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## **SEND POLICY**

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**This policy reflects the SEND Code of Practice, 0 – 25 guidance, 2014.  
Consultation took place with staff, parents & pupils to formulate and finalise the policy.**

### **Policy to be updated and reviewed: September 2023**

Linton Primary School is a very small school where each individual is valued and encouraged to perform at their best, everyone's unique strengths are recognised and celebrated.

The provision for children with SEND is the responsibility of the whole school and we expect every member of staff and those working with our children in school to accept and embrace this responsibility. All teachers are responsible for the teaching, learning and progress of all pupils in their class.

We value the contribution of parents and families and consider the need to work in partnership with them vital to ensure successful outcomes for our pupils.

Pupils are invited to contribute their views on our provision as a matter of course and we make sure they are consulted about the support they receive.

Our SENCO is Mrs Samantha Mason, she holds the National SENCo Award. Mrs Mason is Headteacher and holds a teaching responsibility. She can be contacted on 01670 860361 or by e-mail at: [samantha.mason@northumberland.gov.uk](mailto:samantha.mason@northumberland.gov.uk)

The policy is published on the school's website and a hard copy is available from the school office by contacting Christine Sykes, our Admin Officer, on 01670 860361.

### **Our Aims**

At Linton Primary School we recognise that all children are unique and have different educational, physical and emotional needs. Our overarching aim is to create an atmosphere of encouragement, acceptance, respect for achievements and sensitivity to individual needs, in which all pupils can thrive by paying attention to these specific areas:

- identifying at an early age individuals who need extra help and attention
- enabling each pupil to reach his or her full potential, both curricular and extracurricular
- enabling each pupil to partake in and contribute fully to school life
- endeavouring to meet the individual needs of each child
- developing a feeling of self-esteem within the individual
- fostering an atmosphere in our school which will promote a happy, sensitive and secure environment to ensure the most effective learning for all children
- providing for children's individual needs by supporting them in various ways: whole class, small groups and individual
- monitoring closely those with SEND by review and assessment, to enable us to recognise, celebrate and record achievements
- providing access to and progression within the curriculum
- working with parents and other agencies to provide support and opportunities for

those children with SEND

- using a variety of teaching strategies, which include different learning styles, to facilitate meaningful and effective learning for all children
- assisting all staff in the delivery of educational entitlement and ensuring all staff are aware of a child's individual needs
- ensuring access to a range of resources to support staff in their teaching of children with SEND
- including the voice of the child in monitoring and reviewing Pupil Profiles

## **Our Objectives**

- identify, at the earliest possible opportunity, barriers to learning and participation for pupils with additional or Special Educational Needs
- work within the guidance provided in the SEND Code of Practice, 2014
- provide a Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENDCo) to ensure there is adequate rigour and challenge in meeting the needs of identified children
- operate a whole school approach to the management and provision of support for special educational needs
- ensure that every pupil experiences success in their learning and achieves to the highest possible standard
- enable pupils to participate in lessons fully and effectively
- value and encourage the contribution of all pupils to the life of the school
- work in constructive partnerships with parents and families
- work closely with external support agencies, seeking expertise to support the need of individual pupils
- ensure that all staff have access to training and advice to support quality teaching and learning for pupils
- communicate with the Governing Body so they can monitor how we are delivering this policy and its effectiveness

## **Types of SEND**

The SEND Code of Practice: 0 – 25 years (2014) states:

*A child or young person has SEND 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*
- *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*

**SEND is divided into 4 types:**

- **Communication and Interaction** - this includes children with speech and language delay, impairments or disorders, specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia and dyspraxia, hearing impairment, and those who demonstrate features within the autistic spectrum.

- **Cognition and Learning** - this includes children who demonstrate features of moderate, severe or profound learning difficulties or specific learning difficulties or specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyscalculia, dysgraphia or dyspraxia.
- **Social, Mental and Emotional Health** - this includes children who may be withdrawn or isolated, disruptive or disturbing, hyperactive or lack concentration.
- **Sensory and/or Physical Needs** - this includes children with sensory, multisensory and physical difficulties.

Behavioural difficulties do not necessarily mean that a child or young person has a SEN and should not automatically lead to a pupil being registered as having SEN.

Slow progress and low attainment do not necessarily mean that a child has SEN and should not automatically lead to a pupil being recorded as having SEN. Persistent disruptive or withdrawn behaviours do not necessarily mean that a child or young person has SEN.

Identifying and assessing SEN for children or young people whose first language is not English requires particular care; difficulties related solely to limitations in English as an additional language are not SEN.

### **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 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’. This definition includes sensory impairments such as those affecting sight or hearing, and 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. Where a disabled child or young person requires special educational provision they will also be covered by the SEN definition.

### **As a school we observe two key duties:**

1. we must not directly or indirectly discriminate against, harass or victimise disabled children and young people
2. we must make reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services, to ensure that disabled children and young people are not at a substantial disadvantage compared with their peers. This duty is anticipatory – it requires thought to be given in advance to what disabled children and young people might require and what adjustments might need to be made to prevent that disadvantage. The school’s Equality Policy and objectives and the Accessibility Plan can be found on the school website.

### **Identification, Assessment and Review**

The Code of Practice outlines a graduated response to pupils’ needs, recognising that there is a continuum of need matched by a continuum of support. This response is seen as action that is additional to or different from the provision made as part of the school’s usual differentiated curriculum and strategies.

The school uses a SEND register and provision map to maintain information about the identification, assessment and provision for each pupil. Where concern is expressed that a pupil may have a special educational need, the class teacher takes early action to assess and address the difficulties. Once support is reviewed the class teacher will then liaise with the staff team and SENDCo to agree next steps.

Reviews of pupils on the SEND register take place three times a year, in line with pupil progress meetings at the end of each term. For pupils with Education, Health & Care plans (formerly Statements), an annual review meeting has to be held in addition to this. Pupil Profiles are used to record additional provision for pupils on the SEND register

## **A Graduated Approach to SEND**

At Linton Primary School we adopt a high quality teaching approach.

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all pupils in their class and our first approach is to offer high quality teaching with differentiated activities according to the individual needs of the child.

High quality teaching, differentiated for individual pupils, is the first step in responding to pupils who have or may have SEND; additional intervention and support cannot compensate for a lack of high quality teaching.

We regularly and carefully review the quality of teaching for all pupils, including those at risk of underachievement, through lesson observations, book scrutinies and pupil progress meetings. Professional development opportunities are provided for staff to extend their knowledge and understanding of SEND and high quality teaching.

We assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment on entry, building on information from previous settings and key stages where appropriate.

Class teachers supported by the staff 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

The first response to such progress should be high quality teaching targeted at their areas of weakness. This can also 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.

## **Our school's graduated approach to SEN**

### **Level 1: Quality First Teaching (QFT)**

Children receive inclusive quality first teaching (QFT) which may include the provision of differentiated classwork. Some children at this level may be on a monitoring list, their progress being carefully tracked and reviewed.

### **Level 2: Additional School Intervention**

Continued or increased concern may lead to children receiving additional, time-limited and targeted interventions to accelerate their progress to age-related expectations. These interventions may involve group or one-to-one teaching. The SENDCo and class teachers will work closely with any support staff to plan and assess the impact of the support and interventions and to link them to classroom teaching. At this stage advice and expertise from other agencies may be sought.

### **Level 3: High Need**

Where a child continues to make less than expected progress, despite interventions, they receive highly personalised interventions to accelerate their progress and enable them to achieve their potential. When appropriate, specialist outside agencies support this. The SENDCo and class teachers work with specialists to select effective teaching approaches, appropriate equipment, strategies and interventions in order to support the child's progress. If support is not impacting on the child's progress and this is still of significant concern, the school, after consultation with parents and other professionals, will request an Education, Health and Care Needs Assessment from the Local Authority. Parents can also request an EHC Needs Assessment.

## **Our Cycle of SEND Support**

Where a pupil is identified as having SEN, schools should take action to remove barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This SEN support should take the form of a four-part cycle through which earlier decisions and actions are revisited, refined and revised with a growing understanding of the pupil's needs and of what supports the pupil in making good progress and securing good outcomes. This is known as the graduated approach. It draws on more detailed approaches, more frequent review and more specialist expertise in successive cycles in order to match interventions to the SEN of children and young people.

### **Assess**

In identifying a child as needing SEN support the class teacher, working with the SENDCo, 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, the views and experience of parents, the pupil's own views and, if relevant, advice from external support services. Schools should take seriously any concerns raised by a parent. These should be recorded and compared to the setting's own assessment and information on how the pupil is developing.

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 SENDCo should contact them (if the parents agree).

### **Plan**

Where it is decided to provide a pupil with SEN support, the parents must be formally notified. The teacher and the SENDCo should agree, in consultation with the parent and the pupil, the adjustments, interventions and support to be put in place, as well as the expected impact on progress, development or behaviour, along with a date for review. The support and intervention provided should be selected to meet the outcomes identified for the pupil, based on reliable evidence of effectiveness, and should be provided by staff with sufficient skills and knowledge. Where appropriate, plans should seek parental involvement to reinforce or contribute to progress at home.

All teachers and support staff who work with the pupil should be made aware of their needs, the outcomes sought, the support provided and any teaching strategies or approaches that are required. This should also be recorded on the school's information system.

### **Do**

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 or subject 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 SENDCo should support the class teacher in the further assessment of the child's

particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on the effective implementation of support.

### **Review**

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress should be reviewed in line with the agreed date. 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 or subject teacher, working with the SENDCo, should revise the support in light of the pupil's progress and development, deciding on any changes to the support and outcomes. Where a pupil has an Education and Health Care plan, the local authority, in cooperation with the school, must review that plan as a minimum every twelve months.

### **Managing Pupils on the SEND Register**

All children on the SEND Register will have a Pupil Intervention Plan, which details important information about the child, including their targeted areas for support, their outcomes and steps taken to allow children to achieve them. It will also list any other professionals who have contact with the child. The Pupil Intervention Plan is designed to be a working document which is updated to reflect the current needs of the child.

Group PIP's may be used to support children who are receiving targeted interventions designed to support their learning. Children may access these interventions whilst not on the SEND register, but are in receipt of QFT, as such, additional parental meetings/reviews to the regular school reporting schedule may not be held. The decision to include the child in the intervention but not place them on the register will be made by the SENDCo and class teacher. Parental permission for certain interventions will always be requested if required.

Formal review meetings will take place regularly in line with identified needs and interventions or support put in place. Class teachers are responsible for evidencing progress according to the outcomes described in the plan.

Class teachers are responsible for maintaining and updating Pupil Intervention Plans. These are then shared with everyone involved with the child. The SENDCo reviews all records provided by class teachers to ensure consistency across the school and appropriateness and quality of outcomes.

### **Criteria for exiting the SEND Register**

If it is felt that children are making progress which is sustainable then they may be taken off of the SEND register. If it is agreed by all to take the pupil off of the SEND register then all records will be kept until the pupil leaves the school (and passed on to the next setting). The pupil will be continued to be monitored through the schools monitoring procedures, such as pupil progress meetings. If it is felt that the pupil requires additional assistance then the procedures set out in this policy will be followed.

### **Supporting Pupils and Families**

We support our families and pupils at all stages of the process and provide as much assistance as possible so they can make informed decisions about future actions.

## **Supporting Pupils at School with Medical Conditions**

We recognise that pupils at school with medical conditions should be properly supported so that they have full access to education, including school trips and physical education. Some children with medical conditions may be disabled and where this is the case we comply with our duties under the Equality Act 2010.

Some pupils may also have special educational needs and may have an Education, Health and Care Plan, which brings together their health and social care needs as well as their special educational provision and the SEND Code of Practice (2014) is followed.

A separate policy is dedicated to supporting pupils with medical conditions, which is in line with recent guidelines published by the DfE in 2014. This policy is available on the school website.

## **Training and Resources**

In order to maintain and develop the quality of teaching and provision to respond to the strengths and needs of all pupils, all staff are encouraged to undertake training and development. All teachers and support staff undertake induction on taking up a post and this includes a meeting with the SENDCo to explain the systems and structures in place around the school's SEND provision and practice, and to discuss the needs of individual pupils. Staff training needs will be discussed at this stage, and both teaching and support staff will be made aware of training opportunities that relate to working with child with SEND.

Training needs of staff are identified based upon the pupil needs in our school. This can take the form of individual attendance on external courses, supported training through our local SENDCo network or internal sessions through staff meeting in school.

## **Roles and Responsibilities**

The responsibility for providing a quality education for our pupils with SEND is shared by all members of our school community.

Teachers and our teaching assistants are responsible for identifying pupils, assessing progress, delivering a planned teaching programme and appropriately differentiated activities through high quality teaching. Teaching staff have the first contact with parents and this happens through formal consultation meetings and contact at the beginning and end of the school day if necessary.

The SENDCo, Samantha Mason, is also the Headteacher. She maintains the SEND register, monitors teaching programmes and leads termly reviews for our pupils. The SENDCo makes referrals for further support and liaises with professionals. Mrs Mason completes our SEND Information report in consultation with the Governing body.

Mrs Mason is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, with Mrs Rachel Robertson, Class 2 teacher, acting in this role in her absence.

Mrs Mason is the Medication Co-ordinator who oversees the policy for 'Supporting the Medical Needs of Pupils'. She writes Healthcare Plans in conjunction with parents and medical professionals when appropriate/necessary.

Mrs Mason also manages the budget, including the distribution of the Pupil Premium Grant.

The Governing body monitors that members of staff are delivering this policy and improving outcomes for pupils. Within the Governing body there is a designated SEND Governor who takes an informed interest in SEND issues within school.

### **Storing and Managing Information**

Information relating to pupils on the SEND register will be stored securely in a lockable cabinet in the office and on the Admin PC.

All information is treated with confidentiality and is communicated to staff on a need to know basis.

We have a separate confidentiality policy which is available in the school office.

### **Complaints Linked Policies and Documents**

The school has a complaints procedure which applies to complaints about SEND provision. This can be found on the school website.

- Accessibility plan
- Anti-bullying policy
- Behaviour policy
- Complaints procedure
- Data Protection policy
- Equality Plan and Procedure
- Use of Force & Restraint policy
- Medical Conditions in School policy
- Intimate Care policy

### **Compliance**

This policy complies with the statutory requirement laid out in the SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (July 2014) 3.65 and has been written with reference to the following guidance and documents:

- Equality Act 2010: advice for schools DfE Feb 2013
- SEND Code of Practice 0 – 25 (July 2014)
- Schools SEN Information Report Regulations (2014)
- Statutory Guidance on Supporting pupils at school with medical conditions (April 2014)
- The National Curriculum in England: framework for Key Stage 1 and 2 (July 2014)
- Safeguarding Policy
- Accessibility Plan
- Teachers Standards



**Our designated safeguarding lead who has responsibility for Child Protection issues is:**

Mrs Samantha J Mason - Headteacher

Last trained 10/03/2021

Next Training March 2023

**Deputising arrangements**

Name and role designation: Mrs Rachel Robertson – Key Stage 2 Teacher

Last trained 10/02/2021

Next Training Feb 2023

**In the absence of Mrs Mason and Mrs Robertson please contact:**

Northumberland County Council Safeguarding Team.

**Lead governor for Safeguarding**

Name: Mrs Sarah Chalmers

**Chair of Governors**

Name: Mrs Elaine Wood

**Appendix 1**

**Identification of Children with Special Educational Needs and Disability (updated September 2018)**

1. Ongoing pupil progress discussions focusing on attainment and progress data highlight children not making good progress. Personal and social development (including behaviour) is also considered at this meeting. Good progress can mean progress which:
  - Closes the attainment gap between the child and their peers
  - Prevents the attainment gap growing wider
  - Matches or betters the child's previous rate of progress
  - Ensures access to the full curriculum
  - Demonstrates an improvement in self-help, social or personal skills
  - Demonstrates improvements in the child's behaviour

All children receive quality first teaching where learning opportunities are differentiated to meet the needs of all children (Level 1 SEND support). Where this is not enough and children are not making good progress the class teacher or may create a focused intervention group for a particular area of need.

2. These focused interventions (Level 2 SEND support) are recorded on 'Termly Intervention Plans' by class teachers and teaching assistants involved with the target group. An SEND support plan is then created and implemented. The SENDCo will monitor the impact that these SEND support plans are having on the child's progress and attainment and teachers will review these half termly.
3. If a teacher still has a concern about a child and they are not making good progress with Level 2 SEND support they should speak to the parents at the FIRST OPPORTUNITY. If a child's class teacher, in consultation with parents, concludes that a child may need further support to help their progress, the teacher should seek the help of the SENDCo. The class teacher should fill in an 'SEND referral form' and give this to the SENDCo. The teacher and SENDCo will then consider the teacher's reasons for concern alongside any information about the child already available to the school.

4. The triggers for seeking help from the SENDCo could be the teacher's or others' concern, underpinned by evidence, about a child who despite receiving differentiated learning opportunities:
- makes little or no progress even when teaching approaches are targeted particularly in a child's identified area of weakness
  - shows signs of difficulty in developing literacy or mathematics skills which result in poor attainment in some curriculum areas
  - presents persistent emotional or behavioural difficulties which are not ameliorated by the behaviour management techniques usually employed in the school
  - has sensory or physical problems, and continues to make little or no progress despite the provision of specialist equipment
  - has communication and/or interaction difficulties, and continues to make little or no progress despite the provision of a differentiated curriculum
5. The SENDCo will then decide whether the child should be placed on the SEND Register and will arrange to meet parents with the class teacher to discuss the implications of this.
6. Using the information that has been gathered the SENDCo will decide whether a referral to an outside agency (Level 3 SEND support) may be needed (see Local Offer for a list of outside agencies). Parents will be involved in this and any evidence that they have from home used to support a referral.
7. The SENDCo should take the lead in the further assessment of the child's particular strengths and weaknesses; planning future support for the child in discussion with colleagues, parents and outside agencies (SEND support plan) and monitoring and subsequently reviewing the action taken alongside teachers and parents.
8. The child's class teacher should remain responsible for working with the child on a daily basis and for planning and delivering an individualised programme. Parents should always be consulted and kept informed of the action taken to help the child, and of the outcome of this action

Date of policy: September 2018

**Policy to be updated September 2023**