



# **Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Policy, and Information Report**

**2025-2026**

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*“Every child deserves a champion – an adult who will never give up on them, who understands the power of connections and insists that they become the best that they can possibly be.”- Rita F. Pierson*

At Ash Primary school, we know that all children can thrive when they are supported in their learning and development. We believe that every child can make progress in their learning with the right support and high quality teaching.

We aim to provide a rich and stimulating curriculum to every child, ensuring that all children are included and celebrated for their unique talents and abilities.

## 1. Aims

Our SEN policy and information report aims to:

- Set out how our school will support and make provision for pupils with special educational needs and disabilities
- Explain the roles and responsibilities of everyone involved in providing for pupils with SEND

## 2. Legislation and guidance

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

- [Part 3 of the Children and Families Act 2014](#), which sets out schools' responsibilities for pupils with SEND
- [The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014](#), which set out local authorities' and schools' responsibilities for education, health and care (EHC) plans, SEN co-ordinators (SENCOs) and the special educational needs (SEN) information report
- The [Equality Act 2010](#) (section 20), which sets out the school's duties to make reasonable adjustments for pupils with disabilities

## 3. Definitions

### 3.1 Special educational needs

A pupil has SEN if they have a learning difficulty or disability that requires special educational provision to be made for them.

They have a **learning difficulty or disability** if they have:

- A significantly greater difficulty in learning than most others of the same age, or
- A disability which prevents or hinders them from making use of facilities of a kind generally provided for others of the same age in mainstream schools.

**Special educational provision** is educational or training provision that is additional to, or different from, that made generally for other children or young people of the same age by mainstream schools.

## 3.2 The 4 areas of need

The needs of pupils with SEND are grouped into 4 broad areas. Pupils can have needs that cut across more than 1 area, and their needs may change over time.

Interventions will be selected that are appropriate for the pupil's particular area(s) of need, at the relevant time.

AREA OF NEED	
Communication and interaction	<p>Pupils with needs in this area have difficulty communicating with others. They may have difficulty understanding what is being said to them, have trouble expressing themselves, or do not understand or use the social rules of communication.</p> <p>Pupils who are on the autism spectrum often have needs that fall in this category.</p>
Cognition and learning	<p>Pupils with learning difficulties usually learn at a slower pace than their peers.</p> <p>A wide range of needs are grouped in this area, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specific learning difficulties, which impact 1 or more specific aspects of learning, such as: dyslexia, dyscalculia and dyspraxia</li> <li>• Moderate learning difficulties</li> <li>• Severe learning difficulties</li> <li>• Profound and multiple learning difficulties, which is where pupils are likely to have severe and complex learning difficulties as well as a physical disability or sensory impairment</li> </ul>
Social, emotional and mental health	<p>These needs may reflect a wide range of underlying difficulties or disorders. Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mental health difficulties such as anxiety, depression or an eating disorder</li> <li>• Attention deficit disorder, attention deficit hyperactive disorder or attachment disorder</li> <li>• Suffered adverse childhood experiences</li> </ul> <p>These needs can manifest in many ways, for example as challenging, disruptive or disturbing behaviour, or by the pupil becoming withdrawn or isolated.</p>

AREA OF NEED	
Sensory and/or physical	<p>Pupils with these needs have a disability that hinders them from accessing the educational facilities generally provided.</p> <p>Pupils may have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A sensory impairment such as vision impairment, hearing impairment or multi-sensory impairment</li> <li>• A physical impairment</li> </ul> <p>These pupils may need ongoing additional support and equipment to access all the opportunities available to their peers.</p>

## 4. Roles and responsibilities

### 4.1 The SENCO

The SENCO at our school is Megan Isaac

They will:

- Work with the headteacher and SEN governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school
- Have day-to-day responsibility for the operation of this SEND policy and the co-ordination of specific provision made to support individual pupils with SEN, including those who have EHC plans
- Provide professional guidance to colleagues and liaise and work with staff, parents, and other agencies to make sure that pupils with SEN receive appropriate support and high-quality teaching
- Advise on the graduated approach to providing SEN support and differentiated teaching methods appropriate for individual pupils
- Advise on the deployment of the school's delegated budget and other resources to meet pupils' needs effectively
- Be a point of contact for external agencies, especially the local authority (LA) and its support services, and work with external agencies to ensure that appropriate provision is provided
- Liaise with potential next providers of education to make sure that the pupil and their parents are informed about options and that a smooth transition is planned
- Make sure the school keeps its records of all pupils with SEND up to date and accurate

### 4.2 The SEND link governor

The SEND link governor is Tim Jones

The SEND governor will:

- Help to raise awareness of SEND issues at governing board meetings
- Monitor the quality and effectiveness of SEND provision within the school and update the governing board on this
- Work with the headteacher and SENCO to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision in the school

### **4.3 The headteacher**

The headteacher will:

- Work with the SENCO and SEND link governor to determine the strategic development of the SEND policy and provision within the school
- Have overall responsibility for, and awareness of, the provision for pupils with SEND, and their progress
- Have responsibility for monitoring the school's notional SEND budget and any additional funding allocated by the LA to support individual pupils
- Make sure that the SENCO has enough time to carry out their duties
- Have an overview of the needs of the current cohort of pupils on the SEND register
- Advise the LA when a pupil needs an EHC needs assessment, or when an EHC plan needs an early review
- With the SENCO, monitor to identify any staff who have specific training needs regarding SEN, and incorporate this into the school's plan for continuous professional development
- With the SENCO, regularly review and evaluate the breadth and impact of the SEND support the school offers or can access, and co-operate with the LA in reviewing the provision that is available locally and in developing the local offer
- With the SENCO and teaching staff, identify any patterns in the school's identification of SEN, both within the school and in comparison with national data, and use these to reflect on and reinforce the quality of teaching

### **4.4 Class teachers**

Each class teacher is responsible for:

- The progress and development of every pupil in their class
- Working closely with any teaching assistants or specialist staff to plan and assess the impact of support and interventions, and consider how they can be linked to classroom teaching
- Working with the SENCO to review each pupil's progress and development, and decide on any changes to provision
- Ensuring they follow this SEND policy and the SEN information report

## **5. SEN information report**

### **5.1 Identifying pupils with SEND and assessing their needs**

We will assess each pupil's current skills and levels of attainment when they start at the school, which will build on information from previous settings and Key Stages, where appropriate. Class teachers will regularly assess the progress of all pupils and identify any whose progress:

- Is significantly slower than that of their peers starting from the same baseline
- Fails to match or better their previous rate of progress
- Fails to close the attainment gap between them and their peers
- Widens the attainment gap

This may include progress in areas other than attainment, for example, wider development or social needs.

Slow progress and low attainment will not automatically mean a pupil is recorded as having SEN.

A class teacher can raise a query with the SENco at any time if they are concerned that a pupil may have special educational needs. The SENco will then arrange to assess the child, complete observations or refer to another service for advice.

When deciding whether the pupil needs special educational provision, we will start with the desired outcomes, including the expected progress and attainment, and the views and the wishes of the pupil and their parents. We will use this to determine the support that is needed and whether we can provide it by adapting our core offer, or whether something different or additional is needed.

### **5.2 Consulting and involving pupils and parents**

When we are aiming to identify whether a pupil needs special education provision, we will have an early discussion with the pupil and their parents. These conversations will make sure that:

- Everyone develops a good understanding of the pupil's areas of strength and difficulty
- We take into account any concerns the parents have
- Everyone understands the agreed outcomes sought for the child
- Everyone is clear on what the next steps are

Notes of these early discussions will be added to the pupil's record and given to their parents.

We will formally notify parents if it is decided that a pupil will receive special educational provision.

### **5.3 The graduated approach to SEN support**

Once a pupil has been identified as having SEN, we will take action to remove any barriers to learning and put effective special educational provision in place. This support will be delivered through successive rounds of a 4-part cycle known as the graduated approach.

#### **1. Assess**

The pupil's class teacher and the SENCO will carry out a clear analysis of the pupil's needs. The views of the pupil and their parents will be considered. The school may also seek advice from external support services.

The assessment will be reviewed regularly to help make sure that the support in place is matched to the pupil's need. For many pupils, the most reliable way to identify needs is to observe the way they respond to an intervention.

## **2. Plan**

In consultation with the parents and the pupil, the teacher and the SENCO will decide which adjustments, interventions and support will be put into place, the expected outcomes, and a clear date for review.

## **3. Do**

The pupil's class or subject teacher retains overall responsibility for their progress.

Where the plan involves group or 1-to-1 teaching away from the main class or subject teacher, they still retain responsibility for the pupil. They will 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 will support the teacher in further assessing the pupil's particular strengths and weaknesses, in problem solving and advising on how to implement support effectively.

## **4. Review**

The effectiveness of the support and interventions and their impact on the pupil's progress will be reviewed in line with the agreed date.

We will evaluate the impact and quality of the support and interventions. This evaluation will be based on:

- The views of the parents and pupils
- The level of progress the pupil has made towards their outcomes
- The views of teaching staff who work with the pupil

The teacher and the SENCO will revise the outcomes and support in light of the pupil's progress and development, and in consultation with the pupil and their parents.

## **5.4 Our approach to teaching pupils with SEN**

Teachers are responsible and accountable for the progress and development of all the pupils in their class.

High-quality teaching is our first step in responding to pupils who have SEN. This will be differentiated for individual pupils.

We can also provide the following interventions:

- Speech, language and communication programmes, taught in small groups and on an individual basis.
- Reading, phonics and handwriting support
- SEMH support, using THRIVE and a trained ELSA
- Additional tutoring in English and Maths

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

We make the following adaptations to ensure all pupils' needs are met:

- Differentiating our curriculum to ensure all pupils are able to access it, for example, by grouping, 1:1 work, teaching style, content of the lesson, etc.
- Adapting our resources and staffing  
Using recommended aids, such as laptops, coloured overlays, visual timetables, larger font, etc.
- Differentiating our teaching, for example, giving longer processing times, pre-teaching of key vocabulary, reading instructions aloud, etc.

## **5.6 Additional support for learning**

We have teaching assistants who are trained to deliver interventions where they are deemed appropriate. We work as part of a multiagency team to provide support for pupils with SEN.

## **5.7 Securing equipment and facilities**

Where a child's needs require additional equipment and facilities, we would look to the relevant agency to support us with this. This may include specialist seating or therapeutic equipment.

## **5.8 Evaluating the effectiveness of SEN provision**

We evaluate the effectiveness of provision for pupils with SEN by:

- Tracking pupils' progress each term
- Reviewing the impact of interventions regularly
- Using pupil questionnaires
- Monitoring by the SENCO
- Holding annual reviews for pupils with EHC plans
- Reviewing provision for SEND with our SEND governor

## **5.9 Enabling pupils with SEN to engage in activities available to those in the school who do not have SEN**

All of our extra-curricular activities and school visits are available to all our pupils, including our before-and after-school clubs.

All pupils are encouraged to go on our residential trip(s) to a variety of local, national and international venues. SEND needs would not be a barrier to this and all reasonable adjustments would be made to ensure every child can attend.

All pupils are encouraged to take part in sports day/school plays/special workshops. No pupil is ever excluded from taking part in these activities because of their SEN or disability.

Admission arrangements for pupils with SEND are via the LA. Any child who needs a transition plan from another setting would be supported to be involved in this at the earliest stage.

We audit our SEND provision regularly and our SEND governor completes visits to the school to find out from staff, pupils and parents about how children are making progress.

Our accessibility plan details how we ensure that our site is accessible to all.

### **5.10 Support for improving emotional and social development**

We provide support for pupils to improve their emotional and social development in the following ways:

- Whole school THRIVE assessment helps us identify children who need further support with their emotional development.
- All pupils are taught about diversity and inclusion explicitly through our PSHE and citizenship curriculum.
- Pupils with SEN are encouraged to be part of the school council

### **5.11 Working with other agencies**

Our school adopts an 'Early Help' and 'Think Family' approach to ensuring the right support for our pupils. As soon as a concern is identified we use a team around the child/ Family approach to identify strengths, needs and an action plan. We work collaboratively with other agencies to ensure the best plan is developed to support the child as part of a graduated response to need.

### **5.12 Complaints about SEND provision**

Initial concerns about SEN provision in our school should be made to the class teacher in the first instance. They will then be referred to the school's complaints policy.

The parents of pupils with disabilities have the right to make disability discrimination claims to the first-tier SEND tribunal if they believe that our school has discriminated against their children. They can make a claim about alleged discrimination regarding:

- Exclusions
- Provision of education and associated services
- Making reasonable adjustments, including the provision of auxiliary aids and services

### **5.13 Contact details of support services for parents of pupils with SEN**

Independent advice and support is available at <https://somersetsend.org.uk/>

### **5.14 Contact details for raising concerns**

SENCO- Megan Isaac

Designated Safeguarding Lead      Melissa Gibbons

SEND Governor- Tim Jones

### **5.15 The local authority local offer**

Our contribution to the local offer is: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/schools/ash-cofe-primary-school/>

Our local authority's local offer is published here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/>

Somerset's Graduated Response Tool is found here: <https://www.somerset.gov.uk/children-families-and-education/the-local-offer/education/graduated-response-tool/>

### **5.16 Monitoring the policy**

This policy will be reviewed by the SENCO and the SEND governor every year. It will also be updated when any new legislation, requirements or changes in procedure occur during the year.

It will be approved by the governing board.

### **5.17 Links with other policies and documents**

This policy links to the following documents:

- Accessibility plan
- Behaviour policy
- Equality information and objectives
- Supporting pupils with medical conditions policy