for consulting young people with SEN and involving them in their education, arrangements for assessing and reviewing children and young people's progress towards outcomes. This should include the opportunities available to work with parents and young people as part of this assessment and review, arrangements for supporting children and young people in moving between phases of education and in preparing for adulthood. As young people prepare for adulthood outcomes should reflect their ambitions, which could include higher education, employment, independent living and participation in society, the approach to teaching children and young people with SEN, how adaptations are made to the curriculum and the learning environment of children and young people with SEN, the expertise and training of staff to support children and young people with SEN, including how specialist expertise will be secured, evaluating the effectiveness of the provision made for children and young people with SEN, how children and young people with SEN are enabled to engage in activities available with children and young people in the school who do not have SEN, support for improving emotional and social development. This should include extra pastoral support arrangements for listening to the views of children and young people with SEN and measures to prevent bullying, how the school involves other bodies, including health and social care bodies, local authority support services and voluntary sector organisations, in meeting children and young people's SEN and supporting their families, arrangements for handling complaints from parents of children with SEN about the provision made at the school.