



Downham Church of England Primary School

“Inspiring All to Soar to New Heights”

Challenge | Creativity | Collaboration | Critical Thinking | Courage

Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy 2024-25

Ratified by the Governing Body: September 2024

Review Date: *Annual review*

For a further, comprehensive breakdown of SEN and Inclusion in our school, please refer to our SEN Information Report 2024

1) Aims of this SEND policy

The aims of our special educational need and disability policy and practice in Downham C of E VC Primary School are:

- To make reasonable adjustments for those with a disability by taking action to increase access to the curriculum, the environment for all. •
- To ensure that children and young people with SEN engage in the activities of the school alongside pupils who do not have SEN.
- To reduce barriers to progress by embedding the principles in the National Curriculum Inclusion statement <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/nationalcurriculum>
- To 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 broad areas of need:
 1. Communication and interaction,
 2. Cognition and learning,
 3. Social, mental and emotional health,
 4. Sensory/physical.
- To request, monitor and respond to parent/carers’ and pupils’ views in order to evidence high levels of confidence and partnership.
- To ensure a high level of staff expertise to meet pupil need, through well-targeted continuing professional development.
- To support pupils with medical conditions to achieve full inclusion in all school activities by ensuring consultation with health and social care professionals in order to meet the medical needs of pupils.
- To work in a cooperative and productive partnership with the Local Authority and outside agencies, to ensure there is a multi-professional approach to meeting the needs of all vulnerable learners.

2) What are special educational needs (SEN) or a disability?

At Downham C of E VC Primary School we use the definition for SEN and for disability from the SEND Code of Practice (2014). This states:

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’. This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and long-term health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, and cancer.

3) The kinds of special educational needs for which provision is made at Downham C of E VC Primary School

Children and young people with SEN have different needs, but the general presumption is that all children with SEN but without an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are welcome to apply for a place at our school, in line with the school admissions policy. If a place is available, we will undertake to use our best endeavours, in partnership with parents, to make the provision required to meet the SEN of pupils at this school.

For children with an EHCP, parents have the right to request a particular school and the local authority must comply with that preference and name the school or college in the EHC plan unless:

- it would be unsuitable for the age, ability, aptitude or SEN of the child or young person, or the attendance of the child or young person there would be incompatible with the efficient education of others, or the efficient use of resources.

Before making the decision to name our school in a child's EHCP, the local authority will send the governing body a copy of the EHCP and then consider their comments very carefully before a final decision on placement is made. In addition, the local authority must also seek the agreement of school where the draft EHCP sets out any provision to be delivered on their premises that have been secured through a direct payment (personal budget).

Parents of a child with an EHCP also have the right to seek a place at a special school if it they consider that their child's needs can be better met in specialist provision.

4) How does Downham C of E VC Primary School know if children need extra help?

We know when pupils need help if:

- Concerns are raised by parents/carers, external agencies, teachers, or the pupil's previous school, regarding a pupil's level of progress or inclusion.
- Screening, such as that completed on entry or as a result of a concern being raised, indicates gap in knowledge and/or skills.
- Whole school tracking of attainment outcomes indicates lack of expected levels of progress.

Observation of the pupil indicates that they have additional needs in one or more of the four broad areas of need:

1. Communication and interaction
2. Cognition and learning
3. Social, mental and emotional health
4. Sensory/physical

A pupil asks for help.

5) What should a parent do if it thinks their child may have special educational needs?

If parents have concerns relating to their child's learning, then please initially discuss these with your child's teacher. This then may result in a referral to the SENCO and then the Head of School.

- Parents may also contact the Head of School/SENCO or the Head of School directly if they feel this is more appropriate.

- All parents will be listened to. Their views and their aspirations for their child will be central to the assessment and provision that is provided by the school.

6) How will Downham C of E VC Primary School support a child with SEND?

- All pupils will be provided with high quality teaching that is differentiated to meet the diverse needs of all learners.
- Pupils with a disability will be provided with reasonable adjustments (such as auxiliary aids and services) to overcome any disadvantage experienced in schools and increase their access to the taught curriculum.
- The quality of classroom teaching provided to pupils with SEND is monitored through a number of processes that includes:
 1. classroom observation by the Head of School/SENCO or external verifiers,
 2. ongoing assessment of progress made by pupils with SEND,
 3. work sampling and scrutiny of planning to ensure effective matching of work to pupil need,
 4. teacher meetings with the Head of School/SENCO to provide advice and guidance on meeting the needs of pupils with SEND,
 5. pupil and parent feedback on the quality and effectiveness of interventions provided,
 6. attendance and behaviour records.
- All pupils have individual national curriculum targets set in line with national outcomes to ensure ambition. Parents are informed of these via the reporting system and also at events such as Parents' Evenings.
- Pupils' attainments are tracked using the whole school tracking system and those failing to make expected levels of progress are identified very quickly. These pupils are then discussed in termly progress meetings that are undertaken between the class/subject teacher and a member of the Senior Leadership team and if appropriate, the pupil themselves.
- Additional action to increase the rate of progress will be then identified and recorded that will include a review of the impact of the differentiated teaching being provided to the child, and if required, provision to the teacher of additional strategies to further support the success of the pupil.
- Where it is decided during this early discussion that special educational provision is required to support increased rates, parents will be informed that the school considers their child may require SEN support and their partnership sought in order to improve attainments.

Action relating to SEN support will follow an assess, plan, do and review model:

1. **Assess:** Data on the pupil held by the school will be collated by the class/subject teacher in order to make an accurate assessment of the pupil's needs. Parents will always be invited to this early discussion to support the identification of action to improve outcomes.
2. **Plan:** If review of the action taken indicates that "additional to and different from" support will be required, then the views of all involved including the parents and the pupil will be obtained and appropriate evidence-based interventions identified, recorded and implemented by the class/subject teacher with advice from the Head of School/SENCO.
3. **Do:** SEN support will be recorded on a plan that will identify a clear set of expected outcomes, which will include stretching and relevant academic and developmental targets (this may including for young people, targets around preparing for adulthood) that take into account parents' aspirations for their child. Parents and the pupil will also be consulted on the action they can take to support attainment of the desired outcomes. This will be recorded and a date made for reviewing attainment.

4. **Review:** Progress towards these outcomes will be tracked and reviewed termly with the parents and the pupil.

If progress rates are still judged to be inadequate despite the delivery of high quality interventions, advice will always be sought from external agencies regarding strategies to best meet the specific needs of a pupil. This will only be undertaken after parent permission has been obtained and may include referral to:

1. Specialists in other schools e.g. teaching schools, special schools.
2. Special Educational Needs Support Service
3. Behaviour Support Service
4. Dyslexia Centres
5. Autism Outreach Team
6. Hearing Impairment team
7. Visual Impairment team
8. Autism and Sensory Support
9. Educational Psychologist Service
10. Educational Welfare Officers
11. Physical and Disability Support Service
12. Social Services
13. School Nurse
14. EWHMS

In addition, the school will involve external agencies as appropriate including health and social services, community and voluntary organisations for advice on meeting the needs of pupils with SEND and in further supporting their families.

For a very small percentage of pupils, whose needs are significant and complex and the SEN Support required to meet their needs cannot reasonably be provided from within the school's own resources, 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 (EHC) plan being provided.

7) How will the curriculum be matched to each child's needs?

- Teachers plan using pupils' achievement levels, differentiating tasks to ensure progress for every pupil in the classroom.
- When a pupil has been identified as having special educational needs, the curriculum and the learning environment will be further adapted by the class teacher to reduce barriers to learning and enable them to access the curriculum more easily.
- These adaptations may include strategies suggested by the Head of School/SENCO and/or external specialists.
- In addition, if it is considered appropriate, pupils may be provided with specialised equipment or resources such as ICT and/or additional adult help. All actions taken by the class teacher will be recorded and shared with parents.

8) How will parents know how their child is doing?

- Attainments towards the identified outcomes will be shared with parents termly through feedback regarding One Planning Meetings and Parents' Evenings.
- Parents are encouraged to arrange an appointment to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher, the SENCO at any time when they feel concerned or have information they feel they would like to share that could impact on their child's success. Please contact the school office who will arrange this appointment for you. The contact number is 01268 710387.

9) How will parents be helped to support their child's learning?

- The class teacher or Head of School/SENCO may also suggest additional ways of supporting your child's learning.
- If you have ideas on support that you would like to have access to in order to further support your child's learning, please contact the Head of School/SENCO who will locate information and guidance for you in this area.

10) What support will there be for children overall well-being?

The school offers a wide variety of pastoral support for pupils. These include:

- An evaluated Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PHSE) curriculum that aims to provide pupils with the knowledge, understanding and skills they need to enhance their emotional and social knowledge and well-being. Please visit our website to see the topics that are included within this area of the curriculum.
- Pupil and Parent voice mechanisms are in place and are monitored for effectiveness by the Governor for responsibility for this area
- Small group evidence-led interventions to support pupil's well-being are delivered to targeted pupils and groups. These are identified on the provision maps located on the school's website and aim to support improved interaction skills, emotional resilience and well-being.

11) Pupils with medical needs (Statutory duty under the Children and Families Act)

Pupils with medical needs will be provided with a detailed Health Care Plan, compiled in partnership with the school nurse and parents and if appropriate, the pupil themselves.

Staff who volunteer to administer and supervise medications, will complete formal training and be verified by the school nurse as being competent.

All medicine administration procedures adhere to the LA policy and Department of Education (DfE) guidelines included within Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (DfE) 2014 and identified in the school Medicine Administration Policy.

12) What training do the staff supporting children and young people with SEND undertake?

In the last two years school staff have received a range of training at three levels; awareness, enhanced and specialist.

Awareness training has been provided to all staff on:

- How to support pupils on the autistic spectrum
- How to support pupils with behavioural difficulties
- How to support pupils with speech, language and communication difficulties

- The Governor with specific responsibility for SEN has completed the SEN Governor training.

13) How will my child be included in activities outside the classroom including school trips?

- Risk assessments are carried out and procedures are put in place to enable all children to participate in all school activities.
- The school ensures it has sufficient staff expertise to ensure that no child with SEND is excluded from any school provided activity.

How accessible is the school environment?

The school environment does not include any stairs in the building and there is easy access to all classrooms either by the front main entrance or individual classrooms.

Our Accessibility Plan (statutory requirement) describes the actions the school has taken to increase access to the environment, the curriculum and to printed information is available via the school website.

14) How will Downham C of E VC Primary School prepare/support my child when joining or transferring to a new school?

A number of strategies are in place to enable effective pupils' transition. These include:

On entry:

- A planned introduction programme is delivered in the Summer term to support transfer for pupils starting school in September.
- Parent/carers are invited to a meeting at the school and are provided with a range of information to support them in enabling their child to settle into the school routine.
- The Head of School/SENCO meets with all new parents of pupils who are known to have SEND to allow concerns to be raised and solutions to any perceived challenges to be located prior to entry.
- If pupils are transferring from another setting, the previous school records will be requested immediately and a meeting set up with parents to identify and reduce any concerns.

Transition to the next school, preparation for adulthood and independent living

Primary:

- The transition programme in place for pupils provides a number of opportunities for pupils and parents to meet staff in the new school.
- These opportunities are further enhanced for pupils with SEND and identified on the website.
- The annual review in Y5 for pupils with an EHCP begins the process where parents are supported to make decisions regarding secondary school choice.
- Parents will be encouraged to consider options for the next phase of education and the school will involve outside agencies, as appropriate, to ensure information provided is comprehensive but accessible.
- Accompanied visits to other providers may be arranged as appropriate.
- For pupils transferring to local schools, the SENCOs of both schools will meet to discuss the needs of pupils with SEN in order to ensure a smooth transition.
- The records of pupils who leave the school mid-phase will be transferred within five working days of the parents notifying their child has been enrolled at another school.

15) How are Downham C of E VC Primary School's resources allocated and

matched to children's special educational needs?

The school receives funding to respond to the needs of pupils with SEND from a number of sources that includes:

1. A proportion of the funds allocated per pupil to the school to provide for their education called the Age Weighted Pupil Unit.
2. The Notional SEN budget. This is a fund devolved to schools to support them to meet the needs of pupils with SEND.
3. The Pupil Premium funding provides additional funding for pupils who are claiming Free School Meals, who are in the care of the local authority or whose parents are in the Armed Services.
4. For those pupils with the most complex needs, the school may be allocated additional educational needs funding from the Local Authorities High Needs SEN Funding allocation.

This funding is then used to provide the equipment and facilities to support pupils with special educational needs and disabilities. The range of support offered is identified on the provision maps which are available to view on the school website. These target the broad areas of need:

1. Cognition and learning
2. Behavioural, emotional and social
3. Communication and interaction
4. Sensory and/or physical

If parents wish to discuss the options available for their child, they are welcome to make an appointment to see the class teacher, Head of School/SENCO.

16) How is the decision made about how much support each child will receive?

- For pupils with SEN but without an EHCP, the decision regarding the support provided will be taken at joint meetings with the Head of School/SENCO, class teacher and parent.
- For pupils with an EHCP, this decision will be reached in agreement with parents when the EHCP is being produced or at an annual review.

17) How will I be involved in discussions about and planning for my child's education?

This will be through:

- discussions with the class teacher, Head of School/SENCO or senior leadership team member,
- during parent's evenings,
- meetings with support and external agencies.

18) Who can I contact for further information or if I have any concerns?

If you wish to discuss your child's special educational needs or are unhappy about any issues regarding the school's response to meeting these needs please contact the following:

- Your child's class teacher,
- The Head of School/SENCO,
- For complaints, please contact the School Governor with responsibility for SEN.

19) Support services for parents of pupils with SEN include:

- Parent Partnership Services (PPS) offer independent advice and support to parents and carers of all children and young people with SEND. The nearest PPS can be located via <http://www.parentpartnership.org.uk/>
- The PPS will also provide information on how to access an Independent Supporter for those parents whose children are being assessed for an EHCP. Independent Supporters aim to provide guidance to parents regarding the EHCP process. A FAQ factsheet on Independent Supporters is located here <http://preview.tinyurl.com/ox2q3cv>
- For parents who are unhappy with the Local Authority or school responses to their child's SEND, parents may seek mediation from the regional mediation services. Information on this free service is located here <http://preview.tinyurl.com/qx5a8vq>
- Parents and carers can also appeal to the Government's SEND tribunal if you disagree with the Local Authorities decisions about your child's special educational needs. You can also appeal to the tribunal if the school or council has discriminated against your disabled child. Information on this process is available here <http://preview.tinyurl.com/ovg4so3>

20) Information on where the Local Authority's Local Offer can be found.

<http://www.essexlocaloffer.org.uk/> is the website with Essex's Local Offer and information it provides to parents and carers on mediation and conflict resolution services.

References

The SEND Code of Practice (June 2014) This Code of Practice provides statutory guidance on duties, policies and procedures relating to Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014 and associated regulations <http://preview.tinyurl.com/nenth62>

Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions <http://preview.tinyurl.com/p4qu8ar>

SE7 Local Offer: Framework and Guidance. <http://preview.tinyurl.com/otma4gj>

The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 <http://preview.tinyurl.com/m2bnos4>

Glossary (A glossary of terms is included in the appendices of the SEND Code of Practice)

DfE: Department for Education

EHCP: Education, Health and Care Plan

LA: Local Authority

SEN: Special Educational Needs

SEND: Special Educational Needs and/or Disability

SENCo: Special Educational Needs Coordinator (also written as SENCO)

PPS: Parent Partnership Services